

Impington Council - Winter 2009



Impington's Olympic Gymnast in Beijing



17 year old Marissa King, of South Road, is studying for the IB at IVC. She started gymnastics as a recreational activity aged 8 after seeing a gymnastics display at Cottenham Village College. She attended a club at CVC for several years before realising that if she wanted to compete in the sport she would need to move to a different club. So began her relationship with Huntingdon Olympic Gymnastics Club, which this year provided over half of the British Olympic gymnastics team.

Over the last few years Marissa has had considerable success and in 2007 competed in National, European and World Championships. She was placed 6th in the Vault final at the European Championship and at the World Championships she was part of the British gymnastic team that came 7th, the highest place ever achieved by a British team; this qualified the team for a place at the Beijing Olympics. Later that year at the Glasgow Grand Prix event she was awarded Gold for her performance on the Vault and at the Good Luck Beijing event she scooped a Bronze. On the strength of these performances, Marissa was selected to be a member of the British gymnastics team for the Beijing Olympics.

Marissa competes in the Artistic Gymnastics section, which is one of the most popular yet most demanding gymnastics disciplines in the Olympics since it combines strength, skill and flexibility. Women participate in four apparatus events: Vault, Uneven Bars, Balance Beam and Floor Exercises. Marissa was ranked 28 out of 81 in the qualifying event, but sadly did not get through to the Vault final.

In conversation, Marissa tells of the excitement of the Olympics - of being part of the close Team GB family and of mixing with the world-class athletes who have become household names following their successes. However, as well as the glamour - since her return Marissa has had lunch with Gordon Brown and met the Queen - there is also the harsh reality of the gruelling training regime leading up to the games and of the weeks spent away from family and friends. This typically starts 6 months before the games and includes 3-4 hours training a day at least 6 times a week and even more just before important competitions; one missed day of training requires two days to get back to peak fitness.

Away from the gym Marissa is like any other teenager, working hard at her studies and enjoying a full social life with her friends, who she admits are very important to her - not only because they provide the back up for all the missed college work when she is away in competitions, but also because they keep her feet on the ground and help her relax.

Looking to the future, Marissa hopes to do well in her exams and go to university possibly taking a Sports Scholarship to study Social Science or Geography in Florida, USA. On the gymnastics front there is the World Individual Championships in 2009 to be held at the O2 Arena, where she might try the Vault or Floor events, but most importantly she is looking to achieve her ambition of taking part in the Commonwealth Games in India in 2010. The London Olympics in 2012 seem a long way off - and, as she acknowledges, anything can happen in four years.



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Orchard Park Developments

The Shadow Community Council



Until early October we had hoped that the new Parish of Orchard Park (covering the area formerly known as Arbury Park) would have been created, and the new Council, to be called Orchard Park Community Council, elected by the end of 2008.

Unfortunately, closer reading of the relevant Acts of Parliament and associated regulations has indicated that the new Community Council cannot legally be created until April 1st 2009. Elections of the Councillors will therefore be held at the same time as the European and County elections on June 4th.

In the run up to the creation of the new council, however,

Impington Parish Council has been looking for ways to involve the residents of Orchard Park in the essential decision making process, as this is a period when major facilities (such as the new Community Centre) are likely to be adopted.

A Shadow Community Council has therefore been created in order to achieve this. It will operate very much like a normal Parish Council, and all the members will be trained and be bound by the same rules as Parish Councillors. The Shadow Council already has its own experienced and qualified Parish Clerk working part time.

The shadow council has elected resident Jens Kirschner (until recently an Impington Parish Councillor) as chairman, with Lela Pirouet as vice-chair. Shadow council meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Orchard Park School Community Room and are open to the public.

Shadow council chairman Jens Kirschner said, "This is a vital first step in formalising the strong community spirit at Orchard Park. We have a new name and the beginnings of a brand new council. I am looking forward to working with both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Impington Parish Council, representing residents' views as we move forward and establish our new home as a place in which people can feel proud to live."

Impington Parish Councillors will attend all meetings, and will help the Shadow Council through the key processes, and will as long as they are needed, continue in a mentoring role after the elections.

Age Concern

Vacancy for a Part Time Warden

Age Concern Cambridgeshire have a vacancy for the post of Warden in Histon and Impington villages. This is a paid position of 15 hours per week, worked over 5 mornings Monday - Friday. Candidates should enjoy working with older people, promoting their independence by providing practical support and making daily calls to ensure their wellbeing.

Following interview, the successful candidate will be required to provide 2 references, satisfactory proof of entitlement to work in the UK and, a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau check at the enhanced level. For further information, please call 01354-696650 for the application pack.

The Closing date for returned applications is

21st January 2009

E-Cops - Free Advice From our PCSOs

Subscribers to E-Cops e-mails receive regular bulletins from our PCSOs which provide important information regarding crime in our village and advice on crime prevention.

