

Impington Council - Spring 2009

Community Facilities Consultation



Members of the community at the meeting held on 25th February

Both Parish Councils have supported an initiative to review the provision of community facilities in our villages. As part of that consultation, a leaflet was prepared and should have been delivered by volunteers to every household. The leaflet explained the purpose of the exercise – seeing if there is a persuasive need for extra community facilities. Only if there was a compelling need would the parish Councils be asked to support a study into location(s), type of facility, and cost (both to provide and to operate).

The consultation meetings on Saturday February 21st and Wednesday February 25th at the Junior School were well attended with about a hundred participants in total. The meetings considered the needs for young families and children, youth, elderly (fit and less so), the village heritage and the arts (in all forms).

The meeting noted that:-

- There are many community groups and activities in surrounding villages that are not provided locally, despite there being a demand for them
- Some groups have excellent facilities but they do not cover all their needs
- Some of the facilities are poorly 'marketed' and not used to their full potential
- The village archives are extensive and are a key resource which must be preserved: they are stored "under an enthusiast's bed"
- The new St Andrew's Hall project aims to provide facilities to match the mission of the Church, and if successful could be complementary to our community project
- The encroachment on the village from the South (Orchard Park and NIAB land), from the East (along Butt Lane) and the North West (with the Northstowe plans being within a mile from houses in Histon) threatens our community identity
- The dire lack of safe and suitable premises for youth activities; we employ youth workers, but they are missing a key resource
- The issues of noise and car parking when using any facility were important
- Some existing facilities (whether through condition or policy) may not be available in the medium term
- The completion of their community centres has resulted in an increase in community activities and spirit in neighbouring villages

Both Parish Councils have already started to compile a register of facilities, which will be available both at the Council offices and on the village web site. This should assist in meeting short term needs, as well as making better use of what we already have.

The team are now preparing to talk with facility providers, noting their key (and thoroughly appreciated) current roles, and with community groups. The review group will report back to the Parish Councils by the end of this calendar year. Residents will be kept informed in the meantime, including through the future issues of this newsletter.



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Open Gardens Day

JUNE 14TH 2009

Open Gardens Day in Histon and Impington in June 2007 was a day remembered happily by many residents and visitors as a great village event. A second Open Gardens day will be held on Sunday June 14th 2009, from 12.00 to 18.00 when 14 gardens will be open, about half of which are new to the scheme. Lunches and teas will again be available in some of the gardens and there will be a plant stall on The Green at 8.30am on Saturday June 13th, the day before the Open Gardens day.

New for this year, there will be live music in three gardens – a folk group, a wind octet and a jazz band and there will also be a sale of gardening books in another garden. The Village Society will be providing guides in some of the gardens to talk about their history and plans are also being made for transport around the village, for people who find walking or cycling between gardens difficult.

Impington and Histon Parish Councils are among the sponsors of the day, to whom we are most grateful. It will give residents and visitors another wonderful day out and will also raise money for the same three charities: Histon Feast, Emmaus UK and Voluntary Service Overseas. Last time over £5,000 was raised and was shared between them.

People using the internet can keep in touch with our plans at www.opengardens.org or email us at info@opengardens.org Programmes will be on sale in advance from mid May - or on The Green on the day.

Judy Wilson, Chair, Open Gardens Committee

Whilst on the Subject of Gardens ... Let's Get *SHEDUCATED*

The value of property in sheds and garages is more than people think. Thieves may target them for power tools, cycles and sports equipment. Hand tools stolen from sheds and garages can also be used to break into homes. So:

Secure the access to your shed or garage by *locking* gates and using thorny bushes next to walls and fences.

Have you visibly *marked* the contents of your shed? Note serial numbers and *photograph* valuable plants, ornaments, machinery and equipment.

External security lights which are activated by movement are a useful *deterrent*.

Doors of sheds require attention. Use *strong* close shackle padlocks. Garage doors and windows should also be fitted with a padlock if possible. Extra care should be taken with garages where access can be gained to the home.

Use coach bolts or non-return screws to *secure* door hinges and locks.

Chain cycles, mowers, ladders and tools to a strong anchorage point.

Arms for sheds and garages are available for under £20 at most DIY stores or catalogue shops.

Together we'll crack crime. Join a *Neighbourhood Watch scheme*.

Exactly what insurance cover do you have? Does your household policy covers you for theft from outbuildings?

For further crime prevention advice visit <http://www.cambs.police.uk/crimeprevention/advice/>

"Too Many Cars Too Little Road Space"

I'm sure those of us who are car drivers will have felt this at one time or another – whether it is when queuing on Bridge Road or Cambridge Road trying to get to work in the morning, or stuck on the A14 as yet another accident has brought everyone to a standstill.

