

TICKNALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 December 2006

Welcome to our 8th newsletter

Date of next meeting: Held in the Village Hall, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall. 9th January 2007 at 7.30pm preceded by a Councillor surgery at 7.00pm.

Precept 2007/2008

The precept for this coming year is being set at £11,000, the same as for 2006/7. This works out at an average of £37 per household per year. As we have explained before the precept is the local tax that is claimed by the Parish Council and is paid to it by the District Council who demands it on the Council Tax bill that you receive.

Parish Council Elections

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

On 3rd May 2007 there will be a local election to elect Parish Councillors. There will be six seats and the councillors elected will stand for a term of 4 years until the next election. If you are over 21 years of age and live in or within 3 miles of Ticknall you are eligible to stand as a councillor. In the past 12 years we have never had a contested election and were forced to co-opt councillors after the uncontested elections to make the numbers up to six councillors. The Parish Council has decided to try to gain Quality Status, which it can do with the 5 elected councillors, and one co-opted councillor that it has at the moment. However, after May for any subsequent applications for Quality Status 100% of councillors must be elected. The purpose of Quality Status is to give the council more power and avoid the possibility of being 'taken over' by another Parish Council. We do not want this to happen, and we are sure that you would prefer to have your own parish council centred on Ticknall, rather than being a satellite to a neighbouring village or town.

You may be interested in what your role would be as a councillor. We have a Tuesday evening meeting about every 6 weeks at which councillors are expected to attend. Between meetings most of the workload falls on the Clerk (a paid position as an unelected officer employed by the parish council) and the Chairman (unpaid). Each councillor volunteers for some allocated responsibilities that should take no more than

1 to 2 days per month. In addition there are opportunities to attend training courses and area meetings where other parishes are represented; these events are very useful for the contacts one makes and the opportunity to pick up ideas. We have the responsibility of the running and maintenance of The Grange playing field and pavilion, and we maintain footpaths through the Ticknall countryside on behalf of the County Council and undertake some cleaning on behalf of the District Council. We are also consulted on planning applications.

What will happen in about late March will be that the District Council will advertise around the district that elections will be taking place in local towns and villages, a notice will be posted in the Parish Council notice board on the wall of the Harpur Crewe Estate Office on Main Street, in the village shop and probably the local press to invite candidates to put themselves forward. When the applications have been received and after the deadline these candidates will be listed and posted around the area as before. If in the case of Ticknall there are more than six candidates an election will be held and we urge you to go to the village hall on the 3rd of May to vote for your chosen candidate. We need your help to try to achieve the Parish Council's aims and to make Ticknall a village whose residents control its destiny.

Planning Applications

South Derbyshire District Council has told us that they are considering accessing all applications electronically. What this will mean for the Parish itself is that the Clerk will need a laptop computer, maybe an up-market one in order to be able to see the definition on drawings, and a new piece of equipment to project the plans costing approximately £600 to purchase. The subject has been discussed at the November Parish Council meeting and a letter has been sent to SDDC with our comments, identifying the impracticalities of showing the plans to councillors and parishioners electronically and the extra costs involved. We are asking SDDC if grants are available to offset some of the costs and we are also suggesting that they run a pilot scheme first to test the feasibility of their proposal. The requirement is from central government and is aimed at

reducing the processing time for planning applications.

Village 'Walk'

You may recall that we finally rejected undertaking to create a formal Village Plan due to it being too time consuming and costly. However, we are now in the position where our finances are much healthier, and we will have £2000-3000 available to spend on village improvements. One tried and tested means of arriving consensually at a short-term village improvement plan is to do a village 'Walk'. All residents are invited, it may take more than one half-day, and the purpose is to view the village objectively in detail by walking through it slowly, making extensive notes on:

- a) what people like
- b) what people dislike
- c) what would make it better
- d) what is the relative priority of the proposed improvement.

Clearly, with there being very little property owned or managed by the Parish Council (apart from the Grange recreation ground), you may reach similar conclusions to those the Parish Council might have reached on its own. But, based on other villages' experiences, we can expect some interesting views, thoughts and ideas to emerge, which

- i) we can use to prioritise our limited discretionary spending,
- or
- ii) we can urge the relevant owner to consider taking action. We envisage that the walk will take place in Spring 2007. Councillors Gill Holt and Dale Wolsey have volunteered to organise and 'champion' it, with support from the rest of the Parish Council team. They will devise a route and publish it in advance. Then, if there are areas you think we have missed you can let us know in time to consider making changes.

