



HISIMP NEWS

The Newsletter of Histon & Impington Parish Council



FAREWELL TO MAX PARISH AFTER 20 YEARS SERVICE



20 years ago, in 1993, a young man called Max Parish came forward for election onto the Parish Council. He brought with him a wealth of involvement in local matters, particularly a long association with the Scouts movement and with his sons having grown up in Histon wished to widen that involvement within the community and enhance it where he could. He was of course welcomed with open arms.

In his early years on Histon Parish Council Max never missed the chance to climb up trees putting up Christmas lights on the Green, and was instrumental, with others, in the introduction of employment contracts and legal requirements to bring council out of "Dibley" mode and formed into the "big beast" it has now become.

He quickly became elevated to Vice Chairman, taking over as Chairman on the retirement of Steve Wilkinson in 2001. No-one can recall that he missed a Full Council meetings in the whole time on Council, which is some feat when they are a monthly commitment.

We do know that hours and hours of time have been put in on preparing various robust responses on issues affecting us all, notably early attempts to locate a giant Sainsburys on the edge of the villages. This together with countless appearances at South Cambs District Council offices speaking for or against a whole host of planning applications, or at various Inquiries giving evidence.

Max was delighted and honoured to be chosen as the first Chairman of the newly grouped Histon & Impington Parish Council in April 2012. This came after 10 years work he had put in trying to realise this move towards a more streamlined and effective Council.

After receiving his recent letter outlining his plans to retire from the Council, the Clerk commented that although his retirement will impact on the staff this would be nothing to the gap left on Council, which will doubtless quickly become apparent as the Council adjusts to a new structure. She will however not miss his dreadful handwriting or paragraph-less documents!

20 years later, although looking no different to that first time in 1993, Max leaves the Council with some regret but has said he hopes to return some time in the future. He hopes he has set the new Council on the path to success and wishes his successor as Chairman well with continuing this task. When pressed, his regrets have included siting of the youth shelter on School Hill, which is not particularly well used, and the failure of attempts to introduce various traffic schemes in Histon. His own "highs" outweigh these disappointments, and he says he can honestly say he has enjoyed every minute of it; the highs and the lows, the challenges, the victories, learning from the knockbacks, the achievements and also the privilege of working with so many Councillors over the years.

His connections with the Pooresland Charity, IVC and any Working Group he can become

involved with at the Parish Council will remain as one can only presume will his fondness for the odd "jar" at the Red Lion to catch up on the latest news. Maybe he will even return to running the London Marathon, something he has done in support of the Scout movement, and also on one occasion in support of the "Say No To Sainsbury" group.

Whatever he chooses to fill his time, we wish him and his wife Fiona well for the future and thank him for all his hard work and commitment over the years and Fiona for sharing him with us!

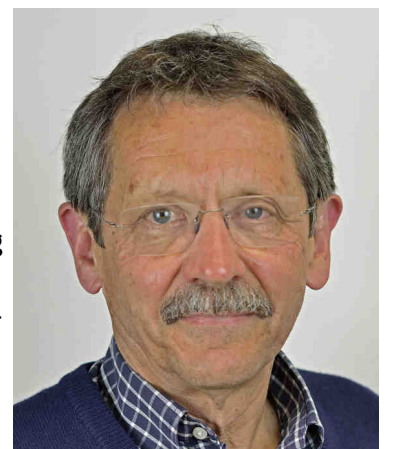
NEW COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DAVID JENKINS

At the Parish Council's AGM David Jenkins was elected as Chairman. He writes:

These are exciting times for parish councils and especially for Histon & Impington a year on from the 'joining'. Both the

'localism' agenda and the state of the economy (with higher tiers of government doing less) mean that parish councils have more scope to set their own agendas and to influence the development of their communities. I'm excited by the opportunities which they present and I stood for chair because I wanted to be at the heart of the council's response.

I've only been a member of the council for a few months but I have been involved with it and attended its meetings for 8 years. I have worked closely with many councillors and



(Continued on page 3)

Parish Office Contacts

Open at the Recreation Ground Centre

Monday to Thursday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Other times by appointment

Parish Clerk: Angela Young
clerk@hisimp.net

Admin/Planning: Chelsea Presland
admin@hisimp.net

Telephone: 235906

Recreation Manager: Lynda Marsh
rec.clerk@hisimp.net

Telephone: 232423

Parish Councillors

Chairman

David Jenkins - Pease Way 07739 758859
david.jenkins@hisimp.net

Vice Chairman

Denis Payne - Impington Lane 233577
denis.payne@hisimp.net

Hooda Abdullah - South Road 235989

Marian Cleaver - High Street 232897

Ian Cooper - Brackenbury 236359

Marcus Dann - Cottenham Road 234060

Neil Davies - Dwyer Joyce Close 232514

Janet Diplock - Oates Way 503048

John Dunn - Croft Close 232698

John Emmines - Kay Hitch Way 236932

Cedric Foster - Clay Street 234156

Brian Ing - Woodcock Close 234291

David Legge - Villa Road 233565

Derek Marston - Dwyer Joyce Close 236131

Pene Nudds - Clay Close Lane 237155

Edd Stonham - Normanton Way 564534

Josephine Teague - Milton Rd 235127

County Councillors:

David Jenkins - Pease Way 236232

Mike Mason - Cottenham 01954 250391

District Councillors:

Jonathon Chatfield - Parr Close 520132

Edd Stonham - Normanton Way 232345

Neil Davies - Dwyer Joyce Close 232514

Councillor email addresses can be found at
www.hisimp.net

Why not join the Chat mail list?

