

ANNUAL REPORTS – IMPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 2006 – 2007

Environment Committee

Members: DW Payne, GB Waters, H S Abdullah and PJ Nudds (Chairman). Mr T Silk to be co-opted

Highways Maintenance walkabout issues New Road footpath repaired and corner widened near pedestrian crossing. Potholes repaired in The Coppice, Hereward Close & Mill Lane. Pavement repaired Hereward Close. The jetting and clearing of gutters and gulleys was discussed in detail. New footway gully installed at No. 40 Cambridge Road. Cycle and footway works along B1049, from the A14 to New Road. Lack of CCC funds has severely hampered progress with much basic maintenance work required in the village. Furthermore the quality of workmanship provided has generally been disappointing.

Traffic Calming Issues Ongoing discussions re bollard damage/replacement/design.

Environmental Policy & Plan Under development. Policy accepted at full council, plan to implement policy yet to be formulated. Ideas for this, including recycling, carbon footprint and contractor choice etc. are to be explored further.

Byelaws Under development. To include efforts to curb damage caused by verge parking.

Terms of Reference Under development.

Village Sign This is in poor condition. A quote has been received to repaint as existing, a quote for an alternative carved replacement and ideas for way markers have also been submitted. Final recommendations to be taken to full council.

Public Art Possible projects & capital grants discussed with SCDC Arts Officer.

Budgets 5 year plan updated; inclusion of Professional Services in future budgets is still needed.

Miscellaneous Purchases Replacement & installation of the Coronation seat in Cambridge Road and the gate in The Coppice; both were beyond repair. Spring flowering bulbs. Purchase & installation of Litter Bin for bus stop in Cambridge Road (The Coppice) and a Dog Bin for Clay Close Lane. New Road notice board has also been repaired and repositioned.

Tree Works Planned works undertaken in Clay Close Lane and The Coppice, plus emergency works undertaken in The Copse and The Coppice following much storm damage.

Grass cutting New maps & contract supplied. Many meetings held to clarify the council's expectations of quality of service to be provided.

Copse Boundary with Histon Football Club Holdings Ltd. now marked with concrete posts. Barrier modified to enable vehicular access for chipping & tree surgery equipment. Problems reported with mini motos, byelaws to be investigated.

Health & Safety Recommendations made for procedures for lone workers. Litter Pick Volunteers provided with additional pickers and Enviro.Volunteers with Hi-Vis vests and first aid kit.

Feast Market Display provided showing Litter Pick Volunteer group and Enviro.Vol. activities.

Guided Busway Liaising with Village Society and Bob Menzies re.Gatekeeper's Hut and salvage of railway sleepers and other items for use in POS projects.

Website Under development. To include information on Environment Committee projects and Enviro.Volunteer activities. hisimp.net website to be updated with Village Trails, using information from Village Society leaflets.

Graffiti removal Lists sent regularly to PCSO Lee Page

HICCA Histon & Impington Climate Change Action. Establish links with this new local group.

Enviro.Volunteer Activities Included bulb planting and spreading chippings at various sites within the village. Also much work has been undertaken in many areas such as Homefield Park - tree clearance and habitat piles, Clay Close Lane - storm damage tree clearance and verge damage repairs, Guns Lane (Histon) - chipping, The Copse - tree clearance & chipping, followed by tree & hedge planting, Burgoyne's Road - clearance of overgrown footpath. Glebe Road (Histon) Burial Ground Allotment - grass clearance, followed by hedge planting.

Cllr Pene Nudds, Environment Committee Chairman

Playground Inspector's Report

Regular inspections have been made to both recreation areas and reported to the Parish Council meetings. From the beginning of May this activity has been delegated to our assistant groundsman which provides for more frequent inspections and timely action if necessary.

South Road has continued to be well used by local residents and RoSPA found no deficiencies during their annual inspection of the play equipment. Doctor's Close remains underused and is kept in a tidy but more natural meadow-like state.

Cllr Hooda Abdullah, Playground Inspector

Finance Committee

Members: D W Payne, H S Abdullah, P Gooden, J P Teague, Angela Young (RFO)

The Finance Committee was formally created in November 2005, but this is the first such report to council, being the first complete year of the committee's existence. The year started with the formal acceptance and confirmation of the committee Terms of Reference in May 2006. The annual responsibilities of the committee (preparing the budget for acceptance, reviewing the asset register, carrying out a risk assessment, preparing the accounts for internal and external audits and setting the precept for the following year) have all been accomplished. Additionally the committee agreed a financial strategy, which sets out the framework within which all financial decisions are made. This strategy will be reviewed annually.