To make E-cops even more effective we need to spread the net and recruit more subscribers.

Please sign up yourself and also encourage your friends and particularly your neighbours to join. Anyone can sign up at www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/

PCSO Diana Neill and PCSO Tony Martin

Calls for Additional Bus Shelter in Station Road



Impington Parish Council has received some requests to consider provision of a bus shelter at the bus stop outside the Whaling Commission.

Other sites have also been suggested, but it has been decided that, were we to proceed with this expenditure, the Station Road site is the only viable option.

However, we have no real idea as to how much demand there is for such a shelter and although we are in the process of getting some quotes together, we really would welcome any feedback from residents as to whether this would be good use of Impington residents' Council Tax payments.

Please let us know what you think by contacting the Parish Clerk.

Twenty's Plenty

"Speed has never killed anyone, suddenly becoming stationary... that's what gets you." (Jeremy Clarkson)

On 28 November, a public meeting organized by Impington residents Vanessa Kelly and Phil Jones, was held at IVC at which Histon and Impington residents discussed local speed limits. The meeting focused on road safety and the UK's poor death and injury record for child pedestrians and cyclists, compared with elsewhere in northern Europe. Temporary 20 mph zones near schools, are inadequate, as statistics show that 80% of accidents involving children occur near their homes during holidays, weekends and evenings.

A recent Department for Transport circular - "Setting Local Speed Limits" stated that if a pedestrian is hit by a car at 40 mph, 90% will be killed; at 30 mph this reduces to 20% fatalities, and at 20 mph, only 2.5% fatalities.

The circular also stated that local speed limits should "better reflect the needs of all road users, not just motorised vehicles" and there should be an "improved quality of life for local communities and better balance between road safety, accessibility and environmental objectives".

The organisers of the meeting said they would like to promote a 30 mph limit on the B1049 and a 20 mph limit in the rest of Histon and Impington. Communities in Portsmouth, Hull, Norwich, Oxford and Newcastle have all committed to 20 mph zones and seen the benefits of improved quality of life, reduced accidents and less congestion (the streets are thought to be, and probably are, safer).

Points raised in the discussion that followed:

- During peak periods, congestion already controls speeds. In any case, in September's traffic survey, off-peak speeds often exceed the current speed limits; on the B1049 60, 70 and even 100 mph were not that rare at night. Would lowering speed limits deter this?
- The B1049 was 30 mph in Cottenham but not in Histon and Impington.
- A 20 mph speed limit might discourage rat-running, particularly during the construction of Northstowe.
- Interactive signs are seen as a good thing even if in reality they have little effect on speed reduction (Harston on the A10 was cited as a positive example).
- Mike Mason (District Councillor) said that some pedestrian-unfriendly decisions about traffic-light sequences had been made in the past, in the interests of limiting congestion
- David Jenkins (County Councillor) said that the B1049 had been built to increase traffic flow, and was seen by the County as a vital link road for Cambridgeshire, but the cycling investment parameters may conflict with this.

The meeting agreed that a campaign to engage the two villages, the Police and the County Council should be launched, combined with an effort to influence the speeds of HGVs and buses using the villages and a commitment to drive within the speed limit at all times.

The Parish Council would be interested to hear your views in relation to these proposals, so that it can represent your views to the District and County Councils should the organisers seek support for their campaign from us.

Are THEY trying to build all over US!

We are all aware of the major housing developments under construction and planned in our area. Whether Impington & Histon will stay a separate community is a natural question, and now there is an attempt to allocate yet more land near us for development.

Government planners have seen the growth since 2000 and noted local pressures which reduced choices in the South East as well as the expansion of the financial services sector in the same area. To this they added the expansion of Stansted airport and decided that there would need to be a considerable population growth in the Cambridge region to fill the jobs created by this growth. Three quarters of this expansion was to be from people moving to the area. This growth would need 47,000 new houses by 2016 - equivalent to another Cambridge.

Having made the prediction, they set up a mechanism to check on progress. Not surprisingly, this was a difficult target and one the area has not achieved. Government Inspectors looking at plans for South Cambridgeshire have therefore required the District Council to identify new sites for housing to be developed soon to make up the "shortfall".

All this happened before the extent of the economic downturn was known and before the disappearance of major developers from the area; the sudden collapse in financial services employment in the South East; the developers delaying Northstowe by a further year (as they see no market for the houses immediately); and delays to Stansted airport's expansion.



Deserted Development Site at Orchard Park

SCDC have, as they are required to, selected the additional sites. In Impington, three are in Orchard Park and one is south of the A14 on the opposite side of the B1049. The three sites in Orchard Park were originally designated as "mixed use" or commercial - and have been proposed for re-classification for housing. The other is an extension of the development of the former NIAB land with almost one thousand houses making the development stretch across from Huntingdon Road to almost Cambridge Road and near to the A14.

