

Impington Council - Spring 2007



May 2007

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Thanks to contributors to this issue including: Hooda Abdullah, Brian Ing, Vanessa Kelly, Denis Payne, Josephine Teague, Steve Unwin, Geoff Waters.



The end of the line for Histon Station?

The following letter was sent to the Cambridge Evening News - it says it all!

"Dear Sir

The villages of Histon and Impington don't have many grand old buildings, but they do have their Railway Station. This is part of our heritage and for many it holds memories of a busy railway of bygone years.



The County Council want to demolish it to drive the concrete Guided Busway route through the middle of the two villages. We'd prefer to keep the Station building.

The Council says that would cost too much and that the building has no intrinsic value. We say it's up to the community to decide the future of the building and the site.

It could perhaps provide any number of alternative uses such as a waiting room, internet café, business/retail units, museum, community centre, mini conferencing facility, cycle shelters, disabled parking etc.....

*We would like The County Council to reconsider their decision. To persuade them to do so, we strongly urge members of our community register **their** views. This can be done by registering online at www.hisimp.net/sos.htm or by signing the Save Our Station paper petition which is available at many local shops and businesses.*

This action is supported by the following people:- County Councillor David Jenkins, District Councillor Jonathan Chatfield, Impington Parish Council Chairman Denis Payne, Histon Parish Council Chairman Max Parish, Impington Parish Councillor Pene Nudds, Steve Hill (Railway Vue), Steve Fallon (Histon Football Club), Tim Broad (Lighthouse Toys), Nigel Walter (Arch:Angel Architects), Rachael Cooper (Resident)"

So, please sign up to one of the petitions in local shops or on-line.



The signalman's hut

We've had a lot of support for the idea of saving, and moving, the hut.

But we're still some way from finding the skills or team to do the work. Are you, or do you know, a builder who could help?

Police Changes

Policing changes in the village have made the front page of the Evening News, the national media, and election leaflets - but what is actually happening?

The key staff, our PCSO Lee Page, and Community Beat Manager, Sandie Carrington, are changing roles. Lee will be working at IVC - he's been at IVC as part of his normal role for the last couple of years, and senior college staff have recognised a need for more of a Police presence during the normal working week.

Whilst Lee will have an office at the College and will spend most of his time there he will still work some late shifts with the new PCSO.

The new PCSO is Jackie King, currently working in Cottenham.

We will no longer have a dedicated Community Beat Manager, but rather two offi-



PCSO Jackie King



PC Phil Shulver

Oakington, Rampton and Westwick.

If you have any questions on this, or other topics that you want to raise related to policing in the village, the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel (and everyone is welcome to this) is at the Recreation Centre, at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) on 16 May.

cers will cover the village. PC Phil Shulver will be responsible for Impington (as well as Waterbeach, Landbeach and Milton) but will share many aspects of policing with PC Paul Rogerson who has added Histon to Cottenham,



PC Paul Rogerson

Register, Report, and Reunite.... with *Immobilise*

That is the message going out by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to encourage people to safeguard their property.

Immobilise is a free web service that provides a secure database that allows you to register your mobile phones, laptops, ipods, sat navs, music systems, cycles or any other valuables that have a unique serial number. One aim is to help reduce mobile phone crime and robbery.

Registering is free, quick and easy. Once a phone is registered, should it be lost or stolen, it can be reported online and blocked immediately by all service providers.

Any registered item can be recorded as lost or stolen and then instantly appears on the Police National Stolen Equipment Database. This is used by all UK Police forces to trace owners of stolen property.

The service is supported by, amongst others, The Home Office, The Mobile Industry Crime Action Forum, The Metropolitan Police, The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit, and almost all the major UK Police forces.

Anyone wishing to enter the details of their mobile phone, or other property, onto the database should go to www.immobilise.com for more information.

Trees

Certain trees in the village are covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), and copies of the orders can be inspected at the Parish Office or at Cambridge on request.

A TPO means that permission is required for work to be done on the tree.

When residents apply to South Cambridgeshire District Council for tree work, our own Tree Warden, Geoff Waters, is asked by the Parish Council to inspect the site and make any comments on the work needed

Geoff also advises the Parish Council on their own trees, at The Coppice, Copse, Burial Ground and Homefield Park for example, and keeps an eye out for dangerous or



Councillor Geoff Waters

diseased trees.

Some key points from a recent training session Geoff attended are:

- Tree Preservation Orders make it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree without the planning authority's permission
- TPOs are designed to protect trees which make a significant impact on their local surroundings
- Applications to protect specific trees can be made by any person to SCDC and if implemented the landowner and other interested parties are always advised of the Order
- Special provisions also apply to trees within Conservation Areas but not benefiting from a TPO – 6 weeks' notice of application to carry out work must be given to the local planning authority, but if the tree is less than 7.5cm diameter (measured 1.5 metres above ground) no permission is required even in a Conservation Area
- If you see works being carried out on a protected tree, telephone SCDC on 08450 450 500 and ask for the Trees & Landscape officer
- Works can sometimes be carried out on dying, dead or dangerous trees under TPOs without permission – but always check with your local authority first as fines of up to £20,000 can apply!

