



**Issue No. 36**  
**March 2009**

How **YOUR** Council is  
spending **YOUR** money.  
News of Council Meetings  
and events to come in  
**YOUR** village in a  
Quarterly Newsletter

## **The POST**

### *Letter from the Chair*

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome two new members to the team, Mr Steve Claydon and Mr Nick Jones. This brings our total to 9 councillors, giving us a full Parish Council for the first time in quite a few years.

During February it came to the notice of the Parish Council that On-Set Locations of Brook Orchard Farm, Bassingbourn Road, were applying for the restrictions of their planning application to be lifted. The Parish Council made a representation at the District Council planning meeting, against lifting of the conditions because we did not feel that it would be in the best interests of the village to have any alteration in the planning conditions. There was also a representation from Bassingbourn Parish Council and many members of the public in Bassingbourn had written to object. The District vote was in favour of lifting the conditions; however, it has been noted that there was a high level of concern locally. We are to believe that this will be reflected in the kind of sub-letting On-Set will be permitted to run by the planning department.

Another area the Parish Council is trying to work on at the moment is the Footpath/Cycle route between Litlington and Bassingbourn. There will be some safety work/repairs made to that route before the end of the financial year. These will focus on the stretch where the ditch is particularly deep and will include a safety barrier; however, the budget will not cover the whole length of the route. The Parish Council is exploring whether any other funding would be available to upgrade this route. They are also investigating other measures that would improve safety along the route. These would benefit pedestrians/cyclists and would be advantageous to Litlington also.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April and we hope that many parishioners will be able to join us on that occasion to hear reports from the schools, groups and activities.

**Lynda Murphy — Chair, Litlington Parish Council**

### **Receiving the Litlington Post by E-Mail**

**Nick Goldman**

If you would like to receive the Litlington Post by e-mail in future, please send a message to Nick Goldman at [goldman.nick@gmail.com](mailto:goldman.nick@gmail.com). Don't worry, you will still get a printed copy for the foreseeable future!

### **The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008**

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 relate to the conduct of authority members and the requirements for dealing with this. The regulations set out the framework for the operation of a locally based system for the assessment, referral and investigation of complaints of misconduct by members of authorities.

Parishioners may be aware that a complaint was made against Councillor David Sharp of Litlington Parish Council to the District Council Standards Committee in June 2008. The Assessment Panel of the Standards Committee met on the 22nd October 2008 to consider the complaint and decided that no action should be taken on the allegation. An appeal was launched and on the 3rd December 2008 the Review Panel of the Standards committee considered the request for a review of the decision. In accordance with Section 57A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Review Panel of the Standards Committee decided to uphold the decision of the Assessment Panel not to take any action on the complaint.

# LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL  
PARISH MEETING ON**

**THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009  
7.30pm**

**LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL**  
CHAIRMAN — MRS LYNDA MURPHY

**Please come along and hear what the Parish Council have  
done over the past 12 months**

## **AGENDA**

Apologies for Absence  
Chairman's Welcome & Report  
Minutes of 2008 Annual Parish Meeting  
Matters Arising from Minutes  
Financial Report 2008/2009  
Townlands Charity Financial Statement  
Reports -           Steeple Morden Primary School  
                          Bassingbourn Village College  
                          Litlington Pre-School  
                          Village Hall  
                          Neighbourhood Watch  
                          Mobile Warden Scheme  
                          Evergreens (Over 60s)  
                          Village Fayre Committee  
                          Recreation Centre  
                          Multi Purpose Surface  
Traffic Calming  
Speed Watch  
Other Business  
Date of Parish Council AGM

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AN OPINION  
ON VILLAGE AFFAIRS**

## **Litlington Village Fayre**

**David Sharp**

The date for your diary is Saturday, July 11th 2009. There will be a display of Motorbikes for the second time. The ever popular dog show dog show will be there as well as the usual stalls, sideshows, competitions, raffle, tombola, BBQ, teas and much more. If you would like to have a stall or sideshow to raise funds for an organisation, please contact Sue Jenkins on 01763-852974 or David Sharp on 01763-852425. Stall holders keep 80% of their profit and 20% goes towards running the event. We hope to deliver a programme to every house nearer the date. The committee has purchased a tug-of-war rope as this seems a popular competition and the rope can be hired out to other groups.

