

Impington Council - Winter 2006



January 2007

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Save (a bit of) Our Station?

Would Impington be the place it is without the railway? Unlikely!

During Victorian times Chivers employed over 3,000 staff making, packing and despatching jams and preserves around the world. Those people lived locally, or came in by train - and those jams and jellies all left by train. And of course, the company seaside trips for staff were also by train.



That history is about to vanish - despite the efforts of County, District and Parish Councillors the County Council, promoters of the Guided Bus scheme, have decided to proceed with their original plans to demolish the station and outbuildings. That will happen after August.

Portions of the station building (the wooden platform building, and canopy) are being sought by railway preservation societies - and the County Council will assist them to rescue these. However, today, everything else will go - the only reference to the station and railway will be in the name of "Station Road".

We can't save the station building itself - its too great a challenge - but we could save the hut - whether it was used for lamps, platelayers or for the gatekeeper its certainly Victorian, and is small enough to find a home for elsewhere in the village.

Its also got some valuable social history - there are names scratched into the brickwork - Jupiter stands out as one - was that the name of a seaman's ship, cut in a spare moment waiting for a train to take him to war? And possibly not back again.

Should we try to save this small piece of history? If so, how? And can you help?

We'd also like to gather memories, photos, stories about the station and railway. Do you know who carved "Jupiter" into the brickwork? We'll be collecting a full record of all the buildings before they are demolished - so please help us add your memories to those archives!

Can you Help?

All offers of help will be appreciated - from writing letters to those with building skills and knowledge. Once we've got all responses in we'll call a meeting to take this forward.

Please send your thoughts, comments, stories and offers of help to the Parish Office.

Friends of the Rec activities

The annual Impington 5K Fun Run takes place at the Rec on Sunday 25th March. Come and run off road. A 5K fun run around the Rec and Farm roads of Chivers Farms. Started by local football hero Steve Fallon. Come and see if you can beat your previous time. Trophies for the winners in each category. Refreshments available for runners and spectators. Entry fee £3 adult and £1.50 for under 16's. Children under 10 should be accompanied by an adult. Registrations start at 9:45.

May Bank Holiday weekend, has traditionally been a busy time for "The Friends", with Big Nite Out and Big Day Out events. Although the Marquee events ended last year with the celebration and grand opening events, community fund raising continues. This year, the May Bank Holiday weekend will see two major events take place.

The big band sound is back in town! Due to popular demand and similar to last years Swing City event. The Friends of the Rec will be holding a BIG band nite out at Impington Village College on Saturday 5th May. From Glenn Miller and the rat pack to Robbie Williams, a BIG dance band spectacular. Licensed bar with traditional ales, Tickets available on March 1st, from Jane's Frames and Neil Davies - 232514

A BIG day out on the Rec, including Fun and Sports and attractions for all ages. Monday 7th May. FREE entry, details available shortly.

Event details, dates and information can be found at www.friendsoftherec.co.uk

Arbury Camps - Public Art

Josephine Teague writes: One of the many issues that have arisen as part of the Arbury Camps development has been that of Public Art. Many people mistakenly believe that Public Art is just a picture or a piece of sculpture put in place to admire or revile as the mood takes us. This is untrue. Public Art can be the entire surroundings or environment of a settlement. It can be incorporated into the bus stops, the lighting, the pavements and the very brickwork and railings of each building. This can be subtle or very obvious.



Public art in Cambourne

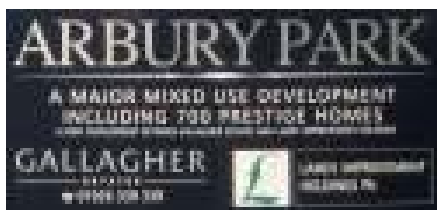
By being involved with the development of Arbury Camps the Parish Council is trying to ensure that the new residents will have a pleasant environment in which to live. There have been regular meetings with various stakeholders involved in the whole development, even the colour and style of the brickwork has been up for discussion and builders have been given guidelines to abide by. This is to try to ensure that there will be some conformity of style across the whole area whilst allowing sufficient difference to avoid a boring banality of design.

