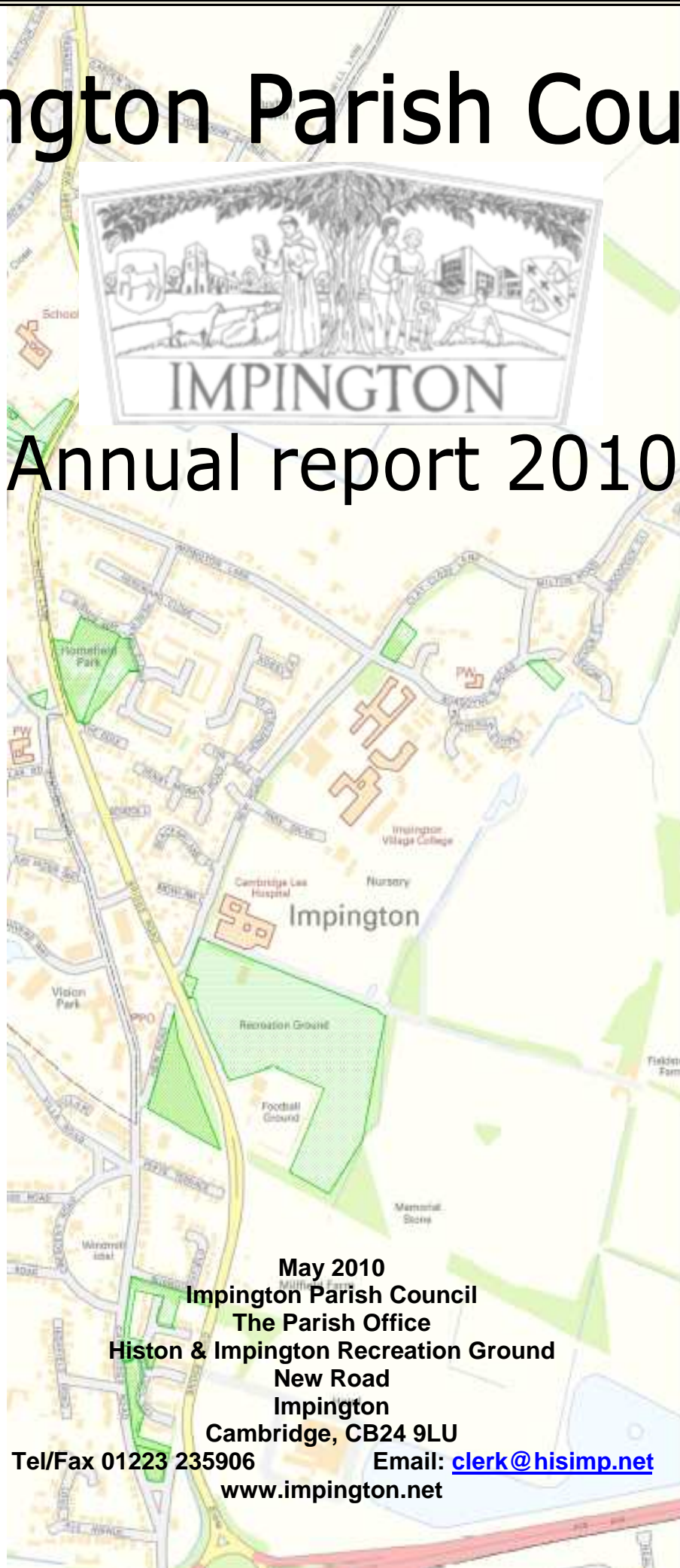


Impington Parish Council



Annual report 2010



May 2010
Impington Parish Council
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Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is made up of: Parish Council Chairman Denis Payne, Brian Ing, Geoff Payne and Hooda Abdullah. The Responsible Financial Officer is the Clerk Angela Young, and the Internal Auditor Mr Gerry Whitfield

All Finance meetings are open to the public. In January each year the Committee meets to make recommendations on setting the Precept to be requested for the coming year from South Cambridgeshire District Council and the amount received during the year to March 2010 was £104,600. This sum covers all expenditure on the Recreation Ground, Burial Ground, War Memorial and open spaces in the village, as well as a wide range of administration costs, youth facilities expenditure and traffic related costs. In recent years specific reserve funds have been set up for instance for Community Facilities, allotment land acquisition and other capital schemes

Next year the Precept has been set for £110,350. The Auditors have advised that general reserves can be lower than previously recommended, and this allows substantial investment in revenue expenditure, as well as into specific reserves funds, to be made with minimal impact on the Precept

The quarterly meetings have dealt with the following items during the year:

- Review of all policies and documents including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Strategy
- Overseeing the preparation of the annual audit
- A Risk Management Plan has been put in place
- Best investment of reserves in an unstable financial climate
- Negotiation for new Insurance cover, with savings made in premium
- Health & Safety audits
- Introduction of a Donations Policy
- Introduction of a Risk Assessment form for users or hirers of the Parish Council's facilities
- Review of registration of property
- Setting up a computerised Asset Register for the village
- Investigations into future of Charities (Burgoynes Charity and Children's Playground Charity) for which Parish Council members are the Trustees

Councillor Denis Payne, Chairman Finance Committee

Planning Committee

All members of Council are on the Planning Committee. The meetings are open to the public. If a planning application affects you, we encourage you to make your views known to the planning authority, South Cambs District Council. In addition please inform the Parish Council: you are most welcome to present

your views to us when considering the application. This year applications for Orchard Park are being dealt with by their own Community Council. This has reduced the workload on the committee compared to the last six years.