Visit www.hisimp.net go to Contact Us and sign up to discuss anything that is relevant to happenings or events in Histon and Impington

You can also join the news mail list!

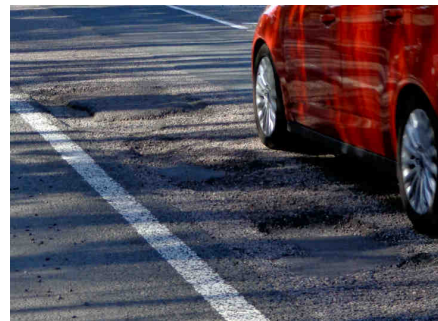
TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN

The county council has just published its Transport Delivery Plan. This replaces the Network Service Plan and is a single document based on the council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) and its Business Plan. It's based on a new approach and one that recognises that the council has under-invested in its roads and has got a lot of work to do to catch up.

At present the council has only committed projects for the first 6 months of 2013/14 and none of these are in Histon and Impington. In fact out of a total of £4.8 million only £107 thousand is to be spent in South Cambs.

In making its list of priority projects the council has reviewed the condition of the main A and B roads in the county and has rated them according to 5 parameters as being 'good enough', 'condition deteriorating' or 'really quite bad'. It has then taken the 'really quite bad' group and further rated these according to their importance for 'economic development', 'road safety' and 'community impact' and to whether or not they are 'persistent problems'. This then results in a final ranking which has enabled the projects for 2013/14 to be decided.

Bridge Road in Impington is on the list but because it was deemed to have a low importance for economic development it has



not been accorded a high priority. Quite how the busiest B road in the county carrying as much commuter traffic as the A10 can be deemed to have a low importance is difficult to comprehend and is being challenged. The council's map (bit.ly/14fPJR3) shows the roads in Histon and Impington and we need to recognise that there is not much red. Roads in the north of the county have suffered more serious neglect and show a lot of red!

However this also needs to be looked at in context. It is estimated that the county's roads need about £300 million of catch-up investment. The council has borrowed just £90 million to address this and only spent £25 million in 2012/13 and that included about £10 million on 'routine maintenance'. And every year the backlog gets bigger of course.

There is of course a new council and a new organisation responsible for highways. A total complement of about 160 has been shrunk to about 100 with 25 new people still to be added. The uncertainty of the last 6 months or so and the need for new people to be trained and for the new organisation to 'bed in' will mean that we will eventually have lived with a highways function operating below strength for about 12 months.

However we are where we are and (1) the scale of the problem is recognised and (2) an objective and transparent approach is being taken to address it. That's good news and as long as 'our' schemes are on the list and are being fairly rated we can be confident that they will eventually be funded.

FUTURE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT VISION

The Parish Council is starting to consider a long term vision for the Villages across a number of issues.

One of these is how to improve traffic and transport in our community, possible aims might include:

- improving road-safety within the Villages
- reducing barriers to pedestrian and cyclist movements
- ensuring vulnerable groups feel confident moving around
- improving access to retail and public buildings
- retaining and enhancing access to the many heritage sites and open spaces
- reducing noise and air pollution by improving traffic flows
- minimising the clutter of signage and 'harsh' infrastructure

As part of the consultation for this, at 7:30pm on Monday July 8th at the Recreation Ground Pavilion there is to be a meeting to which all

residents are invited to give their views on a vision for the villages for the next 10-15 years.

If you are interested, there are a number of interesting projects and case studies around the UK:

- Cambridge itself is embarking on a 20mph speed limit across the city
- the 'Poynton Regenerated' video on YouTube (<http://youtu.be/-vzDDMzq7d0>) is fascinating to watch - does it remind you of somewhere closer to home?
- many places, such as Stonehouse, Gloucestershire (<http://t.co/g8mEOP4OHx>) have introduced 'shared space' to address some of the issues above
- we already have an example of a project to 'declutter' New Road of too many signs and road markings
- a number of charities exist to improve the situation, including Living Streets and 20sPlenty

If you are interested in any of these issues, then please come along on the 8th July and perhaps follow @HisImpHighways on Twitter