Obviously a 'walk' like this must respect owners' property and privacy. We are therefore likely to stick to public roads, pavements and footpaths, except where otherwise invited or permission given in advance. However it is also likely that the walk will generate comments about eyesores, problem areas, etc. So owners need to prepare themselves for such comments being made if they are subsequently published.

In order to cut down on the amount of administration involved, if you are seriously interested in taking part in this 'walk', will you please register your name and address with the Clerk or Councillors Holt or Wolsey BY THE END OF JANUARY 2007 (details are at the end of this newsletter). This will ensure that we do not waste time and money leafleting every resident between newsletters. We will of course post details on the Parish Council Notice Board and report progress in the next newsletter, and, if you change your mind, you can add your name to the 'those interested' list at any time."

Kissing Gates

We have replaced two more stiles with kissing gates. We hope that these two gates together with the two that were installed earlier in the year makes your access along the footpath that leads from the village hall car park behind the church and The Grange a more accessible and pleasurable experience.

South Derbyshire CVS has asked us to put the following into the newsletter:

Our aim at South Derbyshire CVS is to work with voluntary organisations, community groups and individuals to improve the quality of life in South Derbyshire. We do this by providing information, advice and support through a wide range of services. We recruit and place anyone interested in volunteering. Why volunteer? To make a difference; To help someone; To make new friends; To keep busy; To have fun.

Information is available from Monday to Friday 9:00am –4:30pm at 46 – 48 Grove Street, Swadlincote. For further information contact Richard House, Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator.

Tel: 01283 550163 or
email: richardh@southderbyscvcs.org.yk

Christmas Carols

Just a reminder that the usual Christmas carol singing will take place on Christmas Eve around the village tree at 7.00pm.

Christmas tree recycling

South Derbyshire District Council has a Christmas tree recycling point at the Ticknall Village Hall car park from 26th December 2006 to 15th January 2007.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is in the process of being built up and is now available to view. The address is: www.ticknall.org.uk/tpc

Contact information for District and Council Councils

South Derbyshire District Council: contact their Clean Team on 01283 221000. www.south-derbys.gov.uk

Plans can be inspected at SDDC offices in Civic Way, Swadlincote, or at the Clerk to the Parish Council's home: details below.

Derbyshire County Council can be contacted on 01629 580000. www.derbyshire.gov.uk

If you notice that a streetlight has failed then you should note its number (on the post) and then you should telephone Derbyshire County Council 01629 580000. You can email the Clerk and we will report it but it would be useful if you could supply the street light number.

Parish Councillors' details are as follows:

Stefan Green (Chairman)
4 Harpur Avenue
Ticknall Tel: 863153
Email: green.Ticknall@talk21.com

Richard Parker (Vice Chairman)
10 Harpur Avenue
Ticknall Tel: 862925

Richard Arnold
11 Chestnut Avenue
Within the grounds of Foremarke Hall
Foremark
Nr. Milton
Derbyshire
DE65 6EJ Tel: 07876 191117
Email: teamarnold@seafire.co.uk

Gill Holt
The Laurels
Main Street
Ticknall Tel: 863493

Dale Wolsey
29 Chapel Street
Ticknall Tel: 863773
Email: dale.Wolsey@btinternet.com

David Shepherd
The Firs
High Street
Ticknall Tel: 864788
Email:
d.shepherd@11ticknall.freeserve.co.uk

Celia Bunston - Clerk to the Parish Council
4 Slade Farm
Rose Lane
Ticknall Tel: 865226
Email: celiabunston@btinternet.com

District Councillors details:

District Councillor Ray Jones
01283 763330
Email: raymond.susan@btopenworld.com

District Councillor Roy Bell
01283 218179
Email: roy.l.bell@tesco.net

County Councillor details:

County Councillor Alan Jones
01283 217140
Email: alan.jones@derbyshire.gov.uk

Local MP

Mark Todd MP
37 Market Street
Church Gresley
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 9PR
01283 551573
Email: markwtodd@btconnect.com
Website: www.marktodd.org.uk

The Parish Council wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Celia Bunston - Clerk to the Parish Council
Newsletter Dec 06*