This must also be why so many cars are parked on pavements, blocking access for pedestrians – children walking to school, mums with buggies, etc. – and churning up our lovely grass verges. And also why some of our less confident cyclists use the pavement, rather than the road to avoid having either to squeeze past miles of stationary traffic or take a chance with vehicles speeding through our villages.

Whatever your mode of transport the Parish Council will look for ways to make things safe and legal for everyone. We are currently involved in

- Getting HCV (heavy commercial vehicle) parking banned on our village roads
- Improving the parking arrangements for Histon FC football match days
- Reducing speeds on all our roads
- Getting better cycle provision for crossing the A14
- Safer routes to schools
- Improving cycle paths
- Working to get the Citi 7 service improved

We actively encourage considerate and responsible driving and cycling and support the local schools and police officers to achieve this.

NEW County Council Contact Telephone Numbers

Care Services	New Number
Adult Health and Social Services	0345 045 5201
Adult's Social Care	0345 045 5202
Blue Badges Disabled Parking	0345 045 5203
Children's Services	0345 045 5204
Occupational Health	0345 045 5205
Learning Disability Partnership	0345 045 5221
General Community Services	New Number
General Enquiries	0345 045 5200
Switchboard	0345 045 5222
Trading Standards	0345 045 5206
Waste Management	0345 045 5207
Education Transport	0345 045 5208
Human Resources (recruitment line)	0345 045 5210
Online Payments Support	0345 045 5211
Streetscene (highways and transport)	0345 045 5212
Library Services	0345 045 5225
Citizenship	0345 045 5155
Family Information Service	0345 045 1360
Education Welfare Benefits Service	0345 045 1361

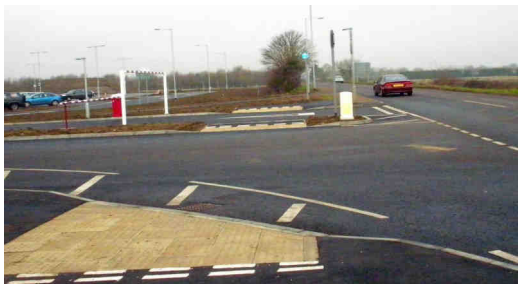
Vacancies on the Parish Council

As a result of the formation of the Orchard Park Parish and the coming elections to the Community Council, we have lost three Impington Parish Councillors who are residents of Orchard Park

If you would like to have an input into how the Parish is managed at local level, and can devote some of your time to meeting the challenges which face us in the near future, then please contact the Parish Clerk, or any Councillor (details on the front page), who will be pleased to answer your questions and give you information as to the role of a Parish Councillor.

If you value your community, this is your opportunity to contribute to its future.

Butt Lane Junction With the A10



Cycle Path crossing at Park and Ride on Butt Lane

When the plans for the replacement for the Cowley Road Park and Ride to be built at Butt Lane were published, the Parish Council was concerned about the impact this would have for traffic in Butt Lane and the village.

The original traffic light sequence had, for some time, resulted in considerable queues back down Butt Lane in the morning peak and it was our concern that the proposals could make the situation worse.

We have therefore been pleasantly surprised that, to date, the reality has been contrary to our expectations, with the queues during the morning peak being shorter than with the original arrangement. Unless residents have had different experiences (and if so could they please let the Parish Clerk know) we are glad to have been proved wrong!

We also had concerns about increased "rat-running" through the village, by traffic leaving the new Park and Ride. We were given to understand that the rationale for not banning a left turn exit from the Park and Ride directly onto Butt Lane was that this would force cars heading for Impington, to exit onto the A10 and 50 metres later turn left down Butt Lane. Adding traffic to a trunk route, without decreasing the numbers travelling back along Butt Lane, is clearly not desirable.

We were however, in concert with many others, successful in persuading the County to change their proposed cycle route from the A10 bridge. They had originally planned for cyclists to take a route well into the Park and Ride and across the bus route. The current arrangement is shown in the picture above.

This arrangement does mean, however, that care is needed by drivers entering or leaving the Park and Ride as they cross the cycle path. This is especially so at the time when pupils will be cycling from Milton to school at IVC, whose numbers increase markedly if the school bus leaves on time!

What is Happening at Donarbon's Waterbeach Waste Management Park?

As many of you may have seen, new building work is progressing at Donarbon's Waste Management Park at Waterbeach. The frame of the new building, a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant, can now be seen from the A10.

The MBT plant is being built as part of the 28 year, £730 million, waste treatment and recycling contract that Donarbon has had with Cambridgeshire County Council, since 1st April 2008. The plant will contain state of the art technology, that will treat all waste that is not already sorted for recycling and composting, and which is currently dumped in landfill (commonly called black bin / sack waste).

Although Cambridgeshire residents are already some of the best recyclers in Great Britain, recycling just over half their waste (figures released by DEFRA in November 2008 showed that Cambridgeshire is the third best recycling county in the country), a large amount of rubbish is still going to landfill; unfortunately a lot of this waste is material like left-over food and plastic bottles that should be recycled.

