

Impington Council - Winter 2005



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Feedback

Many thanks to everyone who passed comments back to the Council after the Autumn issue.

We'd again welcome your feedback on this issue - either via the insert or via the website at

www.hisimp.net/imprespond.htm

Thanks also to contributors to this issue including: Hooda Abdullah, Graham Eales, David Jenkins, Denis Payne, Steve Unwin

Youth Club & Internet Café

Histon and Impington Youth Committee are pleased to announce the opening of a new Youth Club and Internet Café on Monday 16th January 2006. The new youth club at St Andrew's Church Halls (Histon) will be launched with assistance from Helen Legh of Q103 – come along and join in the fun.

The new youth club and internet café is the final piece of the **No Voice No Choice** (NVNC) project which started in Spring 2004. This is a joint project funded by the two parish councils of Histon and Impington and the community development office of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Young people of the two villages put forward ideas for how to spend the £10,000 on new or improved facilities and activities and then voted on their preferred option. The winning option was announced by Helen Legh of Q103 at a special meeting held at IVC in May 2004.

The first phase of the project saw the facilities of St Andrew's Church Halls, where a Tuesday evening youth club is held, greatly improved. The main hall was redecorated, the floor stripped, sanded and varnished, the stage area was improved and a new kitchen installed. Much of this work was done by volunteers from existing groups using the halls and youth committee members. Local businesses, such as Denton's carpets and Bishops DIY contributed resources too.

The next phase of the project was to appoint a lead youth worker for the two villages. The youth committee, working with Julian Ayres of the Youth Service, were pleased to appoint Andrea Cramp in August 2005. Andrea comes to the villages with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm and will be running the new youth club and internet café and coordinating youth provision throughout the villages and within Impington Village College.

To complete the NVNC vision, extra funding was obtained from the Local Network Fund to fit out the old kitchen as a computer room. This was completed in December where the new facilities comprise 3 networked computers with broadband access to the internet and a printer and scanner. Plans for the new club include working with a specialist to create a new web site for the club.

Youth provision in the two villages will now be greatly increased:

- Monday nights 7-9pm for ages 12-14 (years 7,8 & 9)
- Tuesday nights 7-9pm for ages 14-16 (years 9,10 & 11)

Both nights will have access to the internet café and a range of activities coordinated by Andrea.

Skate park

We're starting a skate park project to provide a permanent home for skaters. Skaters and other interested people should look out for further information at IVC or contact us via youthcommittee@hisimp.net.

Sporting?

Once the new facilities at the Recreation Ground are up and running we plan to start a sports focused youth club - let us know if you are interested!

Date for your diary

Events for young people are being planned for May bank holiday - keep it free!



Impington Lane - December

Join the team

The Youth Committee is on the look out for more people to join in to help.

Young people aged 12 and over, parents of young people or just interested and enthusiastic residents are welcome to apply.

Contact youthcommittee@hisimp.net or via the office on 235906

Traffic

Traffic Calming - High Street/Station Road

As reported in the last issue the AJC (South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee) met in early December to look at all of the letters, petitions

and responses about the experimental closure of Station Road from High Street. Members of the committee visited the site on the morning of the meeting.

The decision was to remove the no entry condition, and return Station Road to its previous state, with immediate effect - and this was done in the week before Christmas.

However, the challenges of Station Road still need to be met. Local Schools, the County "Safer Routes to Schools" team, Councillors and residents recognise that something needs to be done about it - whilst at the same time allowing it to be used to carry traffic that would otherwise be stuck in High Street. Parish Councillors will be working with County Highways in the next two months to identify options and possibilities - and welcome input from all residents.

A14 junction - Cyclists

Updated figures show that this junction is used by over 1200 cyclists a day. Many of these were concerned about the planned loss of the on-road cycle lane as a result of the Arbury Camp road works. Effective campaigning, supported by County and Parish Councillors, has led to some re-thinking - though no decision as yet.

Negative County Council feedback about a possible cycle bridge has been followed up by contact with the Highways Agency - we'll report back when more is known.

B1049 - 30 mph limit

Residents have raised the need to lower speeds on the B1049 - from 40 & 60mph to 30mph throughout.

This has been a regular topic for the Parish Council - but formal processes started in 2000 appear to have stalled, and we're waiting for Police feedback as to whether they could support such a change.

It's a target for 2006 - and we'll be seeking your support to make it happen!

HGVs - Burgoyne Road/Milton Road

HGVs using Burgoyne Road and Milton Road have been a long term problem that the Parish Council has been fighting for a solution to.

An application to extend the operating life of the Milton Landfill will be a chance to get some controls in place, but more is needed.

Councillors will be meeting with County officers in the new year to discuss new signing opportunities, and steps to impose more formal controls - though this will take time.

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that after four and a half years of the Parish Council Recreation Ground Development Committee working on the project, building is almost complete. February will see the completion of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) with an all weather, artificial grass surface and Hard Tennis court. Both these facilities are almost operational; they are both floodlit and will be available for public hire.



