

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



Jan/Feb2010

Telephone Box, High Street

BT has decided that they cannot continue to provide us with a service (it was used only four times in the last year) and offered to sell the box to the Parish Council for £1. This is not quite the gift horse that it might seem and we need to examine its mouth very carefully as there are other costs to think about. The Parish Council felt that we ought to preserve the box if only for its value to the street scene. The phone box is a grade 2 listed building.

Option 1 Do nothing BT will try to delist the box from its grade 2 status but this will be difficult for them. ECDC will resist as will the PC. The box will retain its phone service in the meantime. There are no further costs with this option but we might lose the box eventually. We could always try to fight that battle when the time came.

Option 2 Take over the box complete with phone service for £300 per year (cost includes electricity, maintenance and insurance) Neither church or village hall has a phone service; is this significant?

Option 3 Buy the box for £1. What would we do with it? Cost of removing electricity supply is £300. To retain the electricity supply would cost £280 per year. We have queried this cost and yes, E-on do want to charge us £280 for a single light bulb. There would also be maintenance costs and insurance (the latter will be about £20 per year)

We need to find out what the village thinks.....

If you would like to comment please send an email to us urgently on witchamparishc@btinternet.com or write to the Clerk (address over page)

Witcham Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee is almost ready to submit plans to East Cambridgeshire requesting planning permission to extend the facilities at the Village Hall.

The Committee wants to build a new two storey extension overlooking the Village Green. Included in the new part will be changing rooms and a social space for use by the cricket club, youth club and other sports groups. Improvements to the kitchen, bar area and another meeting room will allow more flexible use of the rest of the village hall and will enable the Village Hall Committee to generate income from groups hiring the hall for daytime meetings. The planning group have paid great attention to the way the building will improve the external appearance of the hall and want to make the building as environmentally friendly as possible by building in several energy (and money) saving features.

Neighbourhood Panel

The Panel met on Monday 25 January 2010 at Little Thetford Village Hall. Completion of the cycleway at Witcham Toll to Wentworth for the completion between

Sutton and Ely is still on the list of priorities. Our Chairman has also raised the issue of maintenance of the droves by the County Council and found support from other villages in the group who are also experiencing problems. Full details will be posted on the noticeboard.

The next meeting, open to all members of the public in the area, will be held at Witcham Village Hall

Monday 19 April 2010 at 7.00pm.

Do come and find out more about what is going on in the area - your opportunity to have a say on issues of concern. The Panel covers issues such as housing, planning, speeding, parking and other traffic issues, provisions for young people, health and environmental issues, refuse and recycling collection, crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, safety, etc

Witcham Youth Club

The Club meets at the Village Hall on Monday evenings, 6.30pm – 9.30pm, for young people aged 11+. Currently there are 15 regularly attending members. Please feel free to drop in if you are interested, or contact Youth Workers at Witchford Village College during lunch time.

They have been running a multi-sports programme over the last two terms. Activities have included: monster art attack, circus skills, sports day events, quick cricket, dodge ball, tennis, bowling to name but a few....

The Club also fielded a team of 5 young people in the first ever Youth Club 'It's a Knock Out Tournament' during the summer holiday, competing against other youth clubs from Mepal, Sutton, Little Downham and Ely. The team from Witcham Youth Club won and now hold bragging rights for a year until the next event in 2010.

Members of the club visited the Garage Youth Club Open Evening in December to discuss with other local youth clubs the idea of a joint funding bid for April 2010. Parish Councils from Little Downham and Witcham are looking to support the new project....look out for more details in the near future.

The Christmas term ended with a games/party night full of fun and laughter.

The January term has just started with members of the group writing a script to produce a video. Please look out for them around the village with their cameras and give them a wave....

(Report from Youth & Community Development Team)

Friendship Club

The original friendship group has not met for some years now. There is a sum of money left in the bank account of the group and it is proposed that this be used to set up a new group for the benefit of all residents of the village.

The idea is to offer a series of visits and trips to places of interest during the summer months and during the winter to offer social events and visits to music and theatre. It is expected that the group would be self financing and that the money left from the original group would provide a cushion for the new group to become established. If you are interested and/or have ideas for activities please contact us through witchamparishc@btinternet.com

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan – Consultations: 