

Impington Council - Summer 2006

Impington - Quality Parish Council

Impington Parish Council has been awarded Quality Parish Council status - an award putting the Council in the top 3% of Parish Councils nationally.

In order to achieve Quality status, the Council demonstrated that it had reached the required standard in: Electoral Mandate; Clerk's Qualifications; Meetings; Communications; Annual Report; Accounts and Code of Conduct. The tests exceed the statutory duties of Parish Councils and are designed to ensure that the Council is functioning as an effective, representative and active council. They represent the standards that an efficient, well run, Parish Council should achieve.

Chairman, Denis Payne, said: *"This award recognises the work that the Council does, and the tremendous efforts put in by our staff. We passed the assessment first time - which gives us confidence that we are doing the right things in the right way. We now know that we have a strong foundation from which to move on to the next level of working with residents to improve service delivery in Impington."*

Feedback from residents suggests that we are doing a good job working for them - but the award should give them confidence that external assessors have looked at what we do and how we work, and agree.

Quality status should also assist in our relations with County & District Councils. They will know that we are representative, competent and well managed - and should therefore be listened to when we bring issues forward.

In the longer term, Quality Councils may have an enhanced role compared with other Parish Councils, and we will be ready to look at those opportunities when they come forward."

The award certificate will be presented to the Council by local MP Jim Paice, and Steve Wilkinson, Chairman of the Awards Committee on July 7th.

Annual Parish Meeting - Annual Report

Denis Payne, Council chairman, reviewed the last year in his report to the Parish Meeting:

Some highlights from the year:

- We completed the purchase of The Copse, and although we don't own all of it, we can ensure what we do own will remain as a recreation area for residents;
- Similarly, with Histon, completed the purchase of the freehold of the Recreation Ground from Cadbury Schweppes;
- The formal planning agreement (known as the S106) with Gallaghers was negotiated and signed - ensuring that essential community facilities for Arbury Park (still part of Impington) will be completed and funding will be available to maintain them for 10 years;
- We have a permanent home for the Parish Office with plenty of meeting and storage space. It wasn't that long ago that our Clerk ran everything from her front room - it is difficult now to understand how;
- We eventually completed the works on traffic calming. Many will feel sorry for residents of Station Road (and Cambridge Road), since all traffic growth will now be channelled through there, but shops and businesses will be relieved at the decision. We won't, unfortunately, be able to fine tune the results since there is no money left - and no more will come our way for years;
- We started a quarterly newsletter to residents, delivered by Parish Councillors and friends - we've had very positive feedback about it, and last year's request for information on flooding has allowed us to compose a very powerful record of what happened that is being used to argue our case in a number of planning situations;
- One of our newer Councillors, Pene Nudds, has started environment working



Denis Payne
Impington Chairman



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Contributors

Thanks to contributors to this issue including: Pene Nudds, Denis Payne, Steve Unwin, Angela Young

parties - planting, trimming, clearing - that have been a great success, with a growing number of residents involved;

- On the planning front, we have continued to make the case for the community during the LDF - Local Development Framework - process, as well as commenting on over 70 individual applications, and all of the extra work with Arbury Park;

- The Appeal against refusal of the Unwins planning application was refused, and quickly. Obviously this hasn't sorted the future of the site - but it has put a number of useful markers in place for the next application. Our thanks to Councillor Mike Mason for his support and assistance with this;

- In terms of decisions, the results of the inquiry into the Guided Bus proposals was published to the dismay of those residents living by it, who'll get little or no benefit from it. We need to support those residents in the ongoing negotiations with County - and it will also affect us, since a slice of The Copse will be taken for one of the "platforms";

- The Youth Committee, chaired by Councillor Hooda Abdullah, and the new youth leader, Andrea Cramp, have got our Youth Clubs open - and these are well attended;

- Not a highlight, almost a no light, South Cambs. were capped by the Government, and responded by moving some of their costs to the Parishes by pressing us to take on the funding of a number of street lights. We've done so because street lighting is important for safety reasons;

- The events at the Rec are almost last in this list, but not least - the Friends of the Rec have proved that the space, and

s o m e i m a g i n a t i o n , c a n l e a d t o e v e n t s t o b e e n j o y e d b y a l l o f t h e c o m m u n i t y . O n M a y D a y w e h a d t h e p l e a s -



The New Pavilion

ure of welcoming everyone to the official opening of the new facilities, which are already getting heavy use.