Always check with South Cambridgeshire District Council before carrying out tree work and take legal advice if you are unsure of your rights and obligations.

Brian Ing

Brian was co-opted at a recent Council meeting to fill one of the vacancies created from the resignations of Trevor Silk and Mick Withers. He's provided this biography:



Brian Ing has lived in the village for nearly thirty years (and a further seven years in the City before that). Most recent village involvements have been as Secretary of Histon Cricket Club and an active Friend of the Rec: this often means running the bar at all the Friends' events..

Now semi-retired (which means that he is busier than ever) he still undertakes some consulting work (including pro bono activities through the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants, where he is secretary of the Charities Committee and a founder liveryman), and as Secretary (and now Chairman elect) of a world wide professional body for management consultants.

Brian is now in a phase of "paying back" for his good fortune and enjoyable professional life, by offering his services to assist the Parish Council. He has no particular political orientation, just addresses each issue on its merits. He is a believer in professional standards and hopes to pay back for some of the benefits he has enjoyed from living in the village.

Brian lives on the eastern fringe of the village in Woodcock Close.

Parking

The Council has been getting an increased number of complaints from residents regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking in the village. The Council has to report these complaints to the Police.

It is up to each of us to think about the effect on other road users and pedestrians when we choose where to park. The Highway Code gives good guidance here, apart from the obviously signposted and yellow lined areas, the most frequently ignored guidance includes not parking

- Near a school entrance
- At or near a bus stop
- Opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- Opposite or within 10m of a junction unless in an authorised parking space
- On a bend

Parking on New Road, near the Recreation Ground entrance and the junction with Bridge Road, is one area where safety is compromised by inconsiderate parking.

The Highway Code adds: **DO NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement unless signs permit it** (it's not permitted anywhere in the village). This not only obstructs and inconveniences pedestrians, forcing parents with prams out into the road, but also does severe damage to our grass verges and kerb stones.

The effect of vehicles on grass verges can be seen clearly alongside the Copse on New Road and in many places on Cambridge Road. In some cases posts have been installed to prevent encroachment, but this is costly and is unsightly in the village environment.

Please, if you drive, think about others when you park

Planning - an alternative approach?

Jo Teague writes: I recently attended a meeting called "Making Neighbourhoods" at Milton Road Primary School. This had been organised by SHAPE East and was attended by people from Gallaghers and the Community Development worker for Arbury Park amongst others included parents.

The children were given a map of Arbury Park and told about the new neighbourhood and people who may be moving there. Their task was to say what was needed for the new residents to enjoy their environment - some direction was given, about details and the pros and cons, and much discussion ensued. A wonderful pyramid was designed for the community centre and an alternative one had a swimming pool on the roof. They strongly believed that the community centre, a police station and the school with the shops should be at the centre of the development. Perfect reasoning, so nobody has to walk too far to get there.

They put both parks beside each other, so that when they got bored with one, they could go to the other. Also, they would not put the parks by the supermarket because there were too many cars and "Mummy would not let them play" there while she went shopping. One group suggested a zoo, but maybe a wild animal could escape and eat them.

It was an enthralling meeting, one of the best and most productive I have attended. The children applied so much

common sense (possibly with a little help).

May I suggest we ask the children first and then go to the architects, developers and planners?

We are the Champions

What an achievement! On April 14th Histon F.C beat Welling 1-0 and became champions of the Nationwide Conference



League (to be known next season as The Blue Square Premier League), the highest level in the club's history and a level thought (by some) to be unattainable for a small village club such as Histon (who actually play in the village of Impington). But all credit to the management and players at the Glassworld Stadium, who have pushed forward, stayed focused and taken the club into the highest non-league table possible. As a recent entry on the HFC message board says: "Not bad for a village side".

The club's determination and success ripples from the top down. Gareth Baldwin and the directors of the club have skilfully steered the club by making prudent decisions and sponsorship deals. An army of volunteers, all riding high on the "feel good" family atmosphere of the club, have also played a vital role.

The management and players always have time for the fans, both young and old. After the match Steve Fallon and the players retire to the club house, much to the delight of the fans and especially the autograph hunting children, many of whom already know the players from school coaching days held regularly by Steve Fallon Sports.

But how will the team fare in the higher league and how high can we go? That maybe a question for the next (regularly held) fans' forum meeting, but with current form and our support - who knows?

For more information see: www.histonfc.co.uk

Air Quality

The District Council (SCDC) is responsible for monitoring and managing air quality. Monitoring is done by three automatic stations in Impington, Bar Hill and Barrington, and by 19 simpler monitors elsewhere (two of which are in Impington).

