

**Overgrown Ways**

As we approach Spring, please spare a thought for pedestrians (and horse riders). If you have any vegetation growing over a footway or footpath (or bridleway), please cut it back.

The Highway Authority (Warwickshire County Council) only has responsibility for the surface, not overhanging vegetation. Please ensure that the way is usable across its entire width and that there is adequate height clearance. If a complaint is made to WCC and, after notification, they then do the work, they can recover their costs from you (Highways Act 1980).

**Too Much Light**

Many of us have external lighting on our property. It helps us when we move around outside after dark and it deters intruders. But please spare a thought for the environment and consider the effects on other people. Could you use less power? Is light going where it isn't needed (even up in the sky)?

The latest recommendations are that intruder lighting should be 150W maximum and should be fitted with PIR (Passive Infra Red) and daylight sensors. All other types of security lighting should be fitted with compact fluorescent lamps and with dawn-to-dusk sensors or timers. Following these guidelines will cut your energy bill and reduce light pollution.

**Parish Precept for 2006/7**

The likelihood of a large increase in the parish precept doesn't seem to have been a cause of great concern after all, as no-one turned up to the December meeting of the Parish Council to voice their objection. We agreed to raise the precept from £5,500 to £9,000, as expected.

**Moreton Morrell Road**

You may have seen notices and signs in the village about road closures and diversions. This is because Severn Trent is working on the pumping station just outside the village on the Moreton Morrell Road.

Due to the nature of the work, it has been decided that the road needs to be closed to allow safe working. During this time the suggested alternative route is to use the Fosse Way and Wellesbourne Road. We have been informed that the job could take up to ten weeks to complete.

**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**

The only feedback we have received to date is on the question of who might be empowered to issue penalty notices. Our current thinking is that, if we do adopt these new powers, we would hope to join with other councils so as to employ

someone from outside the village in order to lessen any possible ill feeling.

However, we have had no feedback on which, if any, of the areas covered by the new powers are of concern. To recap, they cover litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences. They would also allow us to introduce Dog Control Orders covering such matters as failing to remove dog faeces or failing to keep a dog on a lead.

We would very much like to have your views. Contact details are below.

**Think Horse**

Not only should motorists watch their speed in the village, they should also be on the lookout for equestrians. There are many riding stables in the area, including Moreton Morrell College.

Motorists should treat horses as a potential hazard and always expect the unexpected. Drive slowly past horses; give them plenty of room and be ready to stop. Riders of horses and ponies are often children, so take extra care.

Equestrians should do their bit too, and should wear fluorescent and reflective clothing so they are as visible as possible.

**Could YOU be a Councillor?**

Our Chairman, Cllr Tony Rose, has informed us that he intends to stand down later in the year. He will be sorely missed.

Tony led the Heath and Village Association in the fight against the proposal to build 500 houses between Lighthorne and Lighthorne Heath, proving what an exceptional advocate he is. He then joined the Parish Council and provided expert (and understandable!)

financial guidance. He worked hard on many aspects of the parish split, including finance and mapping issues. He guided us through two cycles of detailed responses to the District Local Plan, once again speaking at the public enquiries. More recently he has promoted several environmental projects within the parish, one of which won the Environment Section of the Village Ventures Competition, as we highlighted in the last newsletter.

Do you feel passionately about these kinds of issues, or any other issues which have been covered in this newsletter? Or maybe there's something that really bugs you that the parish council doesn't seem to have taken on board? If so, come and talk to one of us about what being a councillor involves: it need not take a great deal of your time and it's a very rewarding voluntary role.

**Information/Feedback**

If you would like to discuss these, or any other matters, with a member of council, please contact one of us as follows:

Tony Rose (Chair).....651787  
 The Old School House, Old School Lane

Josette Tait (Vice-Chair).....651205  
 Smithy Cottage, The Green

Sue Langford.....651114  
 6 Verney Close

Derek Lloyd.....651795  
 Inglenook Cottage, Church Lane

Mike Rigby.....651420  
 The Jays, Post Office Lane

Alex Tait (Clerk).....651205  
 Smithy Cottage, The Green

Parish Council information on the web:  
[www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm](http://www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm)

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