

Impington Council - Autumn 2005

Traffic Calming - High Street/Station Road

What's happening, who's deciding, what next?

The experimental closure of the entrance of Station Road from High Street has been in place since the end of May. Since then strong views, both for the scheme, and against the scheme, have been expressed by local residents, traders and others.

This is the final phase of the works around Histon & Impington. Although part of the original proposals put forward in 2004, this was put in for an experimental period following requests from the Parish Councils because of concerns about its impact.

The scheme had the support of the County's "Safer Routes to School" team, particularly since there are a lot of parents with children using Station Road to travel between schools. In addition, traffic counts showed that between 30% and 40% of the traffic turning into Station Road in the morning came from outside of the village.

At the same time, changes have been made to the timing of the lights at The Green to mitigate the impact of the increased traffic no longer able to turn right into Station Road.

The impact on rat-running has been immediate. Supporters report that Station Road is returning to a "village feel" with less pollution and safer walking (and more people walking and cycling). High Street, even with the changes to the traffic lights, has longer queues.

However, for traders, those rat-running are also "passing trade", and most, even those in Impington, report a decrease in trade. Combined with the general downturn in consumer spending, even on DIY goods, this could be critical.

Traders presented a locally raised petition to the County Council's South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee (AJC) on September 12th. However, AJC resolved to continue the experiment, but to meet again in early December to make a decision on whether to continue the experiment, change it, make it permanent or remove it.

Meanwhile County Officers are to undertake further evaluation with the community towards the end of the trial period, and to organise a stakeholders meeting close to the end of the trial period to discuss the results of the experiment with the local community and its representatives.

What can you do?

Support your local traders! Shops and businesses are a key part of our community - use them or lose them!

Come to the public meeting

There will be a public meeting in the Junior School, 7:30pm on November 3rd.

Make your voice heard

Write to, by the end of November latest - sooner is better:

Brian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Environment & Community Services, BOX ET1031, A14 Village Traffic Calming Team, West Highways Division, Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE29 6XL

However, David Brace is actually the engineer doing the work. He is at the above address or you can e-mail him at: David.Brace@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Please copy the Parish Council into any response.

Thoughts for drivers

Station Road is not one way - it is *two* way.

Traffic calming is there to slow you down - please do so!



September 30, 2005

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www.impington.net

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This Issue

Is the second quarterly publication by the Parish Council and is being delivered to households in Impington. Copies of this and later editions will be available at various points in the village, in shops and the parish office, as well as at Histon Library.

The Council hope you will welcome this new way of keeping in touch, and would welcome your comments.

If you're going to the Milton "tip" with a trailer:

- please ensure there's a tarpaulin or something else to stop bits falling out/off when you go over the cushions and raised junctions
- slow down - the bump/thump of your trailer is just one of **many** to local residents!

Recreation Ground Development

The development is now well underway. The old Pavilion has been dismantled and removed, the conifers between the car park and the tennis courts have gone and the Histon hornets portacabin has been temporarily repositioned on the lower part of the Recreation ground.

Having cleared the site, the plan is to work on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and hard tennis courts first.



These sports courts are positioned farthest away from the car park, allowing the developers to work on the Pavilion and its access, while allowing a possible early access to the MUGA and hard tennis court during the pavilion build. The sports courts could be in operation early in the New Year.

Building works are approx. two to three weeks ahead of schedule, however, the winter months are approaching and we are yet to have any severe weather.

Much of the steel frame of the new Pavilion has gone up in the last few weeks, and roofing elements are beginning to be fixed..



Sports club members and visitors can access the tennis courts and bowling green by foot from the original car park. A safe walk through has been fenced off. The main Recreation ground is accessed only by Bridge Road. Sports club members have made arrangements for parking. Before travelling, visiting teams are advised of the works and the parking arrangements, hopefully keeping disturbance to residents at a minimum.

The Parish Council offices are accessed through a new entrance made in the wall between the original car park entrance and Bridge Road.

