

Warndon Parish Council

Newsletter — Spring 2008

Once again, a warm welcome to everyone, especially to those who moved in since the last Newsletter. We hope you enjoy living here.

There are details of two important events in this Newsletter. In chronological order they are the

Open Meeting on Monday 21 April

The details of the speaker and the subject are on page 3. It is also the occasion when you may ask the Parish Councillors any questions concerning matters within the parish. Do make every effort to attend

The second event is the

Parish Fun Run on Sunday 1 June.

We appreciate that it is several weeks away but by giving an 'early warning' it gives potential entrants a chance to book the date.

You can't have failed to notice how neat and tidy the shrubs are and the hundreds of daffodils in the verges along the road side. This is all due to the hard work of the Estate Wardens, Trevor and Alec and the staff of the Parks Department.

And wonder upon wonder all the roundabouts have been planted with different design patterns

From the Chairman

Well here we are at newsletter time again, it seems like only a few days ago that I was writing the last one ! So, what's happened over the last few months ?

We've had a couple of very disappointing Planning decisions on Mabs Orchard and Worcester Woods Business Park. Both decisions were opposed by the Parish Council but it seems that our inputs fall on deaf ears ! More details can be seen later in this newsletter. It really is very upsetting when the City Council seems to take no notice of local objections.

Since the implementation of the Alcohol Free Zone and maybe more because of the bad weather the incidents of problems with gathering groups of youngsters seem to be much less than they were. However, still very little has been done to introduce alternative activities for the young people of our area and when the Spring arrives everyone will no doubt be talking about it again. A new forum was set up earlier this year to focus on this issue but once again it seems to have run out of steam, it seems that no-one owns or focuses their time on these problems but merely hopes it will go away.

The Parish Council has agreed to part-fund the installation of CCTV at the Lyppard Centre but this is not going to overcome our problems, the authorities have to take a more proactive role in this matter and invest some time and money in order to offer the youth of this area some credible alternatives.

Our budget has been set for next year and we have managed to keep the increase within 4% despite funding some work at St Nicholas Church and other local projects.

The next big event is the Annual Fun Run, so come along and join in. It's a day for all the family with games and stalls organised by the Lyppard Grange Community Centre. Alternatively, if you would like to help us marshal the course all volunteers would be gratefully accepted.

Regards,
Ray Morris

OPEN MEETING

The Parish Council is required by statute to hold an Annual Meeting, which is open to all parishioners, when they may ask any questions or make comments about the Parish Council's work during the year.

This year's meeting will be held on 21st April 2008 in the Lyppard Grange Community Centre. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm.

Many topics have been discussed over the last 20 years; crime, litter, waste, recycling, road safety, parking, finance, the environment, youth and last year the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

This is your opportunity to question the Parish Council on it's workings and responsibilities.

This year we have invited Mr. John Wrightson, Head of Urban Development, Worcester City Council, to tell us about the Planning Procedure for Parish Councils and the effect that the new Planning Bill 2007 may have on house extensions. He will be accompanied by Mr Paul O'Connor, the Planning Manager.

This will give you an opportunity to raise questions on the planning process and understand the powers of each tier of local government in the Planning process.

For the past several years this meeting has been poorly attended which is a great pity because it gives all residents and opportunity to meet members of the Council and air their views on important topics. This year in particular has been a very busy one in terms of Planning with the Regional Spatial Strategy and South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy all being worked on actively. These are both documents that will shape the future development of the area.

If you have strong opinions on local planning policy, want no more development in the Parish and have a wish to keep our current Open Spaces free from development, then come along and let your feelings be known.

Please make very effort to attend as this is a very important subject.

There will also be a display by the Police demonstrating the ways in which PACT (Police and Community Together) works to help you and the local community.

PLANNING MATTERS

MABS ORCHARD

There have recently been two very important planning applications passed by the City Council which we think everyone should know about.

The first is the land known as **Mabs Orchard**. It is the area on the left at the bottom of Dugdale Drive. The houses will be built in that part which is currently uncultivated and butts onto the footpath. Permission has been given for the erection of 34 houses, 14 of which are listed as affordable.

The land on the eastern side of the footpath has been set aside as allotments and a kick-about area, with a youth shelter at the top end nearest to Trotshill Lane. The Parish Council objected to this use of the land as it is liable to flooding and is most unsuitable for anything but cattle grazing. Unfortunately we have very little power over planning matters and can only recommend that the plan is refused! On this occasion, as on many others, the City Council Planning Committee ignored our opinion!

WORCESTER WOODS BUSINESS PARK

The second is the vacant land to the east of the Royal Hospital, named **Worcester Woods Business Park**. Outline planning permission was given a couple of years ago for high-tech research and development businesses. Despite objections by the Parish Council the application was passed with its access off Nunnery Way.

The latest application was for the entrance to be directly onto Newtown Road via a roundabout approximately half way between the Crowle roundabout and the one at Woodgreen Drive with a controlled crossing between the latter and the new one.