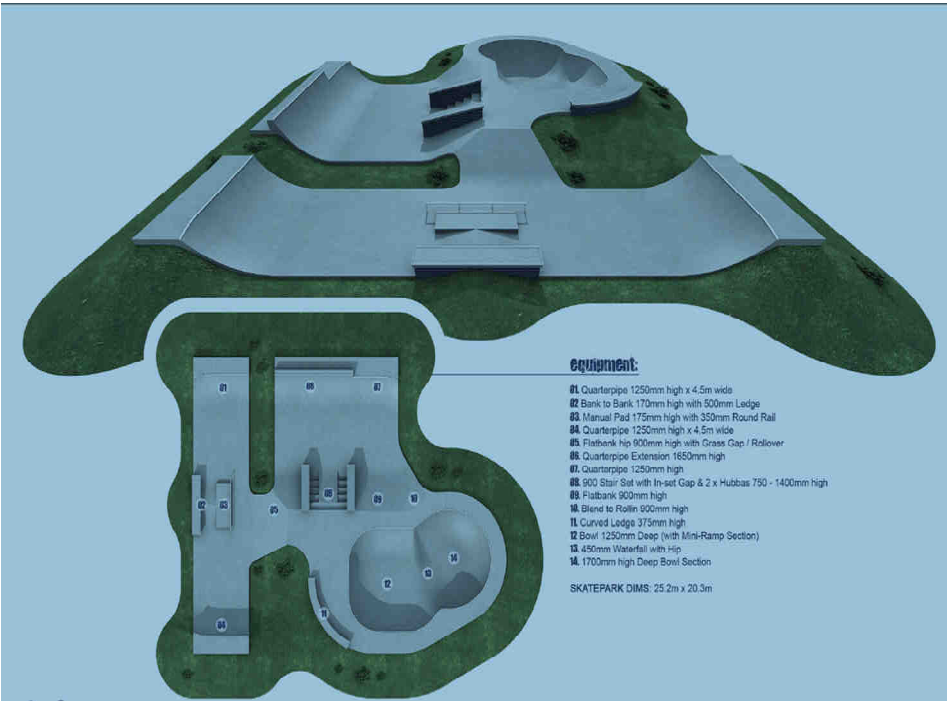
SKATE PARK

By the time this newsletter goes to press, the skate park project group will have held a "requirements gathering" meeting at the Recreation Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to get feedback on a proposed design for a skate park. The design, shown here, was used to generate additional ideas and gather requirements from skaters, BMX riders and other users who were all invited to attend.

The project group will then take this information to a number of skate park providers and work with them to agree and finalise one design to take forward. If you missed this meeting and would like to contribute, please get in touch with the group via the Facebook group "Histon Skatepark".

Fundraising activities in support of the skate park will be a key part of the project - the first such event will be a Skate/BMX Jam and BBQ to be held at Orchard Park Skatepark in July. Look out for more details nearer the time.

If you can help with fundraising or publicity for this project please get in touch with the group via Facebook or via the Parish Clerk.



NEW YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Histon and Impington Parish Council is looking to develop a new range of activities for young people in the villages. It needs your ideas and opinions to make sure that the activities will be well attended and successful.

Young people and their parents who live in the villages are invited to take part in our survey. The responses will be used to plan for new activities starting in September. The survey can be accessed via the Parish Web site: bit.ly/10GbgE5; alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk via the Parish Office.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEG?

Then why not rent an allotment plot? Get a healthier lifestyle and exercise for all the family! Know that you're eating fresher & tastier food.



There are currently small, medium and large plots available on two sites.

To arrange a viewing call Chelsea on 235906

Don't miss our "Pick you plot" and plot holder working party & BBQ.

Meet at our Gatehouse Road site from 9:30am Saturday 8th June

Central

Rare opportunity to acquire a neat and compact plot in a near central location on a small vibrant site. Situated opposite the Junior School playing field and beside the Cemetery at our Glebe Way site. Annual rent £10.

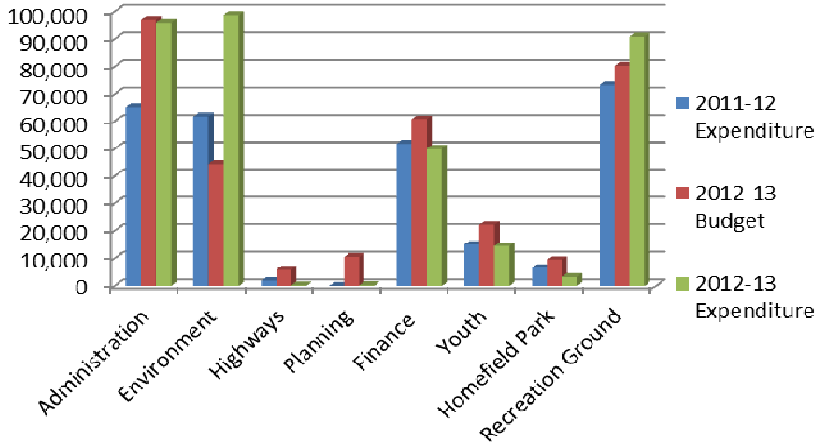
Village Fringe

Opportunity to acquire immediate possession of a medium or large plot on a large tranquil site. Situated just beyond the Guided Busway towards Girton, opposite the new Community Wood, with good vehicular access at our New (Gatehouse) Road site. Annual rent £8.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

In the year to March 2013 Histon & Impington Parish Council spent £353,904 (budget £330,465) on maintaining and improving the community facilities and carrying out its other duties as a Parish Council. The largest single expenditure was £58,976 on refurbishing the Children's Play Area on the Green. However, £26,000 of grants came from WREN and Histon Feast towards the final cost.

