

Street Lighting

We've not had many responses to our question about turning street-lights off between midnight and 5:30am, but those we have had have been supportive. If you want to put forward your own views, please contact us (see below).

We'd like to think that you'll be doing your bit for the environment too. Go to the 'consumer' section of the Energy Saving Trust's website (www.est.org.uk) or call their advice centre on 0800 512 012.

Prepare for Power Cuts

No, we're not suggesting that there will be power failures this year, but we're asking you to think about being prepared for unexpected or extended outages.

By collecting together a few items it's easy to be prepared so that the situation doesn't turn into an emergency. Most people keep a torch (either a wind-up one, or with spare batteries) just in case, but there are other things to consider:

- Can you make calls to the emergency services in a power cut? If you switch to cordless (or VOIP) phones, keep a corded phone that doesn't need mains power. If you rely on a mobile, get a wind-up battery charger for it.
- Can you keep warm? Most central heating need electricity, even if only to run a pump. What about cooking?

Hot drinks help, so if your cooker needs electricity, consider getting a camping stove and spare fuel.

- What's happening? A radio will keep you in touch. Keep spare batteries to hand, or get a wind-up radio.

Allotment Association

Work has commenced on setting up the allotments. An Allotment Association has been formed. If you are interested in having an allotment please contact Ed Stroud (651200) or Martin Preedy (650333) for further details.

Composting

Compost bins can be purchased at subsidised prices thanks to the Recycle Now Home Compost programme. Three designs of bin are available, starting at £8 including delivery. For more information or to order a compost bin visit www.recyclenow.com/compost or call 0845 077 0757.

Saturday Bus to Banbury Ends

The Flexibus Service 498 on Saturdays has been withdrawn due to low passenger numbers. The Thursday service is more popular and will continue to operate. This service provides travel between Radford Semele, Harbury, Moreton Morrell, Lighthorne village, Lighthorne Heath, Gaydon, Temple Herdewyke, Warmington, Shotteswell and Banbury.

District Tree Warden Scheme

Stratford District Council (SDC), in association with the Tree Council, are re-launching their Tree Warden Scheme. A volunteer Tree Warden would act as a first point of contact for anyone with a tree enquiry. They might also initiate practical improvements such as a parish tree planting or caring for young trees.

Since much of our village is a conservation area, trees orders account for quite a high proportion of the the planning applications that your parish council receives for comment. Anyone taking such a post would have a very useful role in our community.

If you might be interested, you can find more information about the scheme on www.treecouncil.org.uk or contact Matt Austin of SDC at Elizabeth House (matthew.austin@stratford-dc.gov.uk).

Another Government Bill

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill is another step on the government's path to reforming local democracy. It is a large bill, but the changes it seeks to introduce which will affect parish councils the most are:

- parish councils will be able to use alternative styles: "community", "neighbourhood" or "village" council;
- parish councils will be able to appoint people as unelected members;
- principle authorities will to be able to conduct, or be petitioned to conduct, community governance reviews;
- local government electors objecting to an audit will have to make their objections in writing;
- there are changes to the principles which govern members' conduct.

Community Planning

Your parish council would really like to expand the idea of a parish plan to cover all aspects of community life, so that the plan could inform future policy direction at parish, district and county council levels. However, such a plan would not be accepted by the other council tiers if it was produced by the parish council itself; it must be a community-led effort. The parish council would support such a project, and help to secure funding, but it would need a group of local volunteers to lead and develop the work.

Is that something that interests you? Could you work with us to develop such a plan? Do you have any skills that you would donate to help your community? If so, please contact a member of council (see below) with your offer.

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:

- Josette Tait (Chair).....651205
Smithy Cottage, The Green
- Penny Hill.....651677
9 Mountford Rise
- Lynda Lewis.....651812
Fairfield, Church Lane
- 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



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