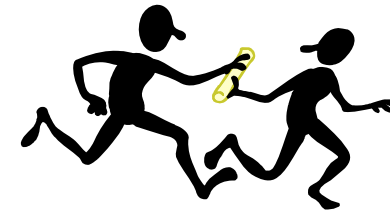
The Parish Council objected on the grounds that this would increase the traffic problems on a very busy stretch of Newtown Road, delay ambulances getting to the hospital (They could have two stops; one at the roundabout and one at the crossing). There would be increased noise level for the residents in Fry Close and Nightingale Avenue.

The City Planning Committee was also opposed to the scheme but the Planning Officers said that if permission was not granted the Council could find itself in a costly appeal procedure. The amended plan was finally accepted.

The Parish Council does take up these issues but rarely do our objections or suggested amendments change anything!

WARNDON PARISH FUN RUN

1st JUNE 2008



This Summer will see the 10th Warndon Parish Annual Fun Run which will be held on **Sunday 1st June at 2.00 pm**. The sub-committee in charge of the event is working actively to make this another successful Fun Run.

Entry forms for the event can be obtained on the Parish Council website—www.warndonparishcouncil.org or at the Lyppard Grange Community Centre. We look forward to as many local people as possible taking part. For the last two years the weather has been kind to us, so we're hoping for a good turnout and more sunshine !

Alongside this event the Community Centre will be holding their Fun Day. This will consist of stalls and activities for all the family as well as special races for the young children who cannot take part in the Fun Run.



We have yet to select the charities who we will support from the Fun Run income, we will be considering this shortly.

If you have any ideas for this, we would welcome your input.

FINANCE

Each year the Council prepares a Budget and from that comes the 'banding allocation which is shown on your Council Tax bill. The Council tries to keep the increase to a minimum, but has to take regard of current inflation.

Nearly 50% of the Precept goes as a grant to the Lyppard Grange Community Centre as part of an agreement reached with the City Council.

Over the years the Council has given grants to other local organisations, in addition to the money raised by the Fun Run and donated to local charities.

This year we were approached by the Parochial Church Council requesting help with a number of projects at St. Nicholas Church. These included resurfacing the car park and the footpath together with improvements to the lighting. This was the first approach to the Parish Council since the church was restored. Many local people get married at the church and The Barn is used by a whole variety of local groups and societies. The Council decided to support the work with a grant of £3000

WORCESTER IN BLOOM

As reported in the autumn, many householders entered the competition and won prizes. Councillor Dan Robb, who sits on the Committee, is keen to see more entries in the parish

He will get some entry forms placed at the Community Centre, but for those who wish to make direct contact with the organiser, Linda Ohlson, her email address is loh1son@worcester.gov.uk or phone Customer Services on 01905 722233

MOBILE LIBRARY

The County Council are carrying out a review of the library service. The Parish Council has told them that we wish to continue sponsoring the library under the same terms as present i.e. that the van arrives at 3.15pm and leaves at 5.45pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday in the month. Books borrowed maybe returned to any library. There is a very healthy list of users with a good number of children, but there is always need for more.

CRIME IN THE PARISH

PC Nick Davies presents the reported crime figures to the Parish Council each month. The figures for the past 12 months are shown below :

Assaults - 70; Criminal damage = 69; Burglary - Dwellings - 43; Burglary - non-dwelling - 29; Vehicle crime - 95; Road traffic collisions - 107.

Residents continue to leave valuable items in their vehicles, particularly satellite navigation systems, mobile phones and laptops. Most of the traffic accidents are at Junction 6 on the M5 and in Tesco's car park, where strangely drivers ignore rights of way and 'no entry' signs !

WHEELED BIN

There has been recent confusion over the national holiday collections days despite the fact that the City Council had publicised them in the local newspapers and the City Life magazine. We can advise you that for the remaining Bank Holidays in 2008, ie. Spring Bank Holiday and Summer Bank Holiday will NOT affect your normal day of collection' We will publish further details in our next newsletter.

Mike Harrison, Head of Cleaner & Greener City, tells us that there has been a marked improvement in recycling levels for the whole City. For the full year 2006/2007 the figure was 25.8%. It's expected that a figure around 34% will be achieved in 2008, with room for further improvement! Thank you to all those taking part in this initiative !

PARISH PLAN

The most recent Parish Plan circulation received a disappointing 120 replies from the 4500 copies which we had delivered. There were no new topics raised and this leaves your Steering Committee very short of constructive and well supported arguments for the future. It seems that generally the people in the Parish are satisfied with the situation they have today. Most of the concerns are regarding dog mess, litter, maintenance of the footpaths and open green space.

This leaves us unable to formulate a Parish Plan and we therefore intend to produce a summary document that will be available for everyone to see on our website—www.warndon-parish-plan.co.uk. In about 5-6 weeks time.

In the meantime, we can tell you that the Winner of the Case of Wine offered is Claire Reed who lives in Harley Bakewell.

The Parish Council

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The Council meets on the first Monday in the month (except Bank Holidays),
at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND SPEAK DURING THE FIRST 30 MINUTES BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Please contact the appropriate Councillor(s) or the Clerk on any matter with comments, complaints or if you just need advice or information.