This year has seen increasing financial demands on the Parish Council due to:

- the purchase and development of the Recreation Ground;
- the development of the Parish Office
- the purchase of the Copse in New Road
- costs of street lighting being passed to the Parish from SCDC

The recreation ground is jointly managed and funded with Histon Parish Council. Between the two councils, loans have been taken out with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for:

- £80,697 to purchase the freehold of the Recreation Ground
- £371,000 to contribute to the Recreation Ground development project.

Additionally, Impington have taken a out a loan to pay for its share of the Parish Office development costs. This loan is for £35,950. The loans have been taken out over 25 years, the annual repayment costs that fall to this council are in the region of £19,500 per annum.

The £15,000 cost of the Copse was made from Parish Council reserves.

In order to meet our commitments, without putting undue burden on the council tax payers, the council have set a precept for 2007-08 at £99,500.

In December and June Impington Parish Council consider requests for donations from local village groups or projects that will benefit our residents. During the year we were pleased to make donations to Cambridgeshire County Council Reading Project at Histon Library; Open Gardens; Histon and Impington Day Centre; MAGPAS, Victim Support and the Bobby Scheme.

Cllr Hooda Abdullah, Committee member

Burial Ground Committee

Members: D W Payne, P D Gooden, J P Teague, G B Waters

The overall appearance of the burial ground continues to give a park like vista. As usual this is due to the high standard of regular maintenance by our grounds man Mr Terry Farr. He is once again to be congratulated for his exceptional efforts. Some facilities have been added to the shed to allow Mr Farr to complete his duties more comfortably.

There has been some work on some of the trees on residents' boundaries. Some complaints were made about overhanging and over shadowing. Also one new resident applied for and gained permission to erect a boundary fence between his property and the burial ground. Most of the trees are thriving.

Cllr J P Teague, Committee member

Arbury Park

Arbury Park has entered a transition phase this year. In the past our work has solely been on planning matters - but the first residents moved in just before Christmas, and whilst planning continues to be high priority, we are now getting involved in community issues.

There are about 30 homes occupied at this point, and contact has been made with the Community Development staff, and also a local resident who has already set up a website for the community.

The school is proceeding apace, and contact has been established with the Temporary Governing Body. It will be called Orchard Park (and the Council has an aerial photo of the area from the late 1940s showing the Chivers orchards on the site), and will open partly in September, and fully from January 2008.

Cllr Teague chairs the team looking at public art - of which there is a fair amount on site, both in the public areas, but also throughout the site. Public Art contributions are a growing requirement for all developments.

Many residents have raised concerns about noise - which we believe to be reflected from the noise barrier protecting the site. Work by the applicant's consultants suggests otherwise - but there is no explanation for peoples' perception, and some measurements. This will be an ongoing area of action for the Council.

To date, the detailed applications for over half the site have been received, and largely passed. It is interesting to note that whilst Parish Councillors have seen all of these, District Councillors have seen virtually none. It is disappointing that one particular area (A1) - which is at the entrance to the site on King's Hedges Road has had (so far) three planning applications, none of which have been accepted.

The Council continues to be involved in the Design Panel, but the number of new applications with details of the original 900 homes is declining whilst developers complete those they have permission for. There have been some problems with quality (and location relative to the Guided Bus), but these are being resolved.

The planned office/research space on site is proving difficult to sell. The amount of office space for sale (or rent) around Cambridge is very visible - and this therefore comes as no surprise. Proposals have been mooted, therefore, for replacement of some or all of this with further

housing. This will require further, full, applications - yet more work for the committee, but with a growing range of experience and skills something that should be easier to handle, and where we may seek offsite contributions for some community provision that may benefit Impington north of the A14.

A final issue for the new community is governance - and the consultations on this are about to start. It is likely that Arbury Park will become a new parish - with the residents being able to influence their own destiny. Whilst this would be a further reduction in the area of Impington Parish it does appear to be the right way forward.

Cllr Denis Payne

Planning Committee, Arbury Park Planning Committee

These two committees have dealt with a total of more than 90 planning applications, varying from a single advertising sign to that for the NIAB land, mainly in Cambridge City, but partly in Impington, of almost 1800 homes.

In addition to those via South Cambridgeshire District Council a small number of applications have been considered from the County Council, including the Park & Ride site relocation to the A10.

Work also continues on issues around the Guided Bus, where a number of planning matters are being considered, and on general issues of drainage (and flooding that results if that's not sorted) and air quality.

Lastly, the work on the Local Development Framework, and Regional Spatial Strategy is not finished, which, together with Government driven changes such as the proposed Planning Gain Supplement, continue to be of concern.

In order to share the workload, major applications and issues are often covered by joint responses with Histon Parish Council, but in addition, recent work has involved a wider parish community that continues to be concerned about the level of development to the north of Cambridge, and the impact on roads and drainage.