At the same time we were able to formally recognise two individuals - Councillor Ray Wynn, and Groundsman Steve Campin - who've put in 25 years of service to our community. Steve has also won the Cambs FA Local and Regional Groundsman of the Year awards.

Well deserved thanks have already been given to the team involved at the Rec, of course. At a time when funding is not easy to find, and large projects are a challenge, a small group believed that something had to be done. It was going to be time consuming, difficult, stressful - but with vision and commitment they got the money together. They made it happen.

There are still jobs to be done in our community - the Church Halls project is the biggest - should we not be responding to the challenge that the Rec team has thrown at us? It *can* be done, its just time & commitment and not leaving it to others

I'd like to look back a little further - to the work of HICAP - the community appraisal that we ran in 2001, and look at the top Parish priorities voted by residents. They were:

1. Helping fight crime, vandalism etc - we've now got Lee Page as PCSO, as well as Sandie Carrington as CBM - more than doubling police resources in the Parish. We also have local representatives on the Neighbourhood Police Panel, set up to allow the public to have a say on priorities;

2. Traffic - we've got traffic calming, and County figures showed that traffic has slowed. Works in the vicinity have really affected what's been going on, but some of those should, when complete, help even more;

3. Grass cutting, trees, litter picking - we've continued to fund extra cuts to verges etc., and are putting more effort into planning that so this is better managed, and Pene's environmental group is making a real difference;

4. Village Hall/Community Centre - much was done - business plan, building plans - and this work is waiting to be taken forward;

5. Youth - we've now got clubs for two age ranges meeting on a regular basis, well resourced, with significant local control;

6. Recreation Ground - MUGA, hard court, new Pavilion, parking space and a Rec Ground Sports Co-ordinator running projects for us all.

That's a lot of change, a lot of steps forward in just 5 years - through the efforts of a few committed groups. What for the next 5? Should we be re-running HICAP? Where else should we be putting our efforts?

It's been a great year for Impington - Quality Council status, the work at the Rec, plus the football achievements and excitement of Histon FC (based in Impington, of course) and youngsters from IVC. Let us celebrate those!

The Council says "thanks and farewell" to Councillor Derinda Starling, who has resigned as a Parish Councillor as she is moving away.

Last but not least, thanks to everyone: our staff; Councillors, be they Parish, District or County; and the many residents who work to make Impington a better place to live.

HICAP - Histon & Impington Community Appraisal

A questionnaire was completed by nearly 1800 residents across both villages covering questions on a range of topics including development, traffic, policing, youth and Parish Council priorities.

Appraisals have been replaced by Parish Plans, whose results are recognised by County & District Councils



With the resignation of Derinda Starling, there is a vacancy on the Council.

The Council will be seeking to co-opt to this at its September meeting.

Its an interesting and fulfilling role - and a real opportunity to make a difference for our community.

Anyone interested can get more details from the Clerk, Chairman or any Councillor.

Parish Council Meetings - All Welcome

Meetings are at 7:30pm in the Church Hall, St Andrew's. The next meetings will be on: July 17th, September 18th, October 16th. Full Council rarely meets in August, but Committee meetings continue, and the office is open as usual.

Council meetings are open, and residents are very wel-

come. There is time specifically set aside for questions.

Committees meet as required. If you have a special topic of interest to raise, please contact the Clerk to get it heard.

