

PAPPLEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 35 February 2009

New Parish Clerk

We are delighted to announce that Kay Mackenzie has become the new Clerk to the Council. Kay joined us on 1st January after a lengthy recruitment process. She previously held various posts within the community sector, including with Mansfield CVS and the Pre-School Learning Alliance, and brings with her a wealth of experience in that field. Kay can be contacted via clerk@papplewick.org or on 0115 963 0332.

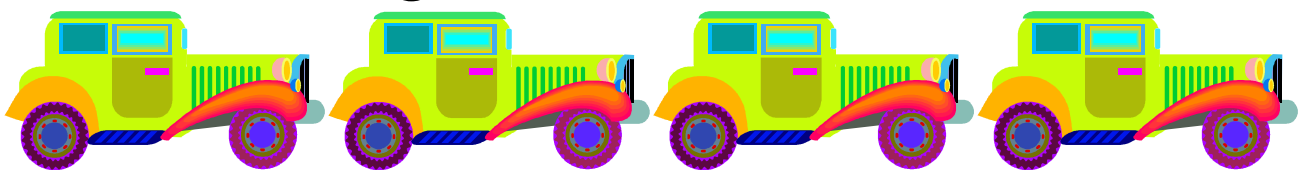
Play Day!

Wednesday, 22nd July 2009

The Council will shortly be completing the Playing Field upgrade with the installation of new seating and another picnic bench. A CCTV system will be added to deter any troublemakers and record their activities if they persist. Over the last two years the Council has spent over £72,000 on new equipment and facilities.

To formally open the upgraded Playing Field we will host a Play Day organised by the Gedling Play Partnership. There will be an exciting range of activities for children of all ages, both utilising the existing equipment and on facilities supplied by Gedling Borough Council and Notts. County Council - brought in specially for the day. Full details of the Play Day have yet to be finalised but it looks like being an entertaining and absorbing event for all ages. Further details will be provided in a future edition of Newsletter.

Pavement Parking



By the time you read this, some parishioners will have realised that parking on the pavement is a costly exercise. Although we pointed out the dangers to pedestrians of having to walk in the road in our last Newsletter, a few inconsiderate people continued to leave their vehicles obstructing the pavement. The police have recently been carrying out enforcement activity, issuing tickets to motorists who place other people's lives at risk. But a fixed penalty fine is small in comparison to the injury, loss and inconvenience someone will suffer if they are hit by a moving vehicle whilst negotiating a parked one. Just because the driver is not in the car does not mean they will not be liable to compensate the injured pedestrian - they will be responsible - and it will cost a lot more than a ticket. Please park sensibly.



Hidden Valleys

Accompanying this Newsletter is a 'Hidden Valleys' leaflet describing a series of local walks through Papplewick and beyond. We are fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful countryside so why not get out this spring and enjoy it. The leaflet has been produced by a partnership of Ashfield District Council, Papplewick Parish Council and the Friends of Moor Pond Wood. Ashfield District Council have met the

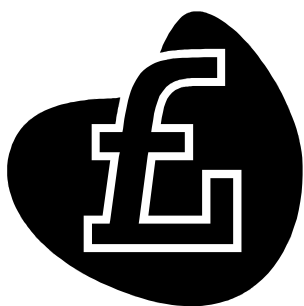
entire cost of production and we are grateful to their Heritage and Tourism Officer, Denis Hill, for all the work he has done on this project.

Bonfire and Fireworks

The Council hosted another enjoyable event on 7th November. We wish to thank everyone who attended and made the evening so successful. Over the last few years we have been raising money towards new play equipment for the Playing Field (see elsewhere). Without your support the children of this parish would not have such a wide range of activities to pursue.

The Parish Council is indebted to everyone who helped out set up, manage and clean up after the event. In particular, we rely heavily on members of the Leisure Enterprise Group and Linby Parish Council, without whose help we simply could not what has become such an important occasion in the parish calendar. From all the willing volunteers who come forward it, we are particularly thankful for the considerable time and effort Richard Hull puts into organising the occasion and setting off fireworks on the night. He is now busy making arrangements for this year!

Precept



The Parish Council raises money by levying a precept on Council Tax payers within the parish. At a meeting of the Council's Finance Committee in October last year, it was suggested that the precept be increased from £5,574 last year to £6,000 for 2009-10. This has subsequently been agreed by the full Council. So, why have the Council decided to charge 7.6% more?

One area where we will be paying substantially more over the coming financial year will be insurance. New equipment on the Playing Field has to be insured - and it is not cheap. We are spending over £1,000 per year just for insurance. In addition, although we have spent a considerable amount of money replacing old equipment on the Playing Field our reserves are now exhausted and we need to plan ahead for when the next item needs attention.

Despite this increase in precept, money raised from the Council Tax forms a small part of the money we spend. For example, in 2006-7 total expenditure stood at £28,069, rising to £44,414 for 2007-8. We have already spent a similar amount this year with some bills still to settle.(1) Because our precept is still relatively small, if we want to carry out a large project we have to obtain the money from elsewhere, usually by applying for grants. We therefore believe that the services we provide represent excellent value for money for parishioners.

(1) Not including money spent on the Moor Pond Wood Project.