In addition to this, a selection of colours for rendering have been agreed, styles of paving etc have all been examined and discussed to maintain a level of quality.

To link the varying parts of the development together it is intended to have a "trail" that people, particularly visitors and school children can follow. This may be symbols that link the sections of housing together, like strawberry leaves for the hedges area and symbols to indicate the original settlement and history of the site overall. It is planned to have these incorporated into the paving stones and/or walls as the building progresses. This is intended to add interest to the development and inspire the children to find the various symbols and discover their meanings.

Arbury Camps - update

Residents - the first residents moved in just before Christmas to 3 homes in the Wimpey development adjacent to the A14 half way down the site. They're in Graham Road - though road name plates aren't yet up!



Community development officer - Abbie Mason has just started as CDO, offering advice and support to residents, and helping develop all the groups, services etc in the community that we take for granted.

Planning - Planning permission has already been granted for 417 (out of the 900) homes on site - with another 109 pending. Around 40 have now been completed.

Hotel application - The application for the Premier Travel Inn was refused by SCDC on the grounds of design, and because of concerns of inadequate car parking.

School - The school serving the site is to be called Orchard Park Community Primary School. A temporary governing body is in place - and looking for parent governors. Though the building work hasn't started yet the school plans to be open and accepting its first intake in September.

Get Fit in '07 with Exciting New Activities on the Rec

Feel like you want to get fit again after the Festive season? Perhaps you want to tone that body ahead of the Spring and Summer. If so then new Monday evening sessions are worth a try.

Following the successful launch of a range of Healthy Living sessions which took place in the Recreation Centre, two exciting new activities started in January.

Both sessions are being run on behalf of the Histon & Impington Recreation Ground by The Bodylabs, who supply all the equipment. The first session will run from 6.30pm to 7.30 pm and is called Circuits. This is a potentially quite energetic exercise session using a range of different equipment, though the instructor will tailor the session to the level of those who come along. The second and separate session runs from 7.45 to 8.45 and is called Spinning. Based on exercise using static bikes the session is done to the accompaniment of music and is great fun.

Taster sessions ran in January, and the full courses (9 week) run from Monday 5th February to Monday 2nd April inclusive. If you'd like more details ring Vernon Dudley on 01223 515867

Save Milton Country Park

Milton Country Park is an asset not just to Milton and the surrounding villages but to the whole of South Cambridgeshire. However, as a cost saving measure, South Cambridgeshire District Council intend to close Milton Country Park if they can't find anyone to take it on by 31st August 2007.



We are appalled by the proposal to close it and ask that South Cambridgeshire District Councillors do everything in their power to ensure it stays open and free to use.

If you want to help, visit their website at : <http://www.savemiltoncountrypark.com/>

Councillor Trevor Silk – an appreciation

On the 10th December 2006, after a staggering 27 years of service to the village and its community through Impington Parish Council, Trevor decided to retire from the council. The remaining councillors and the clerk would like to record their appreciation for all his dedication and work.

Trevor first signed the declaration of acceptance of office in June 1979 and has been committed to the success and well being of the village and its inhabitants in all that he has done since that time. He has contributed



greatly to the work of the Parish Council under different leaders, and has represented the council at South Cambridgeshire District Council meetings and elsewhere.

He has supported new councillors as they tried to grasp the

niceties of local government, always being approachable and tolerant of those new to the role. He listened carefully to debate and took a sensible and measured approach to decision making. Ever courteous, Trevor always tried to see the opposite side of the argument but then abided by the majority decision. Never one to shirk his responsibilities, at the time of his resignation he was an active participant on the following committees: Planning; Burial Ground (Chairman); Environment; Arbury Park Sub Committee; Finance and the Recreation Ground. He also regularly inspected the village playgrounds. Being retired, Trevor had the time to work on parish business during the day as well as attending evening meetings – he always made himself available to help the clerk with any emergencies that cropped up.

His love of the village amenity inspired him to instigate the annual bulb planting activity that has resulted in the



glorious displays of daffodils on the embankments as one enters the village from the A14 and elsewhere in the spring.