Spending and budget

Last year's spending (summarised - details based on accounts currently under audit, copies available from the Clerk) was as follows:

Capital	£80,512
Recreation Ground	£26,183
Administration	£12,639
Environment	£7,787
Burial ground	£7,020
Young people	£2,519
Donations	£2,150
War Memorial	£178
Total	£138,987

This year our regular (ie not capital) spending will rise because of paying for the loans taken out to pay for the new facilities at the Rec, buying the freehold etc. and will be:

Recreation Ground	£42,208
Administration	£20,580
Environment	£14,385
Burial ground	£8,000
Young people	£7,965
Capital	£7,370
Donations	£2,150
Street lights	£430
War Memorial	£300
Crime & Disorder	£100
Total	£103,488

There is also a small, but real, increase because of costs transferred from both District and County Councils. SCDC have transferred the costs of their street lights to us, and kept the credits from recycling (total - £1928), and County have reduced the subsidy on cutting verges (£311).

Nevertheless, the Parish Council Tax rose by just £3000.

Flooding

The County Council has just published (also available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) new information on flood risks, and advice for businesses. Did you know that businesses are more likely to be flooded than affected by fire?

Impington Council continues to be concerned by the lack of clear information and guidance for residents affected by last year's flooding, and whether there are ways in which the risks might be reduced. They are seeking to commission a study into the problems.

If you have any new information, or could help, please get in touch. We'll report back progress as it happens.

More Development?

The decision, still to be approved, to put more housing into the region, and therefore 4,300 more homes into the Cambridge area, has been pounced on by developers.

They've taken the first steps to take 3 areas out of the Green Belt so that they can be developed. Land at Clay Close Lane, Impington Lane (Unwin's Trials Grounds) and by the Holiday Inn are all being proposed for housing.

In addition, there are proposals for development near the Milton landfill site which could affect residents in Milton & Burgoyne's Roads and Impington Lane because of traffic.

Details are on the South Cambs website (www.scambs.gov.uk), and links to this are on the village website. We all have until late July to comment.

Policing - How you can get involved

Reported crime is falling - but *concern* about crime is still very real. We can all now get involved, and make our views known, through the Neighbourhood Panel.

The Panel meets every two months, and covers villages in the area - Histon & Impington, but also Chittering, Cottenham, Landbeach, Milton, Oakington, Rampton, Waterbeach and Westwick. Many organisations are represented - Police; Fire; County, District & Parish Councils (and Councillors); IVC; Trading Standards and others.

Many Police staff are present, including South Cambridgeshire Sector Inspector, Paul Ormerod, as well as our local offi-



CBM - PC Sandie Carrington



PCSO Lee Page

cers, Sandie Carrington and Lee Page.

John Fuller, a Police spokesman said: "This is an opportunity for the residents of these villages to be part of the decision-making process in terms of setting local policing priorities.

"They will be able to set the agenda and then monitor what we do, so improving our engagement with the community in the long term.

"The community has a real role to play in helping the police and other partners to deliver lasting solutions to problems that may have remained unchallenged for some time."

The meeting provides a chance to talk to local Police, raise concerns, and hear reports of what is happening. The Panel (everyone at the last meeting) then discusses and decides the priorities for Police action.

The next meeting is on July 18th at the Junior School. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available around 8.15pm, after which the Panel will discuss the next priorities. It should finish by 9pm.

What do you know about The Copse?

Where is it?

Its the small triangular piece of woodland situated between the B1049, New Road and the railway line.

Who owns it and what do they intend to do with it?

We all do! The Parish Council negotiated the purchase of the freehold from Cadbury Schweppes last year. The intention is to maintain and improve this woodland site, which provides a pleasant, easily accessible local amenity, full of flora and fauna. The entire area (including the narrow strip adjacent to the B1049 owned by the Football Club) benefits from a Tree Preservation Order. The site is also designated as a Protected Village Amenity Area, providing protection against development.

Do you know when The Copse was planted and by whom?

Do you know what the rectangular, low walled area was used for?

Why is there a telegraph pole and some metal posts with railings in the woods?

Do you have a personal memory and can add to the records and help to provide answers to some of these questions: Did you grow up in the vicinity? Do you have any old maps or photographs taken here? Were you or your father a member of the Football Club in it's early years? Are you a member of any business, company, group or society in the village who could help put together a fact sheet/booklet about The Copse?

