

TICKNALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 - JULY 2005

Welcome to our 2nd newsletter

At our Annual Meeting Richard Parker stood down as Chairman and Stefan Green was voted in as Chairman. We would like to thank Richard Parker for the huge contribution he has made as Chairman on your behalf over many years. I am very pleased that despite deciding to resign, he is keen to carry on as a Councillor. We are sure that Stefan is the right person to take on the role and we wish him success. For those of you who do not know Stefan, he has lived in Harpur Avenue for 30 years. He was co-opted onto the Parish Council in 2003. We hope that he will be able to meet as many of you as possible during his term of office.

Over the last year there have been around 25 planning applications, the majority of which the Council has supported. The most contentious ones are those, which are in prominent positions and/or seek to fundamentally change the character of the immediate area and the Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that the nature of Ticknall is largely preserved. Do not forget, that you as parishioners should use your powers as individuals to help to preserve this beautiful village.

We were disappointed in the developments, which resulted in the Post Office being closed, and our attempt to support it being resited in the Village Hall was unsuccessful.

XtremeSportsMobile

The District Council will be operating a Mobile Skate Park facility (XtremeSportsMobile) (and subject to confirmation - laser games) and the Parish Council has booked a session on Wednesday, 27th July 2005, 2-4 pm, and with the permission of the school, on play area of Dame Catherine Harpur School. Activity leaders will supervise the session. The session will be open to all children and young people aged 8 - 19. Under 8's may attend but an adult must accompany them. The charge for the session will be £1 per person.

Playmobile

The District Council's Playmobile is a minibus, which transports a wide, range of sports and play equipment, including inflatable bouncing castle, will be available on The Grange, on Tuesday 23rd August 2005, 10-12 am. (In the event of rain the equipment will be available in the Village Hall). Activity leaders who accompany the bus will supervise the session. The sessions are designed for 8-14 year olds. Under 8's may attend but an adult must accompany them. The Parish Council has paid for the session so there will be no charge to villagers.

Both of these activities have been booked for the first time in Ticknall so we hope that these will be well supported to encourage us to consider booking them in future years.

Proposed War Memorial

Ticknall Millennium Association has told us that they want to erect a War Memorial in Ticknall. We know that there is one in St. George's Church but they feel that there should be a memorial in the centre of the village. A possible site could be at the bottom of Ingleby Lane. The background to the suggestion is that most towns and villages have a publicly funded war memorial, and the Millennium Association have asked for your views. Can you therefore please complete the attached tear-off slip and return it to the Clerk to the Council by 30th June.

Quality Status

As indicated in our first newsletter, we have embarked on our journey towards achieving Quality Status. One of the criteria to be met in order to achieve the status of Quality Council is for the Parish Council to hold regular 'surgeries'. As the name implies, it is an opportunity for parishioners to talk to a councillor on a 'one-to-one' basis on any topic with which they have a concern. The surgeries will help us to improve the quality of our Parish

Council meetings and by adopting best practice such as eliminating ‘any other business’.

Of the other discretionary criteria for Quality Status, the biggest and most time-consuming by far is the creation of a Parish Plan. At the Parish Council AGM on 24th May, we invited Helena Stubbs from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council to speak to us about Parish Plans. We then briefed those present at the Annual Parish Meeting that was held on the same evening. In essence a Parish Plan is a statement expressing the majority view of the whole village on a variety of subjects. Of the plans we have seen from other villages, the core topics are: Housing & planning issues, Parking/Traffic management, Transport issues, Recreation and leisure, Environmental issues, Retail, Tourism, Commercial issues, Young People’s issues, Elderly people’s issues.

Why produce a Parish Plan? The Government’s White Paper - “ Our Countryside: the Future” – sets out the agenda for the countryside. “A countryside facing change, but change set into a context of reform, not only in how we govern, but also how we plan. The guidance for parish councils is an important step in helping local rural communities take charge of their own destinies and also an opportunity to strengthen the first, and most local, form of government we have in this country”. The White Paper goes on to say that parish plans can provide a blueprint for the future survival of our rural communities. They are able to influence local strategic partnerships and the preparation of community strategies and this gives a new opportunity for a parish Plan to form the basis of the new local development frameworks that will be prepared by every local planning authority. It follows therefore that Parish Plans will become increasingly influential and important. Those living in Ticknall know what is needed locally so the community should create the plan.

Now, although it is called a Plan, the first issue of the document is likely to be a statement about the current position for each topic, together with short, medium and long-term objectives for improvements. So in reality it is

initially more in the nature of a proposal or ‘wish list’, than a plan. The real plan starts to emerge as each of the proposals is examined in more detail with whichever organisation is accountable for controlling changes in that arena, and feasible plans with funding are put in place.

Since it is seen as a ‘people’s plan’, where plans have already been created, most of the work has been carried out by small volunteer teams of parishioners working under a Parish Plan Steering Committee, which in turn is led by the Parish Council. The typical timescale for producing a plan document is around 2 years, and the total cost is in the region of £4000.

Following the initial presentation on the 24th May, the Parish Council agreed to sponsor a launch meeting/workshop. This has been fixed for Tuesday, 05 July 2005 in the Village Hall starting at 7:00pm. All villagers are invited to attend and we hope that you will support what promises to be a very worthwhile endeavour. To give us some idea of numbers could you please complete the tear-off slip and return it to the Clerk, 4 Slade Farm, Rose Lane by 30th July.

Finally, would you help us to embrace the 21st century, and communicate more effectively? If any parishioner would like to receive agendas and minutes to our Parish Council meetings electronically will please supply us with your email address to celiabunston@btinternet.com

Celia Bunston
Clerk to the Council

Newsletter July 05

War Memorial Proposal

I do/do not support the proposal for a public War Memorial

Parish Plan Launch Meeting

I will/will not be attending the above meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday 05 July 2005 in the Village Hall

Name:

Address:

Or respond to celiabunston@btinternet.com