The new MUGA

The Pavilion is on target to be finished in April, with an official launch date of May 1st. The Friends of the Rec in co-operation with the Parish Councils are organising a special opening ceremony for the Pavilion, which will be part of the

Celebration Day Out on May 1st (May Day bank holiday). We are hoping a major



The new Pavilion

sporting celebrity is coming to officially launch the new facilities; a special edition souvenir programme will also be available to celebrate this unique occasion.

The Pavilion will include four changing rooms with showers and a good sized community room for group and private hire. Other development benefits include a new Parish office to serve all the community, new public toilets, additional car parking (including dedicated disabled parking) and an upgraded groundsman's compound. Development funding information and pictures can be found at dsc.impington.net.

Funding has been obtained for a coordinator based at the Rec to work with the sports clubs, schools and village residents to develop and promote sport and physical exercise on the Rec. We hope to see new sports clubs and activity groups forming, making the Rec a community facility for all Histon & Impington residents.

The new pavilion is almost ready for hire and will be available in May. The MUGA and hard tennis court will be available for use within the next few weeks. All Recreation ground facilities can be hired by contacting Lynda Marsh, the Rec Clerk on 235906.

Community fundraising continues, please see www.friendsoftherec.co.uk for details on joining in with the fund raising fun. Also you can find details on how to join Rec sports clubs, events, fun runs and other exciting and entertaining sporting activities.

Forthcoming Council Meetings

Council meets at 7:30pm in the Church Hall, St Andrew's (Impington). Our next meetings will be on: January 16th, February 20th and March 20th. Meetings are open to all. The agenda has a time for questions from residents.

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

Unwins Seeds - Appeal

Unwins have appealed against the refusal of planning permission by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). This was not unexpected - though they left it rather late! It doesn't mean that they have got permission, nor that they will get permission - its just the next step in the process.

The next stage is an "Informal Hearing" in front of an impartial Planning Inspector - we don't have a date for this yet. All letters written to SCDC originally will have been passed on - and any sent direct by January 3rd will also be considered - as will material discussed at the hearing. The Parish Council has presented further evidence to support the case to dismiss the appeal.

Planning Applications

All applications (about 100 each year) are considered by the Council's Planning Committee - in open meetings. The Committee makes recommendations - but it is SCDC who decides.

Applications are reported each month to the Histon & Impington Crier, and minutes and agendas are on the web.

Improving our Environment

Our last issue reported plans to plant bulbs - and this was done on the B1049 verge by Chequers Road by Councillors and residents (to whom many thanks) over weekends in October - look out for the flowers in the spring.

Following up on this, our Environment Committee is planning a number of activity days, starting on January 28th when they'll be working on cutting back ivy on the trees at Clay Close Lane.

Please let us know if you can help, or if you have ideas for work that needs to be done.



Councillors and residents planting bulbs - October

Histon Football Club

Founded in 1904, Histon football club (known as Histon Institute back then) have always had good ties with the local community and the villages of Histon and Impington. Located in Impington the ground was forced to move when the B1049 was built in the 60's, remains of the original stand can still be seen in the Copse. Sponsored by several village based businesses including Websters and Bishops DIY, the club has recently gone from strength to strength.

Histon F.C also run a youth team, an A team and a reserve team, many young players from the Histon Hornets youth teams have progressed into the Histon F.C teams. The links between the Hornets and Histon F.C are particularly good as the two clubs are Charter standard community partner clubs, with Hornets providing ball boys for all home games and Histon granting free admission for Hornet players. The reserves and the A team both play home games on the Rec.

The Friends of the Rec have also forged links with the club by helping with the public address system and organising car parking during heavily attended games. Local companies including EEDA, Bishops, Barclays Bank and the Lea Hospital helped by allowing their car parks to be used.

For two consecutive seasons Histon F.C have reached the second round of the F.A cup, a fantastic achievement for a village club. Playing professional teams from Shrewsbury

and Yeovil were certainly one of the highlights of last season



for Histon fans and supporters.

In a thrilling game against Cambridge City at the Abbey Stadium, Histon won the Invitation cup. However it was the final game of the season against Chippenham that put the icing on the cake, when Histon won the southern league premier division, securing a place in the Nationwide conference south league.

Under the guidance of Manager Steve Fallon, the first

team have progressed to the highest level in the clubs history. The gate has increased with regular attendances averaging over 600 in the League and their recent Boxing Day victory over Cambridge City (the first time the two teams have ever met in the League) attracted over 1700 fans to the Glassworld stadium.

With success on the pitch, improvements at the Glass World Stadium and the increasing involvement and support of the local community Histon FC is most definitely progressing onwards and upwards.

Impington On-Line - www.impington.net

Have you visited our joint site at www.hisimp.net? If you have, then you're one of over 80,000 visitors this last year - making almost 600,000 hits to the site. With news, diary, information and Council meetings and minutes amongst its content it's a rich source of information - and a key means to keep you in touch. As always, we welcome comment and feedback on the site - and offers of help!

Mail lists

We run two separate mail lists (join up via the web site) which can also keep you in touch with what is going on:

- hisimp - is a list used to send out news items from a small group of Council contributors
- hisimp-chat - is a list to which anyone can contribute to discuss anything about Histon & Impington

Flooding

Thanks to everyone who sent in material on the September flooding. That has been assembled into a dossier, together with historic material, that will be a vital tool when looking at further development in the village. A copy can be inspected on request at the Parish Office.

