

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at Easton Village Hall, with a glass of wine before the meeting starts.**

**Parish Councillors for the two wards are as follows:**

**Easton and Martyr Worthy Itchen Abbas and Avington**

Jennifer Ffennell Alison Matthews *Chairman*

Elaine Labram Cynthia Bolton

Fiona Parry Steve Gapper *co-vice chairman*

Geraldine Phillips Martin Woodcock (until March)

Eric Thompson

Paul Twelftree *co-vice chairman*

Representatives on the Village Hall Committees for the last year were:

Easton Geraldine Phillips

Itchen Abbas and Avington Steve Gapper

Martyr Worthy Fiona Parry

**Other responsibilities for the last year were:**

Executive of Winchester District Association Jennifer Ffennell

of Parish Councils and Alison Matthews

Public Transport Martin Woodcock

Old School Field, Easton Trustees Alison Matthews *ex officio*

and Elaine Labram

King George V Memorial Playing Field Alison Matthews and Fiona Parry

Footpaths Cynthia Bolton

Pranell Trust and Winchester Welfare Trust Fiona Parry

Highways representative Paul Twelftree

**Clerk/Proper Officer:** Joyce Edgell (Little Orchard, Station Hill, Itchen Abbas SO21 1BB)

She can be contacted on 01962 779643 or by email: jedgell@abbas97.fsnet.co.uk

**Parish Council Meetings** are held on the first Thursday in the month (except August) at 7pm in one of the three village halls. Members of the public are always welcome. Agendas and Minutes can be read on [www.itchenvallyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.itchenvallyparishcouncil.org.uk)

### **Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors**

All Parish Councillors have signed the code of conduct. No complaints have been made against any of the Parish Councillors.

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Current Parish Council papers and records may be inspected by prior arrangement with the Clerk. Older minute books and other documents are at the Hampshire Record Office.

### **Footpaths**

Very many thanks to Charlie Yeates for his work keeping the paths in good order. Any problems relating to footpaths should be reported to Joyce Edgell or Cynthia Bolton.

Notice has been received from the Trail Riders Association of their intention to apply for four RUPPS (roads used as public paths) in our area to be upgraded to BOATS (byways open to all traffic). Such applications require evidence of historic use by vehicular traffic even if non-motorised. Landowners affected should receive notice from the applicants when the application is made. Much as we might wish to ensure that our paths remain the preserve of riders, cyclists and pedestrians the current law is such that we can only object if we have evidence relating to the historic use and this is extremely hard to find. Three of the RUPPS affected are on Itchen Down and the fourth is the continuation of Church Lane, Easton.

### **Planning**

#### **South East Plan**

This was described in an article in the March edition of the magazines.

The public consultation period ended on 15<sup>th</sup> April, it will be interesting to see how many responded and in what way. The Plan, possibly amended in the light of the comments by the public, will be submitted to the Government for consideration.

#### **Winchester District Local Plan**

The Public Inquiry started on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and closed on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The Inspector's report is expected in the late summer 2005.

## **South Downs National Park**

The Public Inquiry was held in Worthing. It began on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003 with “in principle” objections mainly from local authorities, including Winchester City Council; these mainly related to loss of planning powers.

The Inspector held two days of discussion with different Parish Councils on administrative arrangements and I attended one of these with representatives from four other Parishes. There was a useful discussion particularly about the way in which planning decisions might be reached and the Parishes might be represented on the Park Authority.

The Inquiry finished in December 2004 and the Inspector will take most of this year to write his report so a decision is unlikely until 2006.

## **Local Strategic Partnership**

This is a partnership of organisations that is drawing together several themes to help to shape and improve the District and is part of a national government initiative. The Community Strategy for Winchester looks at different facets of life where changes could lead to improvements. I represent the Winchester and District Association of Parish Councils in this partnership, which gives an opportunity to consider matters relating to the whole district.

## **Planning Applications and Decisions**

### **Planning Appeals**

#### **Heather Glen, Itchen Abbas**

We are awaiting the result of the second appeal. The Inspector made his site visit on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

#### **Abbotsbury and The Paddock, School Lane, Itchen Abbas**

Banner Homes (Wessex) Ltd has appealed against the refusal by Winchester City Council to allow 14 dwellings with garages, parking etc on the site of these two properties. There will be a Public Inquiry in Itchen Abbas Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006. A good attendance by members of the public will show the Inspector the level of concern in the village so do please make a note of the dates and keep some time free to attend. Thank you to everyone who attended the site visit last August. We understand that another application will be made shortly.

## **Planning Applications**

### **The Police House, Itchen Abbas**

An application was submitted for demolition and redevelopment but was then withdrawn and so far there has been no new application.

