

Impington Council - Autumn 2006



October 2006

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Thanks to contributors to this issue including: Hooda A b d u l l a h , Andrea Cramp, Sheila Parr, Denis Payne, Angela Young



Guided Bus - what next?

Full steam ahead is the answer! Earlier this year the Government committed over £30M in direct, up front funding, and loans (and interest payments thereon) to a total of over £90M to the scheme. The County Council have given the go ahead and have appointed Edmund Nuttall Ltd to undertake the design details and build the track.

There are still details to be sorted. These are being discussed at a number of Forums. That covering Histon to Milton Road is chaired by our County Councillors, and attended by Histon & Impington District and Parish Councillors, and representatives of RAGBUS and others. There is an additional Forum covering Longstanton to Histon being attended by Histon Councillors.



The details (such as landscaping) will then need to be approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the local Planning Authority. Drainage is also a key matter requiring the approval of the District Council.

Local landowners (including the Parish Council at the Copse) are also being approached regarding compulsory purchase of the necessary land.

The Forum has agreed to set up specific additional meetings (proposed dates in brackets) to cover topics of concern, being:

- Noise barriers and associated landscaping (February 2007)
- Histon Station building (November 2006)
- Histon/Impington stop junction layout (March 2007)

Noise barriers will be of key interest to residents, since in some cases the guideway is very close to homes. Nuttalls will be writing individually to all householders likely to be affected before works start.

At the moment the County is moving ahead with the original plans to demolish the station, but County, District and Parish Councillors are pressing for the building to be retained.

Site clearance is expected to start in January/February of next year (ahead of the nesting season), with completion and first operation in late 2008/early 2009. The first section to be constructed is in Longstanton (completion December 2007), and will be used as a test of manufacturing techniques and a check on quality.

Forward Plan

One of the areas of policy that the Parish Council has been looking at is its "forward plan". This is not specific, but guides the Council on more detailed policies and issues. It states the Council:

1. Is supportive of the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement process and will encourage, support and take part in the necessary processes to undertake and complete a Parish Plan, and to complete and take forward to Supplementary Planning Guidance status a Village Design Statement.

The Council recognises that this cannot be done in isolation from Histon, and will need to cover the needs, wishes and aspirations of residents in Histon.

However, given the likely change in governance for the area south of the A14, and that the Arbury Park development has gone through a master plan process, the Parish Plan/Village Design Statement will cover only Impington and Histon north of the A14. Effort will be made to work with the Kings Meadows community, and any residents of Arbury Park, to help them with equivalent local processes.

Keeping in Touch

If you've got email, and you want to keep in touch with what's happening then you should sign up to:

E-Cops - for updates from our Community Police team:

www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops

HisImp - for news & updates from the Parish Council:

the-hug.net/lists/listinfo/hisimp

It is expected that the plan will cover both details (eg requirements voiced by young people) and also a significant focus on facilities.

Parish Plan

A number of Councillors are working at the very earliest of stages on a Parish Plan. There will be a full consultation later.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact Hooda Abdullah or Denis Payne.

2. Will attempt to raise the profile of the village of Impington and of the Council and its work. For example, it will press for adequate signing and directions on roads.

It will also use its endeavours to ensure that press, public and others are aware of the existence and location of Impington, and that the community of over 3,000 does not continue to be carelessly grouped with Histon.

3. Will continue to build and improve on its Quality Status. We will focus on *Best Value* solutions, specifically taking into account the workload of staff, and allowing for the profile issues.

4. We will invest in necessary technology and processes to support the ambitions of the Council, facilitate working and effective decision making processes.

5. Will lead on environmental issues, both in the community through the work of the environment committee, but also on issues and challenges around global warming and climate change.

Library Reading Scheme

Each summer the County Library service promotes a Reading Challenge for children. The aim is to encourage children to read and enjoy books during the holidays. The Council supported this year's challenge - "The Reading Mission".