Impington Parish Council have responded to the SCDC consultation by saying:

- All the assumptions that the planners have made are now wrong. There is not likely to be the demand in the next few years, over and above the needs of local people; and the economic situation may cut that demand as well
- The sites, being close to local infrastructure (roads, schools etc), will be easier to develop once the market picks up and so will be built on before the sites already chosen and approved.
- The result will be second rate sites being developed first - if not second rate they would already be in the plans!

Given that there is no evidence of the requirement having

been increased from 47,000, this could result in the major developments at Northstowe, North West and South West Cambridge not being fully developed. We know what an incomplete site looks like, through our experience of Orchard Park!

SCDC are under pressure to respond with new sites - the threat is that if they do not, the Inspectors will select the sites themselves. They considered some additional sites in the village but have rejected them - we have supported those rejections.

We have made our views known to SCDC and made detailed arguments against all the sites being considered in our area. We will do so again, at the right time, to the Planning Inspectors. We hope that you will support us when the time comes.

Reporting Crimes and Incidents

A Message from Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Reporting crimes and incidents to the Police is a matter that has caused some confusion in the past. In our attempts to make sure we answer your calls and allow officers to be out of the Police station patrolling we have moved away from providing direct numbers to Police Stations. The operators who take your call can often deal with your enquiry direct, update you on a crime or incident or record your crime. They will also be able to pass your call through direct to officers at the station or on their mobile phones. Below is a general guide to reporting.

Emergencies -Dial 999 when:

- Lives are at risk / violence / serious injury
- Serious crime is happening
- Criminal still at the scene or nearby

The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information from you so that we can send the appropriate resources to you if necessary.

For non-emergencies, always call 08454 564 564 24 hours a day Your call will be answered by a trained operator.

For the deaf and hard of hearing, there is a MINICOM helpline, call 01480 422493 anywhere in the force area

RNID TypeTalk is a national telephone relay service which enables, deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing and speech impaired people to communicate. To access the service dial: 0800 515152.

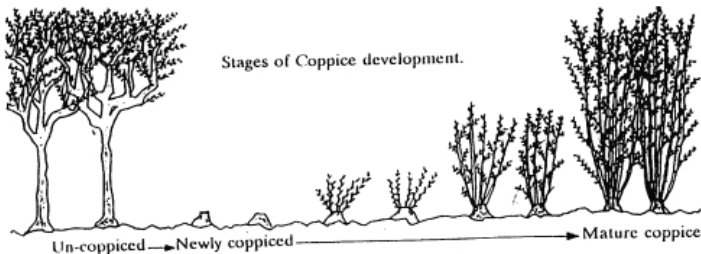
Please note that calls may be recorded.

You can also contact us online at www.cambs.police.uk

The Ancient Art of Coppicing Returns to The Coppice!

Early in the New Year Impington Parish Council will be bringing back the ancient art of 'coppicing' to an area of the village named after this ancient woodland management practice.

Tree surgeons will be re-coppicing a hazel tree at the entrance to The Coppice in order to regenerate the tree and prevent it from disintegrating and become more susceptible to disease. The word 'coppice' comes from the French word couper meaning 'to cut' and it is the process of cutting suitable trees down to near ground level, to allow the stumps to regenerate for a number of years. The practice dates back over 5,000 years and enabled people to harvest trees for wood in such a way that meant that the tree subsequently re-grows over a period of years .without needing to be replanted.



Hazel trees would have been harvested in this way to provide material for thatching, hedge-laying spars and hurdle fence making.

It may look drastic, but trees like the hazel tree at The Coppice, which have previously been coppiced, need to continue to be managed in this way in order to ensure that they continue to thrive. Coppiced trees can live for hundreds of years with continuous management.

The best time to coppice trees is well after the autumn leaf fall when the sap has gone down, and certainly well before the sap rises in the spring.

If you have any queries, please contact Pene Nudds at: enviro@hisimp.net

Allison Conder - Senior Executive

Tree Planted in Honour of Retired Parish Councillor Trevor Silk



Trevor Silk plants his tree

The Parish Council is always looking for opportunities to plant more trees in the village—we have a lot already, but there is plenty of room for a few more. What could be more appropriate then, than to honour Trevor Silk, a parish councillor for 27 years and a keen gardener, than by planting a tree?

Accordingly, Parish Councillors, Council staff and members of the Enviro

Volunteers helped Trevor to plant some new hornbeams on the verge outside the Holiday Inn and will enhance the landscape at the entrance to the village. One tree was dedicated to the years of service that Trevor had given to Impington, and will be marked with a small plaque.

What do You Think?

The feedback we've had from previous issues has been greatly appreciated and very valuable - we've done our best to act on it and take up issues with the relevant authorities. We'd be delighted to hear from you on any topics raised, or other matters of concern. Do remember also that **all** Parish Council meetings are open to the public.