The Parish Council employs five staff, after the retirement of the Burial Groundsman in December. As well as running the Parish Office and the administration of Council, the workforce also look after such community assets as the Recreation Ground; Homefield Park; War Memorial; Village Green, South Road Recreation Ground, Burial Ground, Allotments, and The Copse plus the new land at the rear of Manor Park. This includes general maintenance such as grass cutting, including the villages' verges, and trees.



The chart shows Committee spend. One of the larger costs is the Recreation Ground. However, after income is taken into account the net spend this year was £53,518 against a budget of £43,475. This is budgeted to increase in 2013-14 by £4,127, nearly all of which is delayed until the new financial year.

The Parish Council paid £38,856 in repayments and interest on the long-term loans it took out to purchase the Recreation Ground and build the Pavilion, Offices and Multi Use Games Area.

The Parish Council is proposing to spend £351,637 in 2013-14, of which £54,220 will be income from the Recreation Ground and other sources. £263,220 will be provided by residents via Council Tax. The balance of £34,197 will be taken from reserves, including money from new property building.

Chairman David Jenkins writes:

(Continued from page 1)

have taken a leading role in the campaigns firstly to save the Histon station building and more recently to build safeguards for its redevelopment and that of adjacent sites into South Cambs' Local Plan.

I look forward to working with other councillors with more experience than me and together being able to fashion plans for Histon & Impington which enable it to develop as the community wants and not according to the desires of developers or the dictates of local government.

Max Parish will be a hard act to follow. He had led the Parish Council with skill and has played a key role in bringing the two parishes together. He deserves the break which he is now taking but I trust that he will continue to be close by for advice.

In addition to my interests and activity within the village I continue to be active as a business consultant. I enjoy travel, I maybe have an unhealthy interest in good food but I balance this with a determination to keep fit, and I am more than a little pleased by recent Welsh rugby success.

ANNUAL REPORT BY CLLR MAX PARISH

Organisation

The new Parish Council has been in existence since April 2012 and is a joint Council of the parishes of Histon and Impington. However the two Parishes still exist as separate entities, raise separate parish precepts and hold separate annual parish meetings. Apart from that it is a single Council with 19 Councillors. Currently we are one Councillor light and would welcome overtures from anyone who feels that they can find a few hours a week to help their local community.

The Parish Council has seven individual Committees; Planning, Highways, Environment, Recreation Ground, 'Finance, Legal and Administration', Youth and Employment. Some of the committees originally split their meetings between management issues and strategic actions, although that distinction between the agenda of individual meetings has become blurred and will be reviewed in the coming year in the light of working experience. Working groups within and across committees have also been set up, with finite roles and life, which can co-opt non-councillors where knowledge and expertise would help the Committees to function appropriately. In all our Committees though, Councillors make all decisions involving the spending of money.

This report covers the first full year of operation of the joint Council and as expected there has been a fair amount of bedding down involved.

Changes

So what has changed? It may surprise you to know that the old Parish Councils operated in slightly different ways and thus we have had to agree new standing orders (rules) where these were different and put in place new joint policies where there were differences between those operated by the separate councils. Having said that, this has been a relatively smooth, if time-consuming operation, ably lead by our Parish Clerk and her staff, with some temporary help from outside the villages.

Councillors have also had to get to know each other in terms of ideas, expertise and opinions and perhaps surprisingly Councillors have had to improve their understanding of each other's history and decisions as well as streets and amenities.

We have been able to save some administration costs, including rates, insurance cover and audit fees but probably the greatest saving to date has been not to do lots of things twice, which has freed up the Clerk substantially to do things that were having to be



shelved because of lack of time.

What has not changed though is the breadth of potential community issues things that nowadays involve the Parish Council and the more time that there is available then the more things that there are to fill that space.

Planning

As usual, our life is dominated by planning decisions and current large developments being pushed through at Northstowe, NIAB1, NIAB2 and NIAB3 and the North West Cambridge University development at Girton. All are now going ahead despite reliance on major A14 improvements. Our Planners are satisfied that a few minor lane alterations between the Histon Interchange & Girton will now fantastically cater for all the increase in traffic that will be generated.

Slightly closer to home, the new development on the old cardboard factory site (Primrose Lane) is well under way, as well as completion of the second phase of Merrington Place. In addition, a review to the District Council's Local Plan is well under way and due to be completed in 2014. A public exhibition was held in January in the Recreation Ground Centre. The proposals in the plan put forward by the County Council to build a large housing estate on the Buxhall Farm site to the north of the villages, comprising initially of some 420 houses, has invoked strong reaction from residents. Consequently an action group composed of local residents has been set up to fight this.

Included in the initial Local Plan proposals, as well, is a local Planning Policy Statement for potential development around the old station area, put forward by the Parish Council. A meeting was held with local residents to explain the thinking behind the proposals, which is to develop the area for mixed development (housing and small business units) and make it a welcoming gateway for users of the guided bus stop. Unfortunately a few days before this meeting a potential developer held an exhibition at the old Bishop's DIY site for proposals, originally brought forward sev-

eral years ago, to erect a block of flats there. It is fair to say that comments received by the Parish Council on the Bishop's site proposals showed that these plans would not be enthusiastically received.