District and Parish Councillors met with County and District officers recently with SCA to discuss the details of the events in South Road, and to look at a way forward. Very clearly, improved and consistent maintenance of ditches and culverts is essential, but a study into other possible options was discussed.

An expert local resident is working with the Council on taking this forward, and a variety of funding sources have been identified. More news as this develops!

Council Tax

You will all have heard about the capping of the District Council portion of the Council Tax - and should have received updated bills in October/November - if you haven't - contact the District Council.

Some of the decisions will have a financial impact on the parish. Firstly, the District have decided not to pay the Council a portion of the "recycling credits" that they get. These credits are paid for each ton of waste that is recycled rather than landfilled - and the Parish got over £1,000 last year for this. We used this money for work on the environment, grass cutting, tree maintenance etc. If we are not going to stop that work, we will have to look to raise our tax level to fill the gap.

Secondly, the District have decided to stop paying for "footway" lights. We are still getting confusing messages about how many lights this means, and where they are. Lighting is the responsibility of the County, and its unlikely that the Parish Council will take these on - we'll keep you updated via the web site.

Arbury Camp

History

Arbury Camp, farmed for many years by the Chivers family, was taken out of the Green Belt in 1994. Those in the area will remember that the first plan for re-use of the site was from Sainsbury's - who wanted to build an "edge-of-town" shopping centre. Opposed by County, District and Parish Councils, a change of planning rules led to this being rejected after an extended Public Inquiry.

However, since the site was no longer Green Belt some form of development was going to come, and for Christmas 2001 we got the outline planning application for a



Arbury Camp - as it will be - see www.arburycamp.co.uk/

"mixed" development of 900 houses, 18,000 sq metres of office space, a school, and other uses. This was debated at length during the Local Plan process - if the site hadn't been used for housing, the need to find space for those homes would have put them in our villages and elsewhere.

Eventually it was given the go-ahead by SCDC in June of this year - much of the time being spent sorting the S106 - the legal agreement between the developers and Councils.

Development

Development formally started in September - but we won't see homes being built for some time - first off there are major drainage works to be complete, and all of the site roads, and improvements to Cambridge Road ("Histon Road") and Kings Hedges Road.

There will be 270 "affordable" houses on the site, scattered in 13 different areas. Plans for the first of these were rejected by SCDC - and comments hit the front page of the Evening News. These have been resubmitted - and we expect the new plans to be passed. Wimpey have also submitted plans for over 100 homes elsewhere on the site.

We expect plans for most of the houses on the site to be submitted in the next year, with building starting soon, and completion of the first homes in the autumn.

Development of the school, and community facilities, is scheduled in the S106 - but the office space is looking increasingly unlikely to start soon - there is little demand - so a number of other ideas have been mooted - and we wait to see what comes forward. One thing is clear, the HRCC (Historical Resource and Cultural Centre) will not be coming to the site - its going to the redevelopment at Cambridge Station. What will fill the gap is yet to be decided.

Road works

Changes to the roads will take until July - and include 3 lanes on the A14 off slip road from the east, widening Cambridge Road to two full lanes to and from Kings Hedges Road, and changes in Kings Hedges Road itself, including site access.

This work is being phased - the next stage being removal

of the old footpath and joining up of old and new road surfaces. Late in January, work is expected to start on the opposite side of Cambridge Road - and will involve "moving" the carriageway to make space for the works to be done in safety.

Details, including plans, can be seen on the web at www.hisimp.net/opus624.html

View from the County Council

David Jenkins, County Councillor for Cottenham, Histon & Impington, writes: Lynne Truss, author of the 2004 best seller *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* talks in her latest book of the disconnect between individuals and the institutions with which they must engage. Increasingly this takes place without direct contact and, as Lynne points out, in a manner which puts increasing barriers in place and the onus on the individual to do all the work. The cynic might even say that this is all designed to minimize individual contact regardless of how many times the recorded message tells us that 'your call is important to us'!

I think that's a large part of why I became a County Councillor. I have seen this trend and although I can pick my private sector suppliers I cannot pick those from the public sector. There is only one national government, only one Cambridge County Council and only one South Cambs District Council so if I want to see changes in them I have to work from within.

As a County Councillor I represent the people of

Cottenham, Histon and Impington. Actually it's a two member division and Matt Bradney shares this responsibility with me. Furthermore as a member of the Lib Dem group in the council I am a part of the 'loyal opposition' and party to holding the ruling Conservative group to account.

Since I was elected in May of 2005 I have been able to get some County Council response to Impington issues. We got the AJC delayed by one week so that a speedy decision on the traffic calming could be made at the end of the experimental period, we got some, albeit late, response to the flooding in South Road and a subsequent working party has been established and we have initiated a dialogue about the A14 junction and how this can be made safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

I could do more and I need to be held to account so please feel free to contact by email on david.jenkins@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by telephone (01223 236232 or 17739 758859)



County Councillor David Jenkins