The physical make up of the village and the work of the Parish Council has changed greatly over the last 30 years; Trevor's involvement in much of this together with his knowledge of the village history gave him an informed insight into village matters. Below he has identified some of the more interesting highlights during the early years of his time in office, under Bill Easy's chairmanship, for us to share.

In all of these duties throughout his 27 years of service he has been strongly supported by his wife Hilary and we would like to acknowledge her contribution also.

Trevor will be much missed on the council and it will take a special person to replace him.



1979 The new village sign designed by Ray Malmstrong, Arts Master at Impington Village College, was unveiled.

With the resignation of Trevor Silk, there is a vacancy on the Council.

1980 After SCDC recommended amalgamation of Histon & Impington, a referendum of all residents resulted in a decisive 65% vote against !!

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

1981 Parish council ceremony to place a Plaque on the cottage of Elizabeth Woodcock to record the well known historical event.

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.

1981 Attended a large public meeting of 500 residents at Cadbury Schweppes factory to discuss the controversial light industry redevelopment, later overridden by the more controversial 'glass box' office blocks.

1981 Planning application for the Trust House Forte hotel finally agreed after much controversy and planning meetings, specifications had to meet the criteria of a group of farm buildings and the core cottages of Cawcutts Farm had to remain *in situ*.

1981 Planning application for a new private hospital in New Road, bearing little resemblance to the BUPA hospital as it is today.

1982 Work started on a new pavilion jointly with Histon at a cost of £25,000.

1984 The Parish Council agreed to take over the amenity areas of the Coppice.

1988 The annual Parish Meeting was attended by 66 people to protest against the proposal for a Park & Ride site at Arbury Camps with parking space for 600 cars

1988 Council obtained the corner land site at Clay Close lane for the village in a Section 106 agreement against adjacent housing planning development.

1989 Controversy over future ownership and use of the Men's Club in the adult wing at the IVC, Council opinion sought but as the gift and conditions by the Chivers family were given by word and not documented, the result is that the Village College can determine conditions and use.

1990 The roof of Sid Bishop's new front extension was painted a bright yellow and after much local pressure SCDC agreed an enforcement order for it to be painted brown

1991 A planning proposal by SCDC to establish their offices and refuse collection depot at Impington Hall was strongly opposed and Histon PC were invited to support us at the Local Plan enquiry.

1991 Controversial Jet Ski application at Cawcutts Lake, allowed on appeal.

1992 Cambridge Cable revealed their plans for cable routes and control box locations.

1995 Public Meeting regarding the proposed Sainsbury location at Arbury Camps, 300 present with only 4 people supporting in show of hands.

1997 Sainsbury Northern Fringe shopping enquiry began, involving many hours of preparation and research by councillors over many weeks. Q.C. support and advice were engaged by the councils.

1997 Joint Millennium Committee set up.

To be continued

Developments at Histon Football Club

The traffic island near the entrance to HFC has already gone - and is the first visible sign of works about to start at the Club.

Cambs FA (currently at Cambridge City's ground) are moving to the Glassworld Stadium, and building new offices for themselves. In addition there'll be an extension to the main stand above those offices - so will mean better facilities for fans as well.

Because of the increased traffic, there'll be changes at the entrance and on the B1049.

The traffic island will eventually be replaced by one further up the bridge - which will provide protection to vehicles turning into the ground.

Works are due to start on February 1st - and will have to be



complete by May 31st to allow Cambs FA to move. Meanwhile, there should be minimal disruption for fans.

IVC buses

Residents and Councillors have long been concerned about the buses picking up IVC students in Burgoynes Road. The queues of 3 or more buses cause a real traffic hazard - and we have been fortunate that there have been no accidents or people hurt.

This should soon be a problem of the past. The semi-derelict area at the rear of the College, released by the removal of several temporary classrooms, will be cleared and converted to car parking. Cars which currently park at the front of the College will move here - and the space released will be used to allow buses to park to pick up students on their way home. Congestion in Burgoynes Road should be a thing of the past!