We need more help on the day. Last year we had a good response. It was a case of "many hands make light work". If you would like to become involved, please come to the next meeting in the Congregational Church schoolroom on Thursday May 7th at 8pm.

## **Walks around Litlington**

**Lynda Murphy**

The Parish Council is proposing to organise some guided walks around Litlington again, to look at the local flora and fauna and to learn about some of the local history. They will take place when the weather improves and is more conducive to strolling along our footpaths. Please look out for further information either in the Parish Post or on the notice boards.

## **Litlington Evergreen Club**

The club meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome. There is a programme of speakers, demonstrations and outings:

- March 31<sup>st</sup>: The National Trust properties in Cambridgeshire: talk and slides
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: The River Cam, its history, uses and characters.
- April 28<sup>th</sup>: A Surprise!
- May 12<sup>th</sup>: The Wedding Day in Flowers: demonstration by Eileen Ridgeway

If you would like to attend a meeting, please come along or contact Pat Bass (01763-852874) or Pam Sharp (01763-852425).

## **St. Catherine's Church**

Saturday 4th April: Coffee Morning and Book Sale in aid of the Ely 900 Mission

This year sees Ely Diocese, of which we are a part, celebrate its 900<sup>th</sup> year. The diocese is continuing its links with the Diocese of Vellore in India and the Ely 900 Mission aims to provide scholarships for children from villages in the Diocese of Vellore to undertake further education. St Catherine's is supporting the Ely 900 Mission by having coffee mornings and book sales throughout the year. The first of these is on Saturday 4th April and we invite you to come along and pick up a bargain book or two and enjoy a coffee and cake.

Monday 4th May: Church Fete

The church's Annual Fete is on Bank Holiday Monday as usual and this year we are having an exhibition of people's collections. If you have a collection you would be willing to have on display, whether it be coins, beer mats, autographs... the list is endless, please contact Sue Jenkins (01763-852974).

## **St Catherine's Church Floodlights**

**Pam Sharp**

Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Anniversary of the death of Lisenna Carter RIP; with love, Sonia
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversary of the death of Peter Shore RIP
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	100th birthday of Mrs V (Pop) Carter RIP
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	First anniversary of the funeral of Lisenna Carter RIP; in loving memory
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversary of the death of Dudley Unsworth RIP
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of our friend and neighbour Lisenna Carter RIP; from the Baker family
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	To celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	In memory of our friend and neighbour Lisenna Carter RIP; from the Baker family
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday to Hilda Williams; from Lou Barnes
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Birthday of Emma Bird RIP; remembered by her son, John
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversary of the death of John Colley RIP
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Anniversary of the death of Bill Newman RIP
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Birthday of Frank Bailey RIP
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Birthday of Fred Barnes RIP

To have the church illuminated costs only £5. Brenda Bailey (01763-853401) or Pam Sharp (01763-852425) can arrange it for you.

## **Recreation Centre**

**David Sharp**

I should like to thank June Chaffey for her work as bookings secretary over many years. June resigned in December. The new bookings secretary is Tina Claydon (01763-853760). The Rec Centre is regularly used for badminton, line dancing and football. At present the village has one Saturday side and one Sunday side playing football. The Melbourn Dynamos also use the rec on a regular basis for a youth team.

The committee is keen to make the centre more attractive for people playing games and sports. This may involve having a shed to store the tables and chairs in order to maximise the space in the hall. If you have any ideas/suggestions for uses for this facility, please let me know (01763-852425).