Environment

The Environment Committee's role is to look after our open spaces, though we continue to have a separate Recreation Ground Commit-

tee because of the amount of work involved in this, but it has been agreed to transfer the responsibility for Homefield Park to Environment at the end of this financial year. In return we are transferring the responsibility for our playgrounds to the Recreation Ground Committee. So, trees, grass cutting, the Village Green, Burial Ground and War Memorial, are all the responsibility of the Environment Committee. It is fair to say that without volunteer groups such as our litter pickers and the enviro.volunteers much of the improvements to the state of the two villages would either not get done or would involve us paying higher council taxes. It is a pity therefore that this year has seen a huge rise in the amount of graffiti around the villages. The costs of its removal falls on all residents and the desire of a few local would-be "Banksy's" has not so far been curbed by efforts of our Local Police in conjunction with the School to point out the damage it causes.

New play equipment has been installed on the South Road Recreation Ground, which currently, after much debate continues to be a designated area for dog walking as well as children's play.

Highways

The County Council continues to cut its highway funding to the detriment of our local projects. Improvements to the A14/ B1049 crossing for cyclists promised for January 2013 seem as far away as ever, as is the promised resurfacing of this junction by the Highways Agency due in December 2012. Where we allocated funding to kick start projects such as the High Street/ Station Road junction improvements there has been no sign of any action from the County to dust down the de-



signs and start work. Similarly, we agreed to pay for signage to make the agreed 30mph limit extension on the B1049 from the Green up to the village boundary to the North and yet still many months later there is no hint that available time is being programmed in.

There has been great debate over whether the villages should have a unilateral 20mph speed limit imposed. Already we have agreed to consult with our residents in Kings Meadow, as to whether they wish to join the City 20 mph limit scheme and there is a groundswell north of the A14 too to impose such a limit within the rest of Histon and Impington streets. 2013/14 could see the start of such a consultation exercise, although with all the other things on its plate the County Council will surely have difficulty

making this a priority.

The A14 is due to start being widened shortly between Girton and the B1049 interchange, as mentioned already. The Highways Agency has refused to consult on this programme and with limited funds being made available to complete it, the Parish Council's attempts to include noise barrier improvements for our residents closest to the junction have been met by complete indifference so far.

I finish on Highways with one upbeat note. Our local Highways supervisor Steve Thulborn has done his best to cope with the ever increasing list of pavement and roadway issues that arise in the two villages, as elsewhere. I am sure we are no different from every other community in the County in wanting the ever widening potholes filled in and pathways kept clear of vegetation. His liaison with Cllr. Foster has been first class, within the limits of his resources of course. We now hear that he is being moved on and our villages will be the worse for his departure. No sign of a replacement naturally.

It is worth noting at this point that over the next twelve months most of the street lights in Histon & Impington will either be completely replaced or the lamps themselves renewed, as part of a government funded county wide project to have all maintenance and replacements carried out by private contractors for the next twenty-five years. Part of the deal however will involve the removal of a number of lights altogether along our streets, but not on the main roads and junctions. Plans for individual roads will be placed on the Parish Council's website when known or at www.lightingcambridgeshire.com

Youth

The Youth Committee has come back into the fold of the Parish Council, but has kept Andrea Cramp from the County Council Youth Team and Rob Plumbly chair of the Junior School Governors on as co-optees. Andrea runs the very successful Parish funded Junior Youth Club at the College and in 2013-14 has been given the funds to pilot a senior version. Meanwhile, as well as baby-sitting courses, skate board tasters, the chairman Cllr. Abdullah is working with Steve Wallis who ran the very successful jubilee film project on plans for further filming opportunities.

Recreation Ground

We are indebted to the Friends of the Recreation Ground not only for fund-raising but for organising events including the recently held Impington Running Festival. 2012 produced the Jubilee celebrations, the "Mini-Olympics" and the Bonfire Burn 10k and de-



spite the lack of fine weather throughout the summer, our ground staff continue to provide first class facilities for our sports teams. We are all indebted to Cllr. Neil Davies for continuing to make such events happen and it was pleasing for his efforts to be rewarded in the wider community by winning the South Cambridgeshire Village Hero award in 2012.

Homefield Park, that unsung jewel adjacent to the B1049, has been receiving much attention over the last couple of years and new fencing along the eastern boundary has been installed this year.

Finally the refurbished play area on the Green was opened at the Feast Festival and I think everyone was surprised at the enthusiasm with which it was greeted when our MP (Sir) Jim Paice, with the help of one or two eager young volunteers, cut the ribbon.



Employment

The Parish Council now employs five people with the retirement of the Burial Groundsman Terry Farr in December. Extra part time help is utilised at the Recreation Ground during the summer months. I would like to thank all our staff, ably led by our long term Parish Clerk Angela Young, not only for their hard work during the year but for making the transition from two Parish Councils to one a relatively seamless operation. The office staff spend a lot of their time dealing with problems and issues raised by members of the public; the public face of the Parish Council and it is to their credit that they achieve this day in, day out with a smile on their faces.

Lastly, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for their work on behalf of our community this year, especially the chairs of our individual committees; Neil Davies

(Recreation Ground and Community Facilities), Pene Nudds (Environment), Denis Payne (Planning), Hooda Abdullah (Youth) and David Legge (Highways). I would also like to thank Brian Ing, my Vice Chairman for his unfailing support during the year and for chairing our Employment Committee.



