

# Waterbeach Parish Council News

September 2008

## *From the Chair of the Parish Council*

### **Double yellow lines - your views sought**

Parking around the village seems to increase all the time. Mostly the cars are quite legally parked but they can create problems for other drivers and for pedestrians. There are a number of places where the use of double yellow lines might help to make things safer.

The cost of painting the lines is not very much. What does cost a lot is the consultation process which has to be gone through before they are put down. The County Council allocates almost no money for this but Parish Councils are allowed to spend precept money if they wish.

Consultation costs are about the same whether applications are made for one lot of lines or for several, so the Parish Council wishes to draw up a list of places where it is felt that double yellow lines would help. Then they can all be considered in one application.

If you have any suggestions about where you think double yellow lines might help, for example to make junctions easier to negotiate, contact the Clerk or any other Parish Councillor by the end of October and we will discuss whether they should go forward at a Highways Committee meeting.

### **Sports facility news**

**Cricket** - During the summer work has been done to help keep the cricket square irrigated in dry weather (perhaps that is why the summer has been so wet). A grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council has been given for the erection of new practice nets.

**Five-a-side and skateboard park fencing** - A grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council has also been obtained for new fencing round the five-a-side court, and at the back of the skateboard park. This will be much stronger than the existing fencing and will greatly improve the appearance of this side of the Recreation Ground.

### **Community Building and Groundsman's shed**

Ever optimistic, we hoped that we would have obtained planning permission for both the proposed new Youth and Community Building and the Groundsman's shed by now. How wrong we were, the process seems to be going on for ever. However, by the time you receive the next newsletter we are fairly(?) confident that we will have planning permission and that work will have started on the Groundsman's shed which will

enable us store machinery and equipment more safely and securely, provide a better working environment for our Grounds' staff and provide storage for equipment used and owned by the sports groups. It will improve the appearance of the Recreation Ground as the temporary storage units will be disposed of.

The Youth and Community Building will provide a new home for the Youth Club and also a facility for other village groups. The Parish Plan questionnaire identified a need for another meeting place. We are now starting to try to find out what type of activities people would like to see taking place there, for example would you like to see day time adult education classes, a keep fit group, a bridge club or .....?

Every household should be receiving a leaflet inviting your views. If you do not get one but do have any suggestions then let the Clerk or any Parish Councillor know

### **The Cemetery**

During the summer work has been done to rebuild/repair the part of the cemetery wall at the entrance. It looks much better and is much safer. We are now beginning to plan for further work to other parts of the wall round the cemetery.

A leaflet is being prepared which will go to all those using the cemetery to explain our policy on the erection of headstones, use of ornaments and similar issues.

### **Buses and Trains**

It is a great shame that the trial Number 8 Stagecoach service from Waterbeach to Cambridge via Horingsea and Fen Ditton is likely to be axed due to lack of support. The Whippet 196 service which also goes through Horingsea is subsidised by the County Council at present but this subsidy is now under threat. This could mean that this service will also be stopped. Whilst Waterbeach is very fortunate in having the hourly trains and the Stagecoach services along the A10, it will be a great shame if the routes via Fen

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Ditton stop. This is a very useful route and it is a great shame that more people have not made use of these services. And of course Horningsea will be very seriously hit as the village will then have no public transport at all.

### Train problems

Many of us have been reduced to quivering wrecks trying to buy tickets from the two ticket machines at Waterbeach station. We have contacted First Capital Connect with some of our concerns. The following comments from their reply may be helpful

- Our comments about the difficulty of reading the screens on the new ticket machine on the north bound platform of the station have been noted.
- If the machines are out of order then a message is paged to rail staff who will sell tickets on the train. If there are no

staff then you can get a ticket at the destination station.

- It is in theory possible to get a ticket for travel the following day though people who have tried this have found it has not always worked.
- Refunds on unused tickets can be obtained. You may receive a travel voucher in return which is not very helpful for buying a ticket at Waterbeach!
- Car parking tickets for up to 31 days can be obtained using a mobile phone; see the Parish Council web-site for a link to further details.

There are still issues about the amount of time it takes to buy tickets. Passengers risk either missing their train or being fined for travelling without a ticket because they have not had time to purchase one despite arriving some time before the train is due to depart.

*Jane Williamson*

### Library news

During the summer, our Independent Lending Library (WILL) maintained a good level of activity throughout the holiday period with 1076 (July) and 1081 (August) items issued or renewed. This all helps Waterbeach meet the performance targets set by the County Council. Some new purchases have been made. If you have heard about Twilight and the popular Stephenie Meyer books you can now borrow the whole "Bella Swan" series from Waterbeach. Local authors have also continued to donate books for which we are very grateful.

So come and find some reading for autumn evenings at the library .

### County Council Budget Consultations

If you would like the chance to influence County Council spending for 2009-2010, then go to one of their roadshows. The most local are:

Cambridge – outside Boots, Sidney Street on Monday 13 October and  
Ely – Market Square on Thursday 16 October.

Both 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

## Contacting the Council

Your Parish Councillors are:

Jane Williamson (Chairman - 440751)  
Janet Cornwell (vice-Chairman - 861276)

Alan Ball (570814)

Kate Grant (511455)

Robert Jones (862734)

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Gabrielle Smith

Adrian Wright (861846)

Sheila Burke (861717)

Peter Johnson (560918)

Jonathan Lewis-Jones (07092 221701)

Michael Williamson (860899)

All phone numbers (except where stated) are area code 01223. Councillors can also be contacted by a standard email address which is [firstname.surname@waterbeach.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@waterbeach.org.uk). For example, [alan.ball@waterbeach.org.uk](mailto:alan.ball@waterbeach.org.uk).

You can also contact 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)

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