Please let us know so we can work together to capture this knowledge and pass it on to future generations. If you would like to contribute to, or be a part of, this project then please contact Pene Nudds or Angela Young or by e-mail to enviro@hisimp.net.

Want to know about the Environment Volunteers?

We are a small, but keen and friendly group, always on the lookout for others to join us. Generally we start at about 9:30am on a Saturday, spend a few hours working and then we have a coffee and a chat before clearing up. The break often provides a much needed energy boost, so sometimes a few continue for a while longer. It's all very casual, spend as much or as little time and effort as you can manage, it's meant to be fun after all. Despite our smallness we have managed to tackle some pretty big jobs!



When is the next volunteer working party?

Care to join us? Then please meet up at 9:30am on Saturday July 22nd at the southern section of The Coppice woodland, opposite the Cambridge Road and Bridge Road Junction.

Can't volunteer but still want to help?

- Can you help sponsor a project? Perhaps you could offer suitable materials.
- Do you have any suitable tools or equipment for loan/donation?
- Do you have a suitable vehicle and driver that could help? Sometimes we need to transport equipment, rubbish, green waste or chippings within the village.
- Do you have any specialist knowledge that you could share with the volunteers? Are you a landscape designer, fence erector, arborist, gardener etc.
- Would you be able to provide refreshments for the volunteers!

All donations, offers or help will be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Pene Nudds or Angela Young or by e-mail to enviro@hisimp.net.

Rec Update

The Recreation ground improvements including a new Pavilion, sports courts and Parish Council office were completed and officially opened during the May Day celebration weekend. The Parish Councils, together with "The Friends of the Rec", welcomed Pat Jennings OBE to the

Rec. Pat officially opened the new Recreation Centre by revealing a plaque and a new clock before meeting a good crowd of villagers keen to get an autographed celebration programme.



New sports and leisure groups (see panel) are already underway, and opportunities for more sporting and leisure activities are being explored by the new recreation ground sports co-ordinator Luke Harnwell.

The established Sports clubs together with Luke Harnwell, "The Friends of the Rec" and Parish Councillors have started to explore further options and sports tasters by forming the "Recreation Ground Forum" - an open forum to discuss ideas and to bring the sports community and organisers together to promote the use of the Rec, the clubs and the facilities. Several initiatives have already been staged, including a very successful "Friends of the Rec" inter-school relay afternoon, other activities are currently being organised and include a bowls club open evening and a women's football session, details can be found on the Parish Council website and notice boards.

The Friends of the Rec (the charity formed to help with community fundraising) are still actively fundraising and continue to seek the support of residents. The popular Boogie Nights are returning to Impington Village College for the Friends of the Rec Boogie Nite Out and the successful quiz night are both currently being organised, details at www.friendsoftherec.co.uk If you missed out on the collectors edition souvenir programme, there are still a few available from the Friends treasurer, Neil Davies, 232514.

The new facilities are available for hire, bookings are being taken by the Rec Clerk, Lynda Marsh on 235906. Current hire charges are available in the Parish Council Office and on the Parish Council Website. The website also contains contact details for the sports clubs.

Activities

Back to Netball

Tuesdays 7pm-8.30pm

For ladies who previously played at school or university and would like to take part in a fun and social course which will help refresh skills and update on recent rule changes.

Pilates

Thursdays 11am-12noon. Open to all. £3 per session. Contact Frances Dumbleton on 07931 276591

Thighs Tums and Bums

Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm £3 per session. Contact Helen Johnston on 01223 457535

Disability Athletics

Sundays 10.00am-11.00am. Contact Luke Harnwell 07955 674 626

What do you think?

Many thanks to everyone who passed comments back to the Council after the last issue. We have been able to take comments to the right place - and get action.

We'd be interested to know if you think we should be re-running the Community Appraisal/Plan? What are the "hot topics" for you now? Would you help?