This year was the most successful ever in terms of the number of children participating. Over 80 from Histon and Impington (out of over 6500 Cambridgeshire children) received medals and certificates for reading 6 books or more. The Council's support allowed the library to employ additional staff to promote the challenge and organise special "book chat" sessions where children can discuss the books they have read. This adds greatly to the success of the event. Children love to discuss what they like about a particular story.

From the feedback cards received so far, there has been universal praise from children, parents and carers across the county, stating how much they value the challenge and how they believe it really helps with children's reading by encouraging them to explore different authors. Most of all, it is good fun. The collectors card, stickers, activity sheets and other rewards are a great incentive to complete the challenge and hopefully we have succeeded in showing lots of children the magic and excitement that books can offer.

Denis Payne, together with a Histon Councillor and the Histon Football Club coach and captain presented certificates, medals and free tickets to the next HFC game to all the successful children from Histon & Impington. One lucky individual was also selected to be the HFC club mascot at the next game.



Sarah & Alex, with medals, certificates and HFC tickets after the presentation

New Postcode

Have you heard yet? We've got new postcodes, *again!*

As we get more development in and around Cambridge (Arbury Park, Northstowe - to name but two) the current codes won't be enough - and Royal Mail need to allocate some more. Because they also have all codes in an area being part of the same pattern - CB4, CB5 etc - we're **all** getting new codes.

Postcodes which cover the village (except Cambridge Road and Milton Road) simply change from CB4 to CB24 with the following number and letters unchanged.

In Cambridge Road all properties north of the A14 become CB24 9NU. For Milton Road CB4 9NF and CB4 9NG become CB24 9NF and CB24 9NG. The homes and businesses on the way to Milton become CB24 9NG

The new codes will run in parallel with the old for 12 months. It is likely that the old codes will continue to work for a while after that - but Royal Mail won't commit to that.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

(or Confessions of an Inefficient Representative!)

by Sheila Parr, a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Have you got it? Do you want it? What do you do with it?

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme functions in a very patchy way, depending on whether your street can rustle up a representative. Once the plunge is taken, this enthusiastic (or press-ganged) individual has to register with the police, and is put in contact with the department responsible for sending out weekly information by email or voice-mail. One can also access the crime sheet for the village, but any local problems are usually highlighted in the information sent out.

So why bother? Some representatives work very hard by attending all the local meetings and maintaining a high profile in their area. My approach is to try to disseminate information when necessary and encourage everyone to be alert for the unusual or unexpected, especially in regard to elderly or vulnerable neighbours. We should all be Neighbourhood Watchers - aware of those around us, and alert to possible dangers. Rogue traders prey mercilessly on vulnerable people, and antisocial behaviour can often frighten and intimidate. We can all do our bit to protect each other without actually doing very much.



I try to condense and select information of interest to the street, and produce this on a sheet of paper which I post through the doors at each end of the road on opposite sides. These two sheets are then passed from neighbour to neighbour down the street until they reach the other end. This achieves two objectives, one is to disseminate information cheaply, and the other is to make people aware of who lives next door! I don't personally take responsibility for checking property when people are away - I know some representatives take this on, but I feel it is much better undertaken by a close neighbour.

In a nutshell, Neighbourhood Watch can only work if we become a community who "minds each other's business" in the nicest kind of way, and concentrates on everyone being aware, alert, and caring.

Neighbourhood Watch - I want one

Impington, as is South Cambridgeshire as a whole, is a low crime area, but is a proven fact that in areas where Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are active, crime rates are lower; particularly vehicle crimes, house burglaries and garden shed thefts.

If you'd like to know more, or want to find out how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your street, contact Eric Spoelstra, Police Community Contact Officer, eric.spoelstra@cams.pnn.police.uk, 01223 823730 Monday, Thursday and Friday

Hidden Treasure or Golden Opportunity?

by Hooda Abdullah

South Road recreation ground, at the junction of Mill Road and South Road, is one of Impington's hidden treasures. A smallish field of 1,866 sq m given to the village by Chivers in the 1950's and used as an area of open space for play.

In recent years the Parish Council have installed a sturdy wooden multi activity play frame and a set of goal posts to encourage use of the area. It is an extremely safe space for children to play, with well tended grass and only a single entrance in and out. Ideal for summer picnics.