Detailed plans of the development are available in the Parish Council office. For general interest and for those who cannot get to the Rec, Pictures of the building works (in chronological order) and further information, can be found at the development group website <http://dsc.impington.net> or <http://dsc.histon.net>

Fundraising for the development continues. Steve Unwin spokesperson for "The Friends of the Rec" points out that community fundraising is an important part of the project and the community need to continue with their fundraising efforts via the "Friends of the Rec" to ensure the future success of the development. Please visit www.friendsoftherec.co.uk for fundraising and event information.

Floods - Again!

Heavy rains on the evening of 9th September again brought floods to Histon & Impington.

Impington Lane was described as "being like a river" and flooding on the B1049 beyond Mill Lane was sufficiently bad that a number of vehicles did not manage to cross safely on their way to Cottenham and thereafter continued to block the road for other users.

However, as before, worst hit were residents in South Road and elsewhere who suffered flooding to gardens and worst of all, properties. Residents could do little



while waters rose, and drains and ditches were overwhelmed by the volume of water, and could not carry it away fast enough.

Even the Groundsman's house at the Recreation Ground was flooded.

The whole drainage system, including the main "public drains" was overloaded by the nearly 3cm of rain that fell in a very short time.

Councillors have already had reports from County and District officers on the state of the drains and ditches, and commitments to minor works. However, these are unlikely to make significant improvements.

If we are to reduce the chances of this happening again serious work will have to be done on drainage in the area, and more development postponed until solutions are in place.

The Parish Council is putting together a dossier of information, pictures, details of damage etc. to take to the District Council, and other responsible bodies, to press for action. If you have any photographs, or if your home was flooded, please let the Council know so that we can present as complete a picture of the scale of the problem as possible.

Histon and Impington Youth Committee

HISK8 Club closed

Hopefully the closure of the HISK8 club does not mean the end of skating within the village. The youth committee are initiating a project to look at the feasibility of having a permanent skate park. A proposal will be presented to both Impington and Histon Parish Councils in the New Year. The committee would be delighted to hear from any skaters or BMXers who would like to be involved in the design for the skate park or would just like to make some suggestions.

No Voice No Choice

The last stages of this project are now starting to happen. A village youth leader, Andrea Cramp, has been appointed jointly by the Parish Councils and the County Youth Service to work with young people in Histon and Impington. This is an exciting time for the young people who now have a unique opportunity to influence, with the support of Andrea, the activities and facilities available to them. Andrea will be working closely with the Youth Committee on a wide range of youth oriented projects. One of these will be a new Monday night youth club for ages (11-14) at St Andrews Church Halls and the launch of the internet cafe. Watch the local press and IVC notice boards for details of the opening date.



To make sure the youth committee stays in tune with what the young people want we would welcome involvement from new members, particularly anyone in the 11-18 age range. For more information please contact Hooda Abdullah on 01223 235989 or e-mail youthcommittee@hisimp.net

**The current club runs on Tuesday evenings at St Andrews Church Hall for all year 9 and upwards from 7-9. Its on the look out for new members at the moment.*

Forthcoming Council Meetings

Council meets at 7:30pm in the Church Hall, St Andrew's. Our next meetings will be on: October 17th and November 21st. Council may not meet in December, but will meet again on January 16th.

Meetings are open to all. The agenda has a time for questions.

Committees meet as required. If a particular topic is of interest, please contact the Parish Clerk about getting it heard.

Unwins Seeds

Earlier in the year a planning application was put in by Unwins for redevelopment of their site, and associated land, for housing.

Many local residents joined with the Parish Council in raising objections to the scheme, and it was refused by the District Council.

At the moment Unwins:

- are working with the County Council on the archaeological assessment required;
- are working with the Environment Agency on the flood risk assessment. Surveyors have been seen looking at the area around The Green, and feedback from the flooding that occurred on 9th September has also been included in this process;
- are putting the site on the market for commercial use. A sign should be going up in the near future.

Up to 20th November Unwins can appeal the District Council's decision - thereafter a new application will be needed.