## **Dogs on the Recreation Ground**

**Lynda Murphy**

Recently there have been some reports of people taking their dogs onto the Recreation Ground and the Parish Council would like to remind people that this is against the rules of the Recreation Ground Facility. Please respect the area as a dog free zone. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## **County Council and Local Updates**

**County Councillor Linda Oliver**

**Bus Route 127** — Please note that the routing and times have changed on Wednesdays and Fridays. The route has been extended to include the Mordens and run through to Ashwell. The Ashwell stops link in with services to Hitchin and Letchworth which are run by Centrebus. Copies of the new timetable are in the Book Café and I will make sure that copies are in the shop too.

I confirm that in Ashwell the 127 waits for the other Centrebus bus to come in and does not depart early. The Centrebus drivers are also aware that there could be passengers. There is good communication between the two travel companies. Further, passengers can be dropped off at the memorial and this still enables a connection without the need to walk to the Ashwell Post Office. There is a shelter at the memorial which makes this a good place to connect. The driver will also take passengers on to the Post Office if they don't want to use the memorial connection but just go into Ashwell.

**Cambridgeshire highways maintenance/potholes** — Special highways maintenance teams have been set up to tackle the many pot holes that the cold weather has created on the county's roads. Many roads have suffered because water has frozen in cracks, expanded and caused pot holes. Reports of potholes have quadrupled compared with last year. To report a pothole, large or small, do phone the County Council's helpline on 0345-045 5212

**Cambridgeshire is at the top of 388 local authorities** with particular areas of improvement in regulatory services such as trading standards and planning. The Audit Commission makes regular inspections of councils and assesses their effectiveness, efficiency, performance and management capabilities. Cambridgeshire County Council's rating as the most improved council in the country was based on its performance over the last three years. In order to drive up service quality, councils are set challenging targets for all areas of activity and 86% of Cambridgeshire's performance indicators have improved, way above the national average.

**Advice and assistance in the current economic climate** — The credit crunch has been with us for a while and, undoubtedly, will remain for sometime yet. A website has been launched at [www.weatherthestorm.org.uk](http://www.weatherthestorm.org.uk) which flags up national and local initiatives to help communities through the recession. These include:

- How communities can save money by setting up fuel clubs
- How businesses can delay paying tax
- How businesses can take advantage of a £500 Business Link voucher
- Money saving hints and tips

The distribution of a £500,000 voluntary and community sector (VCS) rescue package from Cambridgeshire County Council is being co-ordinated. £200,000 has been given to Cambridgeshire Citizen Advice Bureaux (CABx) and Advice for Life, who run the Law Centres in Cambridge and Huntingdon, to increase their capacity in dealing with the increasing number of people using their services. This will enable CABx and Advice for Life to deal with up to an extra 2,000 cases over the next 12 months (until March 2010).

**Cambridgeshire's Trading Standards** has been recognised as a leading light in the UK for cutting regulatory red tape to help the communities and businesses it serves. It has been awarded the nationally recognised Beacon Status. Only three authorities in the country have been awarded this status.

The Beacon award now means the Council is a national exemplar in better regulation. Cambridgeshire now will be sharing best practice with authorities

across the country to enhance regulation nationally, and working with Government bodies to influence the policy agenda.

**Congestion in and around Cambridge and Government-funded improvements to roads and bus services** — The County Council continues to make representations to central Government and the Transport Minister urging the removal of the condition that congestion charging must be introduced before Transport Innovation Fund funding is provided. In our local villages the TIF funding could assist in the provision of improved bus services. The Transport Commission, which is looking at ways of tackling congestion in and around Cambridge, is nearing the end of the phase where written evidence is being requested and it is commencing public hearings with interested parties. The Commission's website has received over 600 responses to questions the Commission have posed so far and these can be viewed at [www.cambstransportcommission.co.uk](http://www.cambstransportcommission.co.uk).

**Councillors' allowances** — In the light of the current financial climate councillors have unanimously agreed to freeze their allowances until 2010. Councillors from all parties have agreed to forego the 2.7% increase in the annual allowance due in April 2009.