The new County Council contract therefore requires Donarbon to introduce waste treatment facilities which will help all district and parish councils to meet their targets, and the County to save council taxpayers money in landfill tax. Hence the building of the MBT plant at Waterbeach!

Donarbon is building a waste education and visitor centre as part of the MBT plant. Visitors will be able to over-look all the machinery and workings of the sorting equipment on one side and the composting hall on the other. The centre will be open to all visitors, predominantly school and college pupils and staff, but also community and village groups, parish councils, the WI etc. It should be open ready for the new academic year in September 2009 and details of how to book a visit will be advertised locally.

If you need any further information or would like to arrange a visit for a local school or group to see what is happening at the Donarbon site for yourselves, please contact Mark Shelton, Waste Promotions Manager at Donarbon on 01223 204836.

And Speaking of Waste... An Important Message From the Homefield Park Residents Association

While we realise that it is lovely for your dogs to be able to run freely, as long as they are under control, some owners allow their dogs to roam onto other peoples gardens in the open plan part of the estate.

Although these gardens are not fenced they are still someones garden and, on occasions, unwelcome canine gifts have been left behind.

We realise that most owners are very good about clearing up after their pets, but there are still some owners who feel that if it is in the park, away from streets, it's OK to leave it behind if their dog fouls.

There is a lot of sheltered accommodation within the Homefield Park area which means a lot of elderly people are resident there. As well as these residents, school children walk through the area and one of your children could pick up a nasty disease from this fouling.

The Impington Annual Parish Meeting

7.00 pm on 18 May 2008

St Andrew's Church Hall, Burgoynes Road, Impington.

Throughout the year the Council holds monthly meetings to discuss matters affecting the Parish. Additionally, smaller groups (committees) meet to concentrate on specific areas such as planning, environment etc. All meetings are open to members of the public but there is often only a limited amount of time for questions or more open discussion.

On Monday, 18th May we shall be holding the Annual Parish Meeting and this is rather different. So just what makes it different to a normal Council meeting?

Well, it's not a Parish *Council* meeting. It's the **Parish Meeting** - and though it's chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, it's the annual opportunity for residents to attend, make their views known on current issues concerning the parish and ask questions of Parish Councillors.

The Council Chairman gives a report on the activities of the Council over the last year, there's a presentation of the accounts, and an open session for questions.

So, it's **your** meeting, and gives you an opportunity to have your say that you don't get at District or County level - do come along and raise your concerns - if the Council knows what they are, it can try to do something about them!

The Histon & Impington Courier

A new name for the Histon & Impington Crier? In a way, yes. The Courier is an exciting project being started by a small group of residents to fill the gap left by the Crier closing - and to do much more.

The Crier met a real local need - local businesses advertising to the community, local news, past history, Parish Council updates. Since it ceased publication last September there's been a significant gap in how we keep in touch.

The Courier will be a local newspaper by local people. It will be a monthly paper delivered free to every home in the village. It will:

- support local businesses (and provide advertising space)
- be a central point for the many organisations working in Impington and Histon - to advertise events, and celebrate achievements, report and campaign on important village concerns

Together with the newspaper, there's a website - www.hicourier.com - bringing together a village directory, diary and news and updates from all the villages' websites.

There's a small team of volunteers working to make this happen - working to get the first issue out to you in time for Feast Week. There are also people working on the website - and helping groups and organisations get on the web (for free) and link up.

But they need your help - this is your newspaper. They need:

- news about your group - upcoming events, what you

have been doing:

- to know your concerns, where do we need to make a difference?
- volunteers to deliver the Courier - will you deliver copies to your street?
- members of the central team - no experience necessary, and a whole range of skills needed!

And they also would like to hear from you if you want to advertise, or know someone who does.

Please get in touch via newspaper@hisimp.net, or via the Parish Office.

Are you looking for a local venue to hire in 2009?

Have you considered the excellent facilities available for hire at the Recreation Ground? It is available for children's parties, family functions, meetings, seminars, exhibitions, leisure class hire etc.



The Recreation Centre

Community Room Hire – Hourly Charges

Village Organisations,

Charities & Village Residents:

Peak Time (Weekends, Bank Holidays and from 6pm weekday evenings)	£20.00
Off Peak Time Weekdays 9am – 6pm	£15.00

Commercial Use

Businesses, public bodies Non-Village Residents	£27.50
'Block Booked' (minimum 10 weeks)	£20.00
Plus charge for Caretaker:	
Weekend	£12.50
Weekday	£ 5.00

A deposit will be required at the time of booking.

Further details can be obtained from the Recreation Ground Clerk, Lynda Marsh. Contact details on the front page, or call in at the Parish Office to discuss the facilities that are available.

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.