2013-14

At this time it is useful to look forward at what the Parish Council wants to achieve in its second year of this four-year term. Some of the aims are long term, such as implementing Neighbourhood Planning, managing our exposure to the A14 eventual upgrade and the Community Facilities group's desire to bring forward the long term lease of the land at Bypass Farm at the northern end of the Villages for community use. Some will be shorter, we hope, such as the Station Area Policy Plan, 30mph speed limit signs and the Station Road/High Street Junction upgrade.

It is likely that the potential of Buxhall Farm large housing development will take up a lot of our attention, notably around the infrastructure deficit and traffic issues that exists in the two villages already. However, after twenty years service as a Parish Councillor, twelve of those as a Chairman, I have decided that now is the time to hand over the reins and step down as a Parish Councillor. I therefore have to hand over the delivery of these and other issues that will inevitably arise to other capable hands. I look back on my time as a Councillor with fond memories and feel as though it was only yesterday when I attended my first meeting in the Coach House off Station Road. I would like to thank everyone who, over the years, has made this adventure so amenable and wish the Parish Council every success in the future in keeping Histon & Impington a special place to live.

CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteers Needed - Older People’s Co-ordinator

When	Mondays 11.45 - 1.45
How often	Twice a month
Where	Recreation Ground
What for	To make tea/coffee
Who for	People attending the exercise class for stroke survivors

If you can spare 2 hours twice or even once a month to help at this very much needed exercise class please contact: Jean Newman 07772437789 or jean.newman7@ntlworld.com

Can you make a difference to the life of a child or young person with learning disabilities in your area?

Cambridgeshire Mencap is looking for volunteers for its Befriending Scheme. Our scheme matches volunteers with young people with learning disabilities, to enable them to socialise, doing fun things like bowling or going to the cinema. It only takes a few hours of your time and it really does change lives.

We think our volunteers are exceptional and you could be too! We give training and support, but it’s the young people who make it all worthwhile. Rob said "I’m so glad I got in touch about volunteering. If you’re thinking about volunteering; just do it, you’ll never regret it."

Like to know more?

Contact Marika Newman on 01223 883 141 or email marika@cambridgeshiremencap.co.uk



Looking for a local venue to hire?

Have you considered the excellent facilities at the Recreation Ground?



Available for meetings, seminars, exhibitions etc. (Wifi available)

Children’s parties, family functions

Also available for leisure class hire

Kitchen facilities included, ample parking



Enquiries to:
Lynda Marsh, Recreation Ground Manager
Tel: 01223 232423 rec.clerk@hisimp.net

ENGAGE IN THE AFTERNOON

A free event for over 50s held at Histon Library on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm - 3.30pm. A very informal session with a speaker, tea (or coffee) and biscuits, and time to socialise. Totally free, although donations are requested to cover the refreshments.

The upcoming sessions are:

Wednesday 12th June	National Trust Gardens	Veronica Bennett (a National Trust volunteer)
Wednesday 10th July	Storytelling for Adults	Malcolm Busby
Wednesday 14th August	Tea Tasting	Sarah Ormiston

STAY INDEPENDENT, SAFE AND WELL

Visitors to Histon Library will have the chance to find out about local services to help themselves and people they care for stay independent, safe and well when the Your Life, Your Choice adult social care roadshow comes to the library between 28 May and 24 June 2013.

The roadshow features a display of information to help people remain in their own homes for as long as possible and, for those needing support, provides details of local services and support. The display will be available at the Library during opening hours.

If you are unable to visit the roadshow the Your Life, Your Choice website www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk provides information about local services and support to help you stay independent, safe and well. You can also get help and advice by contacting adult social care enquiries at Cambridgeshire Direct on 0345 045 5202.

The roadshow is visiting a number of libraries during 2013. The full schedule is available on the Your Life, Your Choice website.

A14 HISTON to GIRTON

The Highways Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council have now formally announced a number of 'improvements' to the A14 affecting the Villages. The details can be found here: is.gd/N1CUSI

In the short-term these include:

- Adding an extra slip road lane to the Westbound A14 filtering onto the M11 Southbound.
- Adding an additional lane to the Eastbound A14 between Girton and our junction (allowing traffic to merge over a greater distance). This will be 'within existing

INTERESTED IN PUBLIC ART?

What is Art and should we have more of it? Well the first part of the question is a really big one, but the second part is yes according to current planning rules. We don’t have a tremendous amount of Public Art in our villages and some of it is quite remote, such as the Elizabeth Woodcock memorial, although you may have noticed the more recent additions of sculptures and railings within the new Merrington Place development. However



not all developers want to undertake this work so arrangements are in place for funds to be made available to the Parish Council for them to allocate as they wish.

We are fortunate enough to currently have significant funds available which must be spent on public art. This doesn’t necessarily need to be on a sculpture, it could be anything from a stage for performing arts, film or photographic work, street furniture, bandstand, shelter, history guides, restoration of heritage lighting columns, decorative gates to festive decorations or circus workshops etc. It’s a great opportunity to get some exciting projects, plus if we act fast there could be additional funding available. So we would like to set up a group to oversee and manage it.