Plans for this work have been passed, but we're waiting to know when the work will be started - keep in touch via the village website.



Buses parked in Burgoynes Road at the end of the school day - with traffic struggling to get past

Cycling gets a spotlight

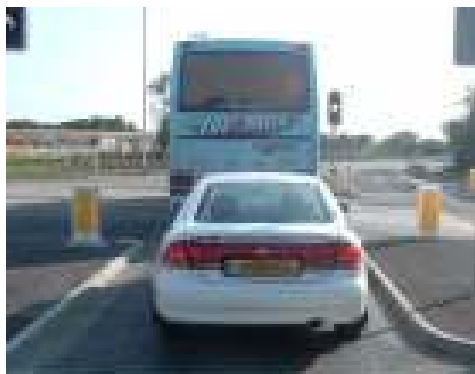
The Cambridge Evening News has recently run a couple of full page reports about cycling issues in Kings Hedges Road (KHR). The first phase of works for Arbury Park involved the construction of the main arterial roadways on the site and significant changes to KHR and to that part of Cambridge Road that runs from the KHR junction to the A14. Most of these latter changes were done so that the roads could cope with the expected increase in (motorised) traffic volumes.

Despite the efforts of the Parish Council, comments in the Cycle Safety Audit were not taken into account and the resulting arrangement of islands and crossing points constructed on behalf of Gallaghers has proved dangerous to, and inadequate for, cyclists.

Persistent lobbying by local residents and members of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign, with the support of Parish, District and County councillors have finally won an acknowledgement from the County Council that the work has made cycling in these areas more dangerous than it was before the works began.

Discussions are now taking place on how the situation can be remedied and it is likely that further works will take place to ensure residents can cycle in safety. This work will include restoration of the on-road red cycle lane for cyclist travelling from Impington down Histon Road.

Other cycling news: the cycle path on the south bound side



Sub-standard gap between traffic islands with no space for cyclists

of the B1049 is currently undergoing replacement. This had been steadily eroding and contained several tyre-wide fissures which were extremely hazardous.

Guided Bus - update

Site clearance: Work will soon start to clear vegetation from the disused railway line



between Longstanton and Milton Road, Cambridge. This is in preparation for the construction of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

Clearance work will start on Monday 22nd January and continue for four weeks. Edmund Nuttall Ltd (the Council's contractor) will only clear as much vegetation as is necessary for the construction of the busway.

Work will take place during daylight hours from Monday to Saturday. Teams of contractors will cut back vegetation to ground level using appropriate equipment.

Following completion of site clearance between Longstanton and Cambridge, construction of the busway in this area (laying concrete guideways) is scheduled to start in March 2007.

Construction planning: There are still lots of details to be sorted regarding the completion of the system. These include junction design, drainage, planting schemes, noise barriers - amongst others. Councillors continue to meet with County staff and contractors to discuss these. If you have any questions that you haven't got satisfactory answers from the County (contact the Guided Busway team on 01223 716972) please forward them.

Particularly at this time we're looking for one or two people from Pepys Terrace, Villa Road or Villa Place to be involved in discussion of the details of the noise barriers. If you can help, please contact David Jenkins on 07739 758859.

4 Drivers, 1 Car, 1 Weekend - 1 Challenge

On Friday 1st June 4 Histon fans will set off from Cambridgeshire to drive around the UK visiting all 68 Conference league grounds, arriving back on the 3rd.

Why? - the drive will raise money for the Cambridge Branch of the St Johns Ambulance and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Donations can be made in the Club Shop, or on line at www.justgiving.com/conferencedrive

If, however you know of a company that would like to help cover the cost of fuel and overnight stays, please get in touch with Steve Wells on 0787 674 6795 or by e-mail at sjwells1@btinternet.com

What do you think?

The feedback we've had from previous issues has been greatly appreciated and very valuable - we've done our best to act on it - and take issues forwards with the relevant authorities.

We look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts, comments, stories and offers of help about Histon Station and the lineside hut.

Of course, we'd be delighted to hear from you on any other topics raised, or other matters of concern. Do remember also that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public.