Whilst the Committee's views have, in a number of cases, been accepted by officers (and in at least a couple of cases by members and not by officers) this area involves a tremendous amount of work by a small group of dedicated Councillors.

The scale of some of the challenges (e.g. on transport/road infrastructure) is easily shown by this comment from the NIAB/David Wilson Estates application: "*This result was obtained by limiting TRANSYT's (TRANSYT is a road/traffic modelling package) ability to optimise in order to ensure that any excessive queuing, particularly in the a.m. peak, "was contained on the B1049 Histon bypass where it would be (relatively) harmless".*

Most recently, initial letters to the Highways Agency regarding the forthcoming widening of the A14 have raised concerns about air quality and noise, and the Council has responded to South Cambridgeshire's proposed Air Quality Management Area alongside the A14 (both sides) through the village.

Cllr Denis Payne

Website - www.hisimp.net

Responsibility for the running of the community website is delegated to a single webmaster.

During the year more than 200 sets of minutes, agendas, news items and calendar entries were added to the site. Recently the site has been changed to make it easier for colleagues from Histon to assist in maintenance of their portion, and a calendar showing Parish Council meetings and activities added.

In the year, the site has had nearly 150 thousand visits (almost 700 thousand “hits”) from countries including (a snapshot from visitors in 2007): Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand (Aotearoa), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sweden.

It continues to be a valuable resource for the community - groups working in the community are welcome to run their own section of the site, or have news and events listed.

In addition, two mailing lists are run - hisimp (155 members), and hisimp-chat (132 members), courtesy of Paul Oldham, a resident (and ex Parish Councillor) of Milton. The former provides a means for “official” news and announcements to be made, whilst the latter is open to all members to chat and discuss matters of interest. This latter facility is virtually unused, but 32 mail outs have been made on the former list.

Cllr Denis Payne

Histon Poores Land Charity

Currently the Pooresland Charity is in the process of amending its constitution to reflect the needs of the modern world and family situation. This will enable the charity to help single parents (rather than just single mothers) both in Histon **and** Impington. The Charity is always open to suggestions for distribution of the help it can offer to people.

Cllr J P Teague, Impington PC Trustee

Histon & Impington Mobile Warden Scheme

Vicky Brett resigned as Warden in the autumn of 2006 and Phyllis Peacocke was appointed to replace her. The services of the Warden have been much appreciated. Understandably the numbers of clients have fluctuated but have averaged fifteen over the year. Lynne Byrne of Age Concern continues to manage the Scheme very effectively with the help of a Link Committee made up of members from both Parish Councils.

Cllr Malcolm Ruel, Histon representative to the Scheme

Histon & Impington Youth Committee (advisory body)

During the last year, the youth service provision for the two villages has moved from being part of the Central South Cambs Patch, based at Cottenham VC to the North Cambridge Locality which is managed from the Connexions offices at Vision Park. This move has proved to be good for us in terms of adequate staffing levels and increased staff satisfaction.

Our senior youth worker, Andrea, has worked hard with her team to consolidate the youth clubs started last year. The number of young people registered with the clubs has risen from 40 in June 2005 to 89 in June 2006. The clubs have gone from strength to strength so much so that in February the single night covering both age ranges was split into two – Monday night for the juniors and Tuesday night for the seniors. The lack of adequate premises for the youth clubs continues to present problems.

In September, the introduction of sports youth clubs, based at the Recreation Ground on Thursday evening has also proved very successful and regularly gets 40+ young people attending. We are grateful to Histon Hornets for allowing us to use their tea hut, from which ‘tea and toast’ is provided and is very popular. The after-school club on Wednesdays however is struggling for numbers and provision is under review.

In addition to her work at the youth clubs, Andrea has been involved with young people at IVC, starting a drop in centre during the lunch time break. She has built good working relationships with key staff members so that information sharing and help for young people can be a joint and coordinated effort.

The skate park project has had a new lease of life with 4 young people working with Andrea and a skate park provider, GBH ramps, to produce a design for a skate park for Histon and Impington. Work continues to find an acceptable site – the Recreation Ground being the preferred option.

The youth committee have again been successful in obtaining grant funding - £6919 from the Local Network Fund to continue to develop the Sports Youth Clubs and £8000 from the Youth Bank for the skate park project. We are once again sponsoring activities on the recreation ground on Monday May 7th.

The youth committee lost the services of Anne Muncey at the beginning of the year, but have recently managed to recruit a new member – Robert Plumbly. We shall also say *au revoir* to Andrea who starts maternity leave at the beginning of May. We hope to find out soon who her replacement will be.

Impington Parish Councillor Hooda Abdullah, representative to the Advisory Body

May 2007

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