The work for the main village of Impington covered:

- Small developments
- Individual Houses
- Extensions and additions to existing properties not with the permitted development rights of the properties.
- Responding to consultations on matters of planning policy issued by South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the City of Cambridge Council.
- Responding to proposals by the Planning Inspectorate
- Working with Residents affected by the Guided Bus to ensure noise barriers, lighting, landscaping and other impacts (often defined in planning applications by the County to the District Council) are managed successfully and to the residents' satisfaction where possible.
- Responding and being involved in the process of responding to the changing proposals for Northstowe

As an area we are under a government requirement to built a considerable number of new houses (46,000 by 2016 in the Cambridge sub area) of which three quarters are required for new residents of the area (mainly from other parts of the UK). IPC recognises the need for housing, especially affordable housing, but strongly believe that new development needs to take cognisance of existing development, facilities and infrastructure to support the new and existing residents, the need for employment opportunities in the vicinity of the houses to reduce transport needs (and people's "waste" time travelling) and above all the need to maintain and grow a community for all the people. We argue that a short term fix of the housing need should not be used to create long term problems for the future.

Four applications have received considerable attention. On three of them, IPC disagreed with conclusions of planning officials at South Cambs and presented our views to the Planning Committee of SCDC. We were unsuccessful in our contention that there was need to maintain the designation of the former Unwins site on Impington Lane for employment purposes. We argued for a balance in our community to reduce the trend towards this settlement becoming a dormitory development with the necessary non sustainable travel out to employment elsewhere. The Committee found that there was already more than double the required allocation to employment purposes in the District and rejected our contentions. Another submission concerned an application for affordable houses on the very periphery of our settlement, in our opinion most unsuitably placed in relation to facilities and transport links, especially for

affordable housing. The Committee agreed. The last submission concerned a distinctively different proposal in a road with a uniform build and design concept. Committee agreed and we await the opinion of the Planning Inspector.

The most significant application is for the A14 upgrading. The council, along with our neighbours Histon PC, support the need for upgrade, but are determined to argue that this should not be at unwarranted cost to those who live within earshot and breathing of the changed air. We have made a preliminary objection and are awaiting details of the mechanism to present our views to the Planning Inspector. Support from residents most welcome.

The Planning Committee has found it necessary to meet for a full evening almost twice a month in the last year, as well as preparation of supporting papers prepared outside meetings. In effect, Planning Committee takes about half the time made available to Council by volunteer Councillors.

Councillor Brian Ing, Chairman Planning Committee

Youth Committee Report

Twelve months ago, when the committee was setting its budget for the year 2009-2010, our stated aims were to increase the participation of young people in the decisions that affect them and to try make some progress on finding a permanent dedicated space for youth work. Some small progress has been made against both of these aims, although not quite as we had imagined.

Over the past year our senior youth worker has put together an interesting and varied number of projects for our young people to take part in, ranging from the very practical First Aid and Baby Sitting courses to the creative Arts Award (Bronze) run jointly with The Junction. All of these courses have increased the participation of the young people and expanded their areas of involvement and interest. Four students attending the Tuesday night youth club based at the Ideal Centre at IVC have started writing for the H&I Courier and have also spent some time talking to members of the committee. It is hoped that this involvement will extend to being part of our committee over the next year so that our effort is put into those areas that are most important to the young people and so that we can start to promote the many positive images of young people that are often overlooked.

The youth committee and the youth service jointly wrote a proposal for the use of the gatekeepers house (IVC Lodge) for youth work, should it be retained by IVC. This proposal helped IVC to make the case for retaining the Lodge under college management and Cambridgeshire County Council have agreed to offer it to IVC on a long lease. We hope that youth work will be delivered from a base in this building during the coming year. Our wider goal of finding a larger, permanent dedicated building for youth work is still a *work in progress*.

During the past year, our regular clubs and activities have taken place at either IVC or the Recreation Ground. In the long summer holiday special trips and courses were organised and some of the older young people gained a level 1 qualification in youth work, enabling them to help run some activities in the future. During the summer term we engaged the services of the Connections Bus which started to visit on Fridays at IVC; this provision has continued throughout the year with an increasing membership. Over the year we have had youth activities of various sorts happening every day of the week:

Monday: Baby Sitting Course; Junior Youth Club

Tuesday: Senior Club; Arts Award group

Wednesday: Transitions group; Support for Rayz (at St Andrews)

Thursday: Sports Youth Club

Friday: Connections Bus

In addition to this there are lunch time youth clubs, drop-in sessions and 1-1 support provided by the youth service to students within IVC. The youth committee has supported various youth focussed projects within the villages; in particular, the H&I Play Area project at the Recreation Ground with funding for the Sail over the seating area which we hope will provide a safe, sheltered meeting place for our young people.

