

Waterbeach Parish Council News

March 2005

From Our Chairman, Adrian Wright

Your Parish Council beavers away hopefully for the good of Chittering and Waterbeach but we feel that perhaps people do not realize what we do and what has been done by the council. We are therefore going to send out occasional newsletters with information contained in them and from time to time seek your views.

Each year around February each council sets the budget for the year and the amount of money that will be needed in the next twelve months to carry out the work of the council. This is money used in our village for the village. A parish rate is set and the monies collected on our behalf by the South Cambridgeshire District Council together with its own rate and that of the Cambridgeshire County Council.

What do we do for you? Parish Councils can do many things and provide many services. The main provisions in your parish are the:

- Cemetery,
- Recreation ground and pavilion,
- Maintaining football and cricket pitches, bowls green, basketball square skateboard park and the tennis courts
- Children's play areas in Chittering and Waterbeach
- Open spaces – The Gault, Clare Close, Winfold Road
- Old Pavilion and porta-cabin where the youth club

meet

- Highway improvement schemes in partnership with the County Council
- Dog and litter bins
- Seats and help with the lights around the Green at Christmas
- Maintain the War Memorial, Old Fire Engine House and bus shelters
- Regulate the use of the Green by the Feast, and visiting fair and circus
- Plant trees and maintain public footpaths and walks around the two villages and river banks
- Support and give funding to WILL, the Library following closure by the County Council.

Those are the more physical provisions. We are also involved in another list of subjects:

- Comment on planning applications – give the local view and knowledge to district and county councils and councillors to help them to reach a decision
- Transportation in the area – including cycle ways
- Structure plans and Local plans for the future housing and transport development of our region and locality
- Road and traffic concerns and improvements
- Take part in local and county forums with other

Parish Councils and councillors

- Liaise with local Police, WAY project, Fen Edge Patch - Cottenham and Waterbeach Schools – the Army at Waterbeach Barracks

The above lists are not exhaustive but give a flavour of some of the things we do.

Waterbeach Parish Council employs one and a half grounds men who look after all our sporting facilities, open spaces and cemetery which makes for a lot of grass cutting and maintenance. They prepare pitches and bowls greens for matches, treating them properly to obtain a good playing surface. Look after the Parish Councils hedging and foot paths. We think they are doing a good job and everywhere looks tidy.

Highways and road safety nearly always come up at the Parish Council meetings. For several years your Parish Council has campaigned in partnership with your County Councillor Jane Coston for the yellow lines in Station Road, Waddelow Road, and Vicarage Close and various other areas and we have been successful. We believe it is due to this constant hard work and pressure by the Parish Council and particularly, as always the County representative that there has been a result.

Similarly with the Denny End

Road junction working with the County Councillor a result is not far off providing much overdue lighting and traffic lights. A big thank you there. Some of the money for these improvements will come from a Section 106 planning agreement for the Bannold Road development where money from large developments is used for improvements in the locality to help lessen the impact on an area.

The station car park and the recent extension has also been a masterpiece of cooperation between the Parish Council, County Councillor, the other councils and the Railway.

Burgess Road is in the County Council's Highways budget for improvement. The County Council agreed with the Parish

Council, the County Councillor and the then District Councillors several years ago for this to be done and has been in the county budget year on year but it has been taken out later due to lack of funds. We are urging the County to do work this year.

For about two years District and Parish Councillor Jane Williamson has chaired a group of people investigating the building of a Youth and Community building adjacent to the Old Pavilion used by the Youth Club. The club, run by Dave Beasley, Fen Edge Patch and WAY Project, supported by the local churches, is doing great work. So good it is out growing the premises. A way forward is being worked out for what would be a large financial project but an investment in the future

The Parish Council is working with the sports clubs to improve the recreation ground facilities and investigate the feasibility of providing an all weather sports surface area, another exciting project.

Our cemetery is slowly filling up. At some point we will need more ground to bury our loved ones. Negotiations for land at the back of the cemetery to extend have taken place with Defence Estates but no purchase has yet taken place, we are waiting on them. It is possible to purchase a plot for burial through the Clerk to the Council, Sarah Smart.

To find out more about what the Council does and to see our minutes, visit our website: www.waterbeach.org.uk/wbpc

Contacting your Council

All the Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk, Sarah Smart at Barton Ley, Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9QQ

Tel: 01223 440018, email council@waterbeach.org.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

Adrian Wright (Chairman)

Michael Williamson (Vice-Chairman & Chairman, Highways Committee)

Nick Brown (Chairman, Planning Committee)

William Grant (Chairman, Recreation Ground Users Committee)

Maurice Leeke (Chairman, Finance Committee)

Janet Cornwell Kate Grant David Halsey

Peter Jones Bill Saberton Alan Shipp

Jane Williamson

There are currently three vacancies. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

This publication is the first in a series of Newsletters to be produced by Waterbeach Parish Council aiming to tell residents about what the Council does. Thanks to Waterbeach Community Association and the distribution team of Beach News for ensuring this publication gets to every house in the village. Any views expressed are those of the Parish Council and not of Waterbeach Community Association nor of the Beach News editorial team .

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday, May 25th
at 7.30 pm
in the Library

Watch out for further details

Stop press

At their meeting on March 7th, the South Cambridgeshire Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee approved consultation to go ahead on the provision of street lighting and traffic lights at the Bannold Road-A10 junction.

For plans of the proposals, see:

www.waterbeach.org.uk/wbpc/traffic