Are you interested? If so then please call Angela on 235906 or email clerk@hisimp.net to register your details.

Highway Boundaries', but is obviously of concern to nearby residents.

The Parish Council is now starting to work on responses to these proposals, although the work is supposed to be carried out by next April. A Working Group of Parish Councillors and interested residents is being established and is likely to raise issues around noise and air pollution, drainage issues and the effect on nearby homes.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - COULD THIS BE YOU?

Most people associate anti-social behaviour with the young, but the label covers a wide variety of activities, many committed by adults. One such activity, which is occurring more and more frequently in our villages, is parking on the pavement. This is anti-social behaviour because it is unnecessary and more importantly it forces some people, for example, those with prams or wheelchairs, out into the road. Inconsiderate parking is also damaging our grass verges. The practice is increasing and increasingly being reported as anti-social behaviour.



Our local PCSO, Tony Martin has reported issuing fixed penalty notices for parking on the pavement in his last 2 e-cops bulletins.

Rule 244 of the Highway Code is clear on this matter: "You MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs."

KEEPING THE VILLAGE TIDY

There are three litter picking groups in our villages, the Enviro.Volunteers, the WI Volunteers and the Big Tidy Up Volunteers, all do a splendid job in helping to keep our village free as possible from litter caused by a small anti social element in our society, who think it is acceptable to discard cans, bottles, fast food containers and cigarette packets etc., onto our streets and verges. Although disconcerting for our volunteers, they cheerfully turn up month after month to play their part in keeping our community looking tidy and well presented for visitors and residents alike.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The move to promote a village wide neighbourhood watch area is progressing. Some residents have already volunteered and completed their registration forms. In some areas, two people have taken on the role to co-ordinate their streets, with one deputising for the other.

The role is not onerous and does not require regular meetings, most communications are via email.

OR YOU?

South Road Recreation ground, has over the



past few years, been improved by the addition of play equipment, the last pieces to be installed are the old roundabout from the Green and two springy animals.

We have been pleased to see these and the field being used most days by local children. However the parents of these children are not happy with the amount of dog poo that is left in the field. The field has always been one where dog owners could give their pets a work-out and this designation has not changed with the additional of the play equipment. Owners of dogs need to be responsible for the mess their pets make and clear it up to be considerate of other users of the field.

The Enviro.Volunteers and WI Volunteers meet monthly, normally the first Saturday of the month, and the Big Tidy Up volunteers meet quarterly, again the first Saturday of the month who join forces with the other two groups.

All equipment (litter grabbers, gloves and bags) are supplied at each event. All three Groups are looking for more help, so if you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning once a month or once every three months, please contact Cedric Foster on 01223 234156 or email at foster-family4@btinternet.com for more details.

Come along, you will enjoy it and get a good sense of village togetherness.

If you are already a street coordinator, please could you contact Josephine Teague on nwatch@hotmail.co.uk to make sure your details are correct. If you would like to volunteer as a street coordinator, again please contact Josephine Teague for more information and to get a registration form.

We are looking to get some neighbourhood watch stickers for our homes and the lamp-posts to indicate that the street/area is part of the scheme.

POLICE - GRAFFITI UPDATE

We have been gathering intelligence over the last few months. Plain clothes patrols were conducted around the sites of concern. Specific individuals were stopped and one male was arrested for "going equipped". He had a large artist's marker pen on him which was the same colour as the bulk of the graffiti. He was later released without charge. With the help of CCTV another male was arrested. He later admitted three counts of criminal damage and was dealt with by means of a juvenile "final warning". He denied a number of other graffiti crimes. We also visited another six suspects at their home addresses and spoke with them and their parents.

We have also been liaising with IVC and sharing information on offenders as they have also had the same graffiti tags found on their premises. They have dealt with five students found committing criminal damage at IVC. One of these five was our arrested male.

We continue to work with SCDC and CCC on all graffiti found on council property to ensure that cleaning is arranged as soon as possible. SCDC and the Parish Council have been working with the probation service to help remove graffiti. Some cleaning up has been difficult to arrange because of the need to access water. SCDC provide regular updates to Police and Parish on progress with cleaning

Your help is needed

Can you help us tackle our village graffiti problem? As you know this a local Neighbourhood team panel priority. If you see any youths doing any graffiti in the village please call. You can phone us on our non-emergency number 101 and let the operator know that this is a policing panel priority. If you see the offenders committing the crime please call 999 so we can get the nearest officers to the area and catch the offenders.

To get the graffiti removed you can report it to the Parish Council or directly to SCDC on 03450 450 063 or env.health@scambs.gov.uk.

We want to get a Histon and Impington "Speed watch" set up in our village. So we are looking for people of Histon and Impington to come forward to help us with this. The aim is to get this up and running in the next few months. If you are interested and you can spare one to two hours a week to help keep the speed down in the village, or you want to know more please contact Tony Martin 07850 142249, antony.martin@cambs.pnn.police.uk

E-Cops

Have you joined E-Cops to receive regular updates on crime and anti-social behaviour in your area? It's a great way to stay in touch with community issues.