The formation of Orchard Park Community Council in June 2009 meant that we relinquished responsibility for youth work there. However we await with interest and anticipation the completion of the skate bowl at Orchard Park. The current forecast for the opening of this and other facilities adjacent to it is May 2010.

The Youth Committee could not deliver any of these activities without the support and partnership of the Cambridge City North Locality team. We are lucky to have this dedicated and enthusiastic team working with our young people.

We are grateful to the two parish councils for their continued support, both in recognising the need to provide for our young people and their financial backing; and also to IVC for generously making their facilities available to us so that the young people have somewhere to meet.

Councillor Hooda Abdullah, Histon & Impington Youth Committee

Highways Traffic & Transport Committee (supplied by Histon PC)

PARKING ISSUES

1. The HGV over-night parking ban in Cambridge Road and surrounding areas agreed with CCC and implemented during the previous year, appear to be largely successful in its objective.

2. On road parking of Vans by Enterprise Car Hire in Histon is on going. During the year Councillors met their manager to voice our concerns and received assurances of their co-operation. Sadly recent events have made it necessary to write to them again.

3. Residents at 82 to 92 Station Road, requested support for the introduction of Resident Parking Order. Parish Council have written to all business in and around Vision Park for their co-operation, and the affected residents are monitoring and recording offending vehicles.

SAFETY ISSUES (pedestrians and cyclists)

1. During the latter part of 2009 / early 2010 we saw the completion of the two Pedestrian Crossing points along the B1049. This is part and first stage of the Cycle Improvement Scheme, that hopefully will run between Cottenham, through Histon/ Impington and onto Orchard Park.

2. At a meeting held with representatives from CCC / SCDC/ IPC and HPC., several options of Tunnels, fly-over and traffic lights were discussed regarding the safe route over the A14. All had their merits, but it was considered for expedience and cost, that the TOUCAN option would be the one to go for. This is also the preference from Cycling groups.

TRANSPORT (Public and Commercial)

1. During 2009 a meeting took place with Andy Campbell the MD of Stagecoach and our District Councillors and members of HPC and IPC to voice our concerns over the proposed cutting out of the Citi7 service through Station Road and Cambridge Road. A compromise was offered to keep this route during off-peak times only. These changes would be effective from when the Guided Bus-Way opened!

2. Also at the above meeting, concerns were raised regarding the position of the bus Stop out-side John Lewis and AC promised to consult with CCC to see if this could be re-sited. This matter is on-going at the time of this report.

3. The Guided Bus-Way delays are well documented. Suffice to say it is hoped the opening will be during this summer of 2010, almost 18 months late of the original completion date.

4. There has been an HGV ADVISORY FREIGHT MAP published, where our combined Parish Councils have responded with their observations.

Histon Cllr Cedric Foster, Chairman Histon Highways Traffic & Transport Committee

Histon & Impington Mobile Warden Scheme Report

This scheme which is run for us by Age Concern is designed to help elderly people continue to live at home for as long as possible. During the course of this year a new Warden has been appointed. Mrs Gillian Berry, who has the advantage of living in the village, is really enjoying the work and feels she has made good relations with her clients.

At the moment she is looking after 16 people, 5 men and 11 women. Of these 5 are from Impington and 11 from Histon. There are 2 people on the waiting list. During the cold weather she found her work load was increased as several of her clients found it difficult to go out but she was able to ensure that they were all able to receive the help they needed. At Christmas the Link Committee provided the funds for her to buy a small present for each of them.

Lynne Byrne, the Age Concern Co-ordinator, who has been administering the scheme for us, is taking up another post with Age Concern, later this year. We shall miss her very much as she has been in this post for 12 years and run our scheme since the beginning. At our next meeting in September she will be present to introduce her successor.

Until now the scheme has been funded by grants from the County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, both Parish Councils and donations from The Feast Committee. SCDC, however, have given notice that from April 2011 their grant will cease. Age Concern have made strong representations to them, indicating how important this grant is to all the Mobile Warden Schemes in the area and how counter-productive removing such help from the vulnerable elderly will be. The District Council has retracted its decision to withdraw wardens from sheltered housing schemes so there is some hope that the decision could be reversed in this case but the dire shortage of funds may prevent this.

The Link Committee is made up of a representative from each of the Parish Councils, a resident of Histon, the Mobile Warden and the Age Concern Co-ordinator. We would also like to have a resident from Impington on the committee but so far no-one has volunteered in answer to our request put in the IPC Newsletter and on the Parish website. A further request will be made via the HI Courier. We meet twice a year to receive reports from the Warden and the Co-ordinator.

Cllr Hooda Abdullah, Link Committee member