Unwins - the end of an era

The focus from nearby residents has been on "what next" but meanwhile the last of the Unwins employees moved on - the end of an era.

Having prospered for over 100 years in the village, Unwins no longer has a presence in South Cambridgeshire.

The trade name still exists, and is still trading via retailers and to individuals via their catalogue and the internet.

Daffodils

For the last few years Councillors, often supported by a small group of local residents, have planted bulbs in our parish to provide colour in the spring months.

This year the plans are to be planting on the mornings of : 22nd & 29th October and 5th November.

If you're free on any of those dates, and would like to help, please get in touch with the Clerk (telephone 235906) about details of times and locations.

Impington On-Line www.impington.net

Impington (and Histon) have been on-line since 1997 - being one of the first in the County to have a website.

We share a web site with Histon, and can be found via the above address, and also via www.hisimp.net.

What have we got there? Council agendas, minutes, contact details for Councillors for one - but also a fair amount of history (and we want to add more) - information about local businesses, clubs, societies - and links to their web sites.

In addition, we run a village diary - if you have an event planned - let the webmaster* know to put it into the diary.

We also run a village mailing list - open to all to join, and to keep in touch about events, happenings and news. And finally, we've got links to on-line shops - if you shop on-line this is the way to get to those businesses - a small commission comes back and will be passed to local charities.

We're looking for volunteers to get involved, help maintain what is there, and make it a more interesting and useful site for the whole community. If you might be able to help contact Denis Payne, the webmaster*.

**At webmaster@hisimp.net or 233577.*

Feedback

We'd like to know what you think of this newsletter, and the topics raised.

Name:

Address:

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Tel:

E-mail:

The Council would very much like to know what you think of this report:

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Is there anything that you would like to see covered in future reports?

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Please return to the Parish Office, or any Councillor.

Thank you

Trees

We are lucky in the village by having several areas with large mature trees. Some of these areas are left alone as much as possible with limited intervention unless they become overgrown with weeds or a tree becomes diseased. Regular visits are made to the larger Copse and Coppice areas to check on the health of the trees and to take any remedial action that may be necessary. Advice is sought either from the local officer at SCDC who is responsible for trees in the area or from one of the specialist companies used for tree work.

You probably already know that any tree, whether deciduous or evergreen, that is subject to a Tree Preservation Order or is located in one of the Conservation Areas with a trunk width in excess of 3ins. must have the appropriate approval from SCDC before any work is carried out whether pruning or felling. As soon as SCDC receives an application for tree work, they advise the parish clerk who arranges for one of the parish council tree wardens to visit the site to assess the tree works required and the affect the work would have on the neighbouring area. Comments are then forwarded to the Trees & Landscape Officer before the local authority issue a decision on the application. On occasions the removal of a healthy tree can have an adverse affect on the surrounding area as well as leaving areas bare and open.

Application forms for tree works can be obtained direct from the Conservation section at SCDC or if you are using one of the specialist companies, then they will be able to obtain approval for work to be carried out on your behalf.

Many parish councils have tree wardens, we have two in Impington and they are:

Geoff Waters and Derinda Starling

Contact at SCDC: Trees & Landscape Officer, Mr John Hellingsworth Tel 01954 713176

Stop Press

Vandalism and criminal damage at Homefield Park.

Over the summer further acts of vandalism have finally destroyed the bench that was installed. On Police advice, it will not be replaced, certainly not in the previous position.

Also, since the informal access from The Dole was becoming wide enough to drive a vehicle though, it was decided to repair damage to the fencing and at the same time close this access. Shortly thereafter, the newly installed fencing was deliberately destroyed.

If you know anything about either of these incidents please do let the Police know - in neither case were children to blame, the scale of the damage was such that a teenager or adult was to responsible.

The Council spends money looking after Homefield, cutting the grass, maintaining trees and fences as an amenity for all. Money spent repairing this damage can't be put to other, more positive, works.

What do you think we should be doing with Homefield? Is it an asset for the community, or should we be doing something else with it? Please let us have your views!