On a recent visit to inspect the play equipment I was struck by the beauty and relative tranquillity of the area (despite it's proximity to the A14). The hedgerows included haws, rose hips, sloes, blackberries, apples and miniature plums - with the warm September sun shining down it was idyllic.



I wonder how many of you even know it is there. Not very many, if observed usage is anything to go by. I wonder what we could do to increase its usage as a recreational site? If you have any ideas let us know. Given the current shortage of suitable space in the village for a small skate park maybe this would be an option?

Youth Activities

by Andrea Cramp, Area Youth Worker for Impington

I am happy to report that our Monday night youth clubs are welcoming over 40 young people each week and are great fun! We have two new male workers at the club. Floyd Waithaka and Mark Fuller complement our existing team with Sofie Douglas, Laura Fouracre and myself. We are very grateful to St Andrews Church for providing Mark to work with us. With the large groups of young people attending, we certainly need a full team of youth workers!

This term the members are planning the opening of a café to replace the tuck shop that we currently run. The menus are being planned and designed, new equipment is being ordered and a food hygiene course for the young people is being set up. We hope to organise a coffee morning near

Christmas to invite the community to come along and see what we get up to!

Youth club members are also working on a website for the club. This will advertise our programme and display photographs of the clubs in action. We will be linking this to the Histon and Impington websites so that the whole community can keep up-to-date with what we are planning.

Where/when - St Andrews Church Hall, Histon : Junior Club (years 7 and 8) 6.30 - 7.45 - 50p entry :Senior Club (years 9, 10 and 11) 8.00 - 9.15 - 50p entry

Rec Sports Youth Club

On 7th September the Rec Sports Youth Club officially opened. Twenty young people attended and football and tennis was played. A week later another 15 new members joined - clearly this is a very popular club! Having spent an hour playing football on the astro turf, we then had 25 young people socialising and enjoying basketball, netball shooting and tennis - all on one tennis court!

To keep everyone fed and watered we are now able to serve drinks and food from the kitchen, kindly lent to us by the Histon Hornets.

You don't need to be a great sports person to come along to this club - it's a chance to meet new people, learn some new skills and get some fresh air!

Where/when - Thursdays from 7 - 9 at the Recreation Ground - £1 entry

If you need any further information about Youth Activities in Impington, have any concerns, or would like to volunteer to help support these clubs in person, please contact Andrea Cramp andrea.cramp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or via the Youth Committee Team youthcommittee@hisimp.net.

Arbury Park

The Arbury Camp development is gathering speed. All the off site road works are complete, the on-site roads are laid out, and homes are being built as fast as is possible.

Planning permission for the primary school and nearly half of the homes on site has now been granted, and the first application for commercial use (a 5 storey hotel by the roundabout) is on the verge of coming forward.

Sales offices for Places for People (affordable homes for key workers et al) and Wimpey's have been open for some weeks. Some Wimpey homes are already reserved, and will be available for occupation by Christmas. Persimmon's offices have just opened, and their first homes will be completed in Spring 2007.

Residents will need local facilities, and the Council has been working with Gallagher's on the designs for the Community Centre, and the public open space, which will include sports facilities, changing rooms and play areas for all age ranges. Applications for these are imminent, since they must be completed at specified points as homes are occupied.

Progress on the school, which is due to open in September 2007, is also underway. A set of Governors have been appointed to oversee the selection of the new head, and to get the school up and running.

Development of the site is not just the buildings - its also the community - and a community development worker is being recruited to start work at the turn of the year. They'll be followed, eventually, by two part time youth workers - all funded by Gallaghers.

Public art is also a feature - and will be linking parts of the

site to history - Chivers, Unwins etc. Josephine Teague is chairing the committee that will be commissioning art and overseeing art trails and individual works.

The planning applications for the site are considered at meetings specifically covering Arbury Park - and these are open to the public if you wish to attend. If you want to look at any of the details to date - contact Angela Young to arrange a convenient time.