## **Roman Post/ Lunways**

Similarly an application for demolition and redevelopment with two houses was submitted and then withdrawn. Planning officers would have recommended refusal although the Parish Council believed that this would have been the best use for the site.

## **Chillandham Cross, Chilland**

Permission for three new houses was granted with an access road from Chillandham Lane past the front of the existing house.

## **Hotel at Morn Hill**

Permission has been granted for an hotel and work is now starting. It will be fairly basic with 120 bedrooms and few public facilities.

## **MSAs at Shroner Wood**

We continue to monitor the use of the gate into Chillandham Lane. This should not be used as an exit from the MSA and the gates should be kept locked. If anyone sees them unlocked please let me know.

## **Oil well near Cheesefoot Head**

Tests are continuing on the site but with no conclusive results as yet. The tests are aimed at solving problems relating to excess water.

## **Low Cost Housing**

During this year Hyde Housing Association has acquired the freehold interest in this site and some clearing has been done. The next stage will be diversion of the mains water pipe by Southern Water followed by installation of the drainage system by Bio Bubble. The target date for completion of the ten dwellings is Spring 2006 and the builders will be Drew Smith from Hedge End.

## **Homelands Music Festival**

This will run from 1pm on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> May to 7.30am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May. As usual the roads from the Itchen Valley to the A31 will be closed during that time to ensure that festival traffic does not find its way into the country lanes. A helpline will be provided by the City Council, during the event, to deal with complaints about noise: 01962 863493.

## **King George V Playing Field**

The "Itchen Valley" team, run by Mr and Mrs Pratt from Easton, is continuing to use the field on Sunday mornings. They do have a problem with dog fouling on the pitch which they have to clear before matches; so if you walk your dog on the Field could you please ensure that you avoid the pitch area or clear up any mess yourself.

Accounts for the field are prepared up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year and will be available at the Meeting. As the KGV charity has no funds, all expenses have to be borne by the Parish Council and the small income from the football team and occasional parking is used to off set these as far as possible.

## **Sewage Treatment Plants**

**Couch Green** Land adjoining the existing plant is being acquired by the City Council with a view to improving the service.

**Itchen Abbas** Land in Northington Lane is to be acquired for the construction of a new sewage treatment plant, most of which will be underground. The site will be screened by hedges. This will replace the existing plant in Station Close which serves 28 houses.

The project has been much delayed, for example planning permission was refused when the City Engineer's Department failed to provide sufficient information!

## **Overhanging Branches and Hedges**

These are a particular problem on bus routes and we do ask you to ensure that pruning is done to avoid branches hitting the buses especially along the B 3047. In the same context it is also important to be sure that road signs and visibility splays are not obscured.

## **Traffic Calming**

**Easton:**

*Work on the change of priority at The Cricketers is due to start in the next two weeks.*

**Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy - B 3047:**

We have had a meeting with a member of the County Council traffic management team who is looking at the problem in two stages. First they will produce a minor scheme to help pedestrians cross more safely by the Village Hall. This is likely to consist of coloured road surface and warning signs indicating the bend.

They will then consider the road as a whole and in particular whether overall speed can be reduced to a level at which the Police will support a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.

## **Police**

The beat officer for the Itchen Valley is Police Constable Andrew Murphy. He can be contacted on:

Email [Andrew.Murphy@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Andrew.Murphy@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or 0845 045 45 45 ext 635 134.

## **Accounts**

As the financial year only finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March audited accounts are not available. Unaudited accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting or from the Clerk.

As usual notices will appear on notice boards and in the magazines when audited accounts are finalised.

We try to keep an amount roughly equivalent to one year's precept in reserve and this is currently in the region of £9,500.

The precept itself was slightly higher than usual this year at £14,250 as we have to make a contribution of £1,500 towards the cost of traffic calming in Easton.

Last year the Parish Council made grants of:

- £300 to each of the PCCs for maintenance of the churchyards,
- £650 to each of the village halls
- £130 to the Easton and Martyr Worthy News

(Itchen Abbas and Avington Village News is offered the same amount but declines it)

while cutting grass at the King George V Playing Field and the Old School Field Easton cost about

£1700 and footpath maintenance about £1000 per annum.

## **General**

Martin Woodcock has resigned after representing Itchen Abbas on the Parish Council for ten years and we thank him for all he has done in that time. His knowledge of the workings of the County Council has always been of great assistance to us. The vacancy has been advertised in the magazines. The next full elections will be in May 2007.

Joyce Edgell has continued to organise our work with great charm and efficiency so thank you to her and to all of the Parish Councillors for their contributions throughout the year.

Alison Matthews

Chairman