**Police/Neighbourhood Panel meeting** — A reminder that the date has been changed to Monday 20th April at Melbourn Village College. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm).

## **Street Lighting**

**Lynda Murphy**

To improve the efficiency of reporting faulty street or footpath lights, please feel free to contact the Authorities directly. On each column there is a lamp reference number and the phone number to report faults. Early reporting may help to speed up repair work! Thank you.

## **Speedwatch Scheme**

**Alan Biles**

Speedwatch involves using volunteers to site and monitor speed detection equipment. The aim is for drivers to be made aware of exceeding the speed limit in our villages.

Speedwatch is not a police operation, but a police initiative adopted by neighbourhood police panels and supported by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough road safety partnership. Each village team (preferably three) in the scheme would have access to the equipment and will be free to decide where and when to site the equipment, and how long for. Volunteers



are not expected to operate in their own village or immediate locality. The monitoring is manually recorded and held on a police database. The police may write to the owners of speeding vehicles, and statistics may be used to target speed enforcement campaigns. The police assure us that speedwatch is not designed to reduce their own speed checks, which will continue on a scheduled or targeted basis.

If you think speedwatch is a good idea, and is an opportunity to do something to reduce speeding in our villages, you may wish to find out more about becoming a volunteer by telephoning Jan Dean on 0845-456 4564 ext. 7113498 or e-mailing [jan.dean@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jan.dean@cambs.pnn.police.uk). Or you can call Alan Biles on (01763-852533).

## **Housing Association Transfer**

Council tenants and others who feel that they require further information regarding the transfer of housing can contact:

Dave Kelleway, South Cambs Against Transfer (SCAT),  
tel: 01223-293743; <http://www.scat.me.uk>

## **Sustainable Communities Act Public Meeting**

The Sustainable Communities Act gives new powers to communities and their elected councils to drive government policy to tackle local economic, social and environmental issues. There will be a public meeting in Peterborough to discuss the Act:

Peterborough Sustainable Communities Act Public Meeting  
(Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Wide)

Thursday 2nd April, 7pm

Great Northern Hotel, Station Approach, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 1QL

Further details are available at

<http://www.litlington.org.uk/litlington/extras/psca.txt>.

## Your Parish Councillors

Marjorie Baker	01763-852491	Lynda Murphy	01763-852033
Alan Biles	01763-852533	Alan Pipe	01763-852885
Debbie Brown	01763-852002	David Sharp	01763-852425
Steve Claydon	01763-853760	Linda Williams	01763-852809
Nick Jones	01763-852037		

Linda Oliver — County Councillor Bassingbourn Division — 01767-650430  
email: [linda.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Other Useful Numbers (all 01763- numbers unless otherwise stated)

Sally Walmsley	Clerk to the Council	852137
Sue Jenkins	Church Warden	852974
Gordon Head	Neighbourhood Watch	852934
Linda Williams	Village Hall Booking Clerk	852809
Tina Claydon	Recreation Centre Booking Clerk	853760
Gwen Biles	The Chapel (Secretary)	852533
Pamela Sharp	Evergreens	852425
Rosy Taylor	Playschool	852762
Lorraine Baker	Toy Library (Secretary)	852414
Vera Swallow	Litlington Amateur Dramatics Society	222538
Vera Webster	Badminton Club (Treasurer)	241022
James Evans	Football Club (Secretary)	07834-813854
Cathy Smith	L.J.'s (7 to 10yrs. Youth Club)	853997
Jonathan Burgess	L.J.'s Plus (10 to 13yrs. Youth Club)	
Sylvia Harris	Gardening Club	852107
Kumar Balani	Post Office / Shop	852221
	The Crown Public House	853859
	Bassingbourn Village College	242344
	Bassingbourn Primary School	242460
	Steeple Morden School	852474
	Royston Library	243292
	Bassingbourn Surgery	241424
	Ashwell Surgery	01462-742891
	Police, Cambridge H.Q.	01223-358966

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