Cambridge North West

Arbury Park is well under way - and now the City Council is looking at a development of twice the size (1780 homes, primary and secondary schools, and other facilities) between Histon Road and Huntingdon Road on ex-NIAB land.

Though inside the City boundary it's on our border, and the exit to Histon Road will be in Impington - and very much affect us. Similarly, the site will be drained through the village (past South Road) to the Brook and beyond.

This clearly has the potential to have significant impact on us, and Councillors are already involved, District Councillors on working groups, and Parish Councillors in commenting on proposals.

The public consultation on this runs to November 6th and can be accessed from the Parish Council website.

A Week in the life of the Parish Team

Angela gives us some highlights of a typical week ...

Monday 18th September

Arrive bright eyed and bushy tailed for the week ahead! 2 ground staff on holiday this week. Arrangements for cover swiftly put in hand.

Open up recreation centre for yoga session

Electrician in office working on "snags" list . Lots of noise!

Preparation for Impington Full Council meeting that night, including photocopying, collating, payments. Councillor to represent IPC at Guided Bus Liaison Forum that night

Residents with bookings for multi use games area and tennis court call in to pay dues!

Meeting with Tennis Club representative for regular exchange of information

A rush for burial plots leaves 4 deeds to prepare and invoice. Should have paid more attention to new Post Office rates for A4 letters ... trip to Post Office required

Full Council, finished at 10 p.m.

Tuesday 19th September

Writing up notes and actions from last night's meeting.

Afternoon, both Clerks spend time preparing additional information for Auditor before certificates can be issued

Orders sent for signs, storage racking and archive boxes

Accounts agreed last night paid. Assistant Clerk visit to Bank, Post Office and Print Out

Request for permission to scatter ashes received

Resident calls in to view neighbour's planning application



New Councillor

At its September meeting the Council co-opted Geoffrey Payne onto the Council.

Geoffrey lives in Ambrose Way, and has been resident with his family since 1998.

Arrangements put in hand for Councillor to meet contractors at War Memorial to discuss weed kill and re-seed

Evening Planning Committee, followed by meeting on Arbury Park. Finished at 9 p.m.

Wednesday 20th September

Parish Clerk not in during day, Assistant Clerk on hand

Cleaner's fortnightly visit

Work centres round wages and accounts package, between visitors

Wednesday drawing class tutor calls in to make last minute arrangements

Resident calls to view centre for possible party booking

Parish Clerk starts shift 6pm preparing evening Finance Committee. Finished 9.30 p.m.

Thursday 21st September

Open up recreation centre for pilates class

Trip to Burial Ground with Tree Contractor and Vice Chairman to look at boundary tree works. Also looked at sites for memorial trees and hedgerow for allotment site

Chat with Chairman on his way to attend Arbury Park event "drop in" on behalf of the Council

Resident phoned re tree in verge, arranged contact with officer at County Council

Prospective allotment holder phones to discuss plots

Resident calls to look at neighbour's planning application

Arrangements put in hand for Councillor Training in December. Agendas for 2 Committee meetings next week drawn up and distributed.

Office car park out of use next week due to essential repairs, need to make sure all Councillors know

Weekly meeting with caretaker

Evening Planning meeting finishes 8.45 p.m. Early night!

Friday 22nd September

Meeting with Chartered Surveyor at the Copse to survey land for Compulsory Purchase by County for Guided Bus. Issues of access and re-instatement discussed

Health & Safety Audit in office all morning

Attempt to organise meetings of interested parties on flooding; traffic surveys; and a brainstorming event for Councillors in October

Calendar prepared for October meetings and distributed to Councillors. Office closed for the weekend at 1.30 p.m. Lets see what next week brings! On way home, Notice Boards up-dated round village

Weekly counts: emails - 117; answerphone messages - 28; visitors to office - 34; Cups of coffee - 18!!

What do you think?

The feedback we've had from previous issues has been greatly appreciated and very valuable - we've always tried to act on it.

We'd be delighted to hear your views on our Forward Plan, what should be done with the South Road Recreation Ground or anything else raised in this newsletter.

And anything on the impact that the Arbury Park development is having on you - good or bad - would be welcome.