[www.cambs-police.co.uk/
myneighbourhood/ecops](http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops)

IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER

It's 8am and you've slept really well. It's the first time you haven't had an early start for some time but you know it's not over yet because today's the day of the count.

Nobody who hasn't stood for elected office and seriously intended to be successful can imagine the dawn to dusk and beyond hard work which goes

into an election campaign and the peaks and troughs of elation and despair which go with it. It all leads up to election day itself which doesn't finish until 10pm. That's the night you go to bed exhausted knowing that it's all over bar the shouting.

For candidates for Cottenham, Histon and Impington (CH&I) in the recent county council elections, and there were lots of them, the count took place at the South Cambs District Council offices in Cambourne. And for some reason the mobile reception there isn't terribly good so keeping in touch with the outside world is a bit touch and go. But to its credit South Cambs does provide open access broadband but that doesn't help with 'normal' phone and text.

The hall itself was busy from the start. Lots of political rosettes: yellow and red and blue plus a few with the purple of the Independents. But only one from UKIP. Maybe the people of South Cambs aren't fertile UKIP territory. Plenty of nervousness too. Parties of the coalition expecting to be punished which is normal for elections in mid-government and those outside hoping to take advantage. And plenty of scrapping too within the coalition with Lib Dems and Tories eyeing each other up with no love lost locally.

Just to build tension they don't start counting straight away but do 'verification' to ensure that all the votes put into the boxes on election day arrive at the count. It's at this time that 'election agents' keep watch to see what's coming out of individual boxes. Eagle eyed they watch as every ballot paper is opened and they keep score with their five barred gates on little notepads. A bit like train spotting. And then the rumours start: the Tory leader is looking vulnerable, Lib Dems might lose a couple, Bourn's looking close. It won't change the result of course but it has us all getting excited.

And with CH&I so complex the election agents can't discern any voting trend and we all get rather glum. I'm chatting to Mike Mason (the

Independent) and Huw Jones (Labour) and we keep muttering 'impossible to call'.

Once verification is complete the council officers doing the work take a break and we help ourselves to coffee (instant) and biscuits. There's no free lunches at South Cambs. Then counting begins.



That's pretty simple for most divisions where it's just one councillor being returned. But in CH&I it's more complicated so we have a staged count to rack up the tension.

First they count the votes of those who voted for two people from the same party or for just one person.

That's pretty straight forward and seems to result in the Lib Dems being ahead by a whisker with the Independent trailing.

Then another cunning tension building device: all the votes which went to people who voted cross party get tallied up on big spreadsheets and there are 3 on the go at the same time. Mike leads on each sheet and keeps scoring 50 but will there be enough sheets for him to get into contention? And as he does so who will he drag through into second place?

Just occasionally someone has voted cross party and not for Mike. You get bizarre combinations of UKIP with Labour or Lib Dem, you get people voting for two women or two from the same village across party. And just a few times you got voters going for Huw and me; we reckoned that was the Welsh vote coming out.

In the end: there were enough spreadsheets for Mike to get elected. In fact he topped the poll and I came second. Elsewhere the Tory leader did lose his seat, the Lib Dems did lose a couple including one by a single vote and Bourn was close but what had been Tory before its councillor defected to UKIP was once again blue.

Then at about 3pm it was all over and life slowly returned to normal. Elation for some, despair for others. But no more early mornings, no more canvassing, no more stuffing leaflets through letterboxes. At least not until this time next year.

GETTING THE VILLAGE WE WANT: DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR HISTON & IMPINGTON

The Parish Council is starting to look at what we all want for our community. The planning part of that ("what we want where, and with what conditions") can be put into a Neighbourhood Plan, and can, after a number of steps, be accepted and have as much influence locally as the SCDC Local Plan. It's about taking control of our own future.

We have already started this in a small way; our vision for the Station area will be a policy in the SCDC Draft Local Plan.

What we need to do now is to extend that to the whole of our community - to work together and create a vision for the place we want to live in.

This really is **your** vision - it needs input from all parts of the community - residents, businesses, shops - everyone. If we're going to get it right, the more people we have involved from the very start, the better it will be. The Parish Council will facilitate necessary activity but most of the input must come from you.

It won't be finished next week, or even next month - it will take time to get views together, to get input from the community - but it will be a real chance to shape how Histon and Impington move forward.

If that's something you'd like to be part of, to make a difference, please contact denis.payne@hisimp.net or get in touch via the Parish Office.

Council & Committee Meetings

See website for details: www.hisimp.net

Full Council - Recreation Centre from 7 p.m. - Monday 17th June; 15th July 2013

Planning - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Tuesday 28th May; Tuesday 11th June; Tuesday 25th June; 9th July; 23rd July; 6th August 2013

Highways - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Thursday 30th May; Thursday 25th July 2013

Finance Legal & Administration - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Monday 3rd June 2013

Environment - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Tuesday 4th June; 13th August 2013

Community Facilities - Parish Office 7.45 p.m. - Thursday 20th June 2013

Recreation Ground - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Monday 24th June; 5th August 2013

Youth - Parish Office 7.30 p.m. - Monday 1st July 2013

Residents are welcome to attend **all** Council meetings.

At Full Council there is a standing agenda item for Public Participation