Some of the pollutants monitored are the nitrogen oxides - nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide - known as NO_x. Levels of NO_x are higher along the A14 between Bar Hill and Milton than government targets allow. SCDC is therefore required to declare an Air Quality Management Area and then draw up an Air Quality Action Plan for improving air quality.

Road traffic is the main source of NO_x in the UK, so NO_x will only go down if there is a reduction in fuel consumption along this length of the A14. Traffic must be kept mov-

ing then: widening will help (in the short term), as will increasing capacity at junctions by widening filter lanes, altering road markings and signal times. Slowing traffic may also help - cars are usually more efficient at 40-60mph rather than 70.



Air Quality Monitor alongside the A14
grid ref :543739, 261625

But measures to keep the A14 moving will have a knock-on effect on surrounding roads. If traffic getting off the A14 is given priority at junctions then other traffic (eg that on the B1049) will suffer!

Do we want more congestion in Impington? Is that a trade-off worth paying?

A14 Noise

Anyone driving along the A14, between Histon and Milton, last autumn couldn't help but notice the long high fence being erected next to the Arbury Park development. You could be forgiven for thinking that it was there to stop drivers being distracted from the busy building scene behind. But the real purpose of this large structure soon became apparent: to shield new Arbury Park residents from the noise of traffic on the A14. A laudable aim given that traffic flows along this infamous road are the highest in Cambridgeshire, with 3 times the national average of heavy goods vehicles plying along it. Unfortunately, the downside of this new barrier is the level of noise that seems to be reflected off it which now seems to reach even the most northerly homes in Impington.

Right from the initial planning stages for Arbury Park, Impington Parish Council has raised concerns about the possible impact of reflected noise. Since the barrier was erected, residents have been reporting increased noise in their area- we have since been working to bring these to the attention of the District Council for action. Unfortunately, the relevant Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 24) allows new properties some legal redress against noise but does not even cover reflected noise for existing properties.

Our last newsletter sought residents' views on any aspect of Arbury Park. Many comments were received on the reflected noise: "marked increase", "continuous noise", "rushing water noise", "impossible to sleep with window open" and "noise barrier (is) clearly reflective rather than absorptive". Residents in north-east Impington say they have experienced a marked increase in traffic noise from the A14 (it was barely noticeable before). But with the warmer weather, residents in the southern part (Cambridge Rd and Burrough Fields) are also starting to voice concerns about increased noise levels.

Noise levels on and around the A14 were not measured before the erection of the barrier, so it is impossible to say how much they have increased. WSP Acoustics, the developers' consultants, originally forecast an increase in traffic noise of 0.9dBA which "should be imperceptible".

But that's clearly not the case!

The Council has been working on this:

- we've meet with SCDC Environmental Health staff
- we continue to raise this at regular meetings with

SCDC about Arbury Park

- we've raised our concerns on environmental issues likely to arise from the A14 widening with the Highways Agency and our MP, Jim Paice.

But, so far, to little avail. A further report from WSP Acoustics dismissed our concerns (on one set of measurements, on one day and at one location).

Traffic on the A14 is going to grow and, with it, the noise. What can be done?

- On the north side of the A14, a matching noise barrier could be erected, perhaps in conjunction with a raised evergreen tree belt. WSP thought this would make a difference (perhaps by as much as 10dBA), but they made it clear that the developers, Gallaghers, would not pay for it.

- The widening of the A14 may be an opportunity to improve the road surface - 'whisper tarmac' is expensive but would reduce the high pitched noise of tyres on the deteriorating surface. A survey of noise pollution now would give the Parish Council a base from which to judge and argue future conditions.

- The current barrier is intended to be temporary. Developments (offices/light industry) next to the A14 were to act as sound barriers for the housing of Arbury Park: "the commercial development plays an important role in shielding the housing from traffic noise from the A14" (Peter Studdert, Cambridgeshire Horizons). But plans are being considered to replace some of these units with housing since there is little demand for commercial premises. This new housing will take on the role of the traffic noise barrier. But will it absorb sound (as the current barrier does, in part) or reflect more? And does PPG24 give us any power anyway?

What do **YOU** think?

ENVIRO GROUP

Open letter to the volunteers from the Parish Council:

The Council writes to everyone in the group who has worked so phenomenally hard over the last few months to transform parts of the village, giving up many of your weekends in the process.

The work in the Copse is especially of note and the tree and hedgerow planting in that area and elsewhere, funded by grants and donations, is particularly pleasing.

On behalf of our residents, the Parish Council wishes to thank you all and hope you will be encouraged by the results to continue the good work in Impington.

IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED - WELL DONE!

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 up issues with the relevant authorities.

We look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts, comments, stories and offers of help about the station and gatekeeper's 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.