

# Waterbeach Parish Council News

May 2008

## *Annual Report for 2007-2008*

During the year three councillors left the Parish Council for various reasons. Many thanks to Terry Gilzean, Jenny Dunnett and Bill Saberton for their work on the Council. Bill was born in Waterbeach Fen over 80 years ago and lived there almost all his life until he decided at the end of last year to move to Bury St Edmunds with his wife Val. He served for many years on the Parish Council as well as being our District Councillor for 14 years and he is greatly missed. We wish him well in his retirement. Two new members have been co-opted, Jonathan Lewis-Jones and Robert Jones (no relation). Robert was on the Parish council some years ago. At the time of writing the third vacancy has not yet been filled.

The Parish Council has responsibility for the open spaces in the village including the cemetery. It is also consulted by the County and District councils on many other issues, in particular planning. It is able to use some of the money raised in the precept to support various activities in the village which include the library and the Youth club.

So what have the Parish Council done this year? What follows is not a complete list but gives you some idea of what we do. You can find out more from our website, [www.waterbeach.org.uk](http://www.waterbeach.org.uk)

- The Parish Council continue to support the independent library WILL. It pays for some of the costs including the rent of the premises and makes it possible to keep a library facility open in the village
- It also supports the very successful Youth Club and drop in centre by providing the premises
- After many years and many false starts the plan to build a new community building on the Recreation Ground to provide a village meeting facility and a new home for the Youth Club looks like coming to fruition. A planning application has been submitted and we are waiting to hear the results. At the same time we have submitted an application for a new groundsman's shed near the New Pavilion. This would replace the various containers and provide better storage facilities and working conditions for the groundsman.
- We have responded on the village's behalf to the revised plans for the A10 which the Mereham developers submitted. We felt strongly that they would make traffic issues in Waterbeach even worse. The results of the Mereham appeal have not yet been published.

- We wrote to James Paice, our MP, to express our strong concern over the possible use of the barracks and surrounding land for an 'eco town' and asked him to pass our views to the Secretary of State which he did. It is a relief that Waterbeach was not selected for the short list of sites to be considered.
- The Parish Council was involved in negotiations for the section 106 agreement for the Bannold road development which is now being built. The village has already benefited from the Denny End traffic lights, which were made possible because the developers made a contribution to the cost. Some money will go directly to the Parish Council, and there is to be a contribution from the developers for Public Art. We did ask in a previous Beach News whether anyone had any suggestions; so far none have been forthcoming. It would be good if the community could come up with some ideas
- Two parish councillors attended consultation workshops about tackling congestion in Cambridge. The County Council is now in the process of deciding whether congestion charging should be introduced which they would have to do in order to get a grant from the government to help tackle congestion. We are assured that if it is decided to introduce charging it would not happen unless and until public transport and other measures have been introduced.
- We continue to press for highways improvements. This is probably one of the most frustrating parts of what we do. Highways are a County responsibility, but there is never enough money and there are things which we know ought to be done but which seem to take for ever and sometimes look as if they will never happen. By the time you read this we hope that the traffic calming measures in the High St. which were funded by a scheme called the Jointly Funded Minor Highways scheme will have been installed. We are waiting to find whether a submission for improvement near

For more information about your Parish Council, and details of important consultations, visit [www.waterbeach.org.uk](http://www.waterbeach.org.uk)

the station will be successful this year. We continue to press for improvements to the pavements in Station Rd and Cambridge Rd. The issue of how to make the road near Village Stores safer to cross is ongoing. Many solutions have been suggested but there is no easy answer and we continue to talk to the road traffic engineers about this. We hope that the response to the Parish Plan which highlights this as a priority for the village will give extra ammunition in our battle to get something done.

- We are taking part in consultations about a proposed cycle route which will go from Cambridge to Kings Lynn. At the moment it stops at the station but the Wicken Fen vision includes plans to take it across the river to Wicken Fen. Getting a safe route from the station to the other side of the river is proving quite difficult but negotiations and discussion are in progress
- An automatic watering system has been put in on the bowls green which means that it is no longer necessary

for someone to manually water it which is very labour intensive and not as effective

The Parish Council is responsible for the Green, the Recreation Ground, the cemetery and some other open spaces. These are superbly managed on a day to day basis by our Clerk, Sarah Smart who acts tirelessly for us and by her husband David who helps to oversee the work of our Groundsman, Kevin Stublely. We are very grateful to all of them for their commitment to the Parish. Last year the village looked really lovely and this is thanks in no small part to their hard work.

### *HOPE08 Litter Pick*

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May a group of people from the churches in Waterbeach and Landbeach spent the day on a number of community activities. One was a comprehensive litter pick round our village and also Landbeach and Chittering. Many thanks to the group for their efforts, which resulted in a large number of black sacks of rubbish.

The group were the first to use the Parish litter picking kit which the council has recently purchased, it consists of grabbers and reflective vests and is available for any group who would like to do a litter pick in their area. Just contact the Clerk for details.

### *Volunteers needed*

Waterbeach needs more help to keep the library running, could you volunteer to help at sessions on a regular or holiday cover basis? Full training is given. For more details please contact the Clerk or talk to any of the volunteers at the library.

### *Vacancy for a Parish Councillor*

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested contact the Clerk or any member of the Council.

### *Dog fouling*

Remember it is an offence for dog owners to let their dogs foul public places, this includes the Recreation Ground which is used by many people for sport which is used by many people for sport.

Please clean up after your dog and please keep your dog on a lead on the Recreation Ground. If you want to give him/her a run there are other places in the village where you can do this.

## *Contacting the Council*

Your Parish Councillors are:

Jane Williamson (Chairman - 440751)

Janet Cornwell (vice-Chairman)

Alan Ball

Peter Johnson

Christine Smith

David Black

Robert Jones

Gabrielle Smith

Kate Grant

Maurice Leeke

Michael Williamson

William Grant

Jonathan Lewis-Jones

Adrian Wright

Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk, Mrs. Sarah Smart at Barton Ley, Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9QQ. Tel & fax: 01223 440018, email [council@waterbeach.org.uk](mailto:council@waterbeach.org.uk)

## *Your County and District Councillors*

*Cambridgeshire County Councillor (also represents Landbeach and Milton)*

Michael Williamson. Tel: 01223 860899 email: [michael.williamson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:michael.williamson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

*South Cambridgeshire District Councillors (also represent Landbeach)*

James Hockney Tel: 01223 861419 email: [cllr.hockney@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hockney@scambs.gov.uk)

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This publication is one of a series of Newsletters 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 .