Audit

External auditors, appointed by the Audit Commission, are required to scrutinise the accounts of all local councils every year. They give an opinion on the Parish Council's accounts and annual return, checking that everything financial is being conducted in accordance with the obligations placed upon us by law. The annual accounts and annual return for 2007-8 have now been concluded by the auditors and they have given us an unqualified audit opinion. In other words, they found everything in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had all been met.

Christmas Tree



By now we hope you have enjoyed the Christmas Tree and lights outside Blacksmith's Court. It brightened up the festive season and gave our parish a focal point for all to see.

Towards the end of last year we were approached by a resident who kindly offered to provide the tree if we obtained the lights - so we did! Notts. County Council gave us permission to place the tree on highway land and £550 of Capital Grant money enabled us to buy proper festive lights. Hopefully, the Christmas Tree will become a permanent feature in the parish over years to come - we are already planning for next year's festivities.

Litter



Many people complain about litter. And they are right to be concerned. The facts show that the amount of litter blighting our public spaces and countryside is growing all the time. An estimated 25 million tons is dropped each year. Every weekend 1.3 million pieces of rubbish are dropped on motorways and major trunk roads across England. This adds up to an incredible 67.6 million pieces with a third of drivers admitting to throwing litter while on the road.

Illegally depositing waste on land is commonly known as fly-tipping - anything from as small as a single bin bag upwards. It's a form of anti-social behaviour that is spoiling our local environment. Papplewick has a number of fly-tipping 'hot-spots' we are endeavouring to tackle with help from the police and Gedling Borough Council. These include the lay-by on Blidworth Waye (at the top of Walter's Hill), under the railway bridge on Moor Road and on Ash Lane near the Pumping Station.

It's your responsibility to ensure that waste from your property only goes to authorised waste disposal companies. If the carrier is unauthorised and caught (or your dumped waste is found and traced), you are liable to a £5,000 fine and clean-up costs. You can check whether a waste carrier is registered by calling the Environment Agency's general enquiries number on 08708 506 506.

Papplewick Parish Council is doing its best to keep your parish clean and tidy. But your help in this campaign is vital! If you see fly-tipping or littering occurring, take down all the information you can, (including the vehicle registration, make and model) and report it immediately to the local police on 0115 967 0999 or to Gedling Borough Council's Hotline on 0800 068 1233. A man from Sneinton was recently convicted of fly-tipping on Forest Lane and fined £350 because his vehicle registration details were taken by a passer-by.

Looking for somewhere to sit?

If you are concerned about the disappearance of seats around the parish, don't be! They are not being stolen but taken out by us in preparation for new seats to be installed. We have purchased five new seats at a cost of £1,686. One will be located at the junction of Forest Lane with Mansfield Road and another adjacent to the footpath just off Church Lane. Three more will be used to replace the old timber and concrete seats on the Playing Field, which will also receive another picnic table.

All the new furniture is made from recycled plastic. Around 2,000 old plastic bottles go into each new seat. They will not rot, warp, or fade and are highly resistant to vandal attack. Why not enjoy a rest around the parish this spring?

Bulb Planting



As mentioned in the last Newsletter, £300 was made available by Cllr. Patricia Andrews towards bulb planting. Much of the work has now been completed with extensive planting along Mansfield Road and in the Playing Field. Species include wild daffodils, wood anemones, wild garlic, snowdrops and aconites. Because these are chiefly wild varieties, instead of the more usual commercial types, they will take a couple of years to establish. The Council intends to augment this planting scheme next year with yet more bulbs around the parish.

Highway Matters

A number of problems on the parish road system have been reported to us. These include:

- Blocked drains on the east side of Mansfield Road just north from Forest Lane.
- Tree branches overhanging the pavement between Forest Lane and Seven Mile House.
- Soggy compacted leaf mould on Moor Road adjacent to Moor Pond Wood.
- Directional sign on Main Street in a poor state of repair

We are currently pursuing these matters with the County Council's Highways Department in an effort to get them resolved.

The surface of Forest Lane is becoming increasingly worn. We understand that the County Council intend to carry out resurfacing works at some point in the near future but dates have yet to be finalised.

The Council appreciates the difficulties some residents experience when turning out of Forest Lane onto Mansfield Road during peak hours. Not only can there be a lengthy wait but finding a suitable gap in oncoming traffic can be troublesome. We are again pressing the County Council for a solution to this long-standing problem.

Papplewick YFC

Our local rural youth club recently opened its doors again for new members. You don't have to be from a farming background for a great active life. Papplewick YFC meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. If you are interested and want to know more, contact Louise Bateman on 01636 672633 or by e-mail at louise@nottsyfc.co.uk.

Open Gardens 2009

Moor Road will be hosting this year's Open Gardens Event on Sunday, 28th June between 2.00-5.00pm. Each year the Leisure Enterprise Group organises this important fundraising event. Anyone wishing to open their gardens, or for further information, please contact Cllr Janet Robinson on 0115 963 2430.



Publication Scheme

The Council has recently launched its new Publication Scheme in line with national requirements. For details of the Scheme itself and documents available visit www.papplewick.org/documents.htm

Next Council meeting is on Wednesday, 11th March 2009 at 7.15pm
All parishioners welcome

Email clerk@papplewick.org
Papplewick Parish Website: www.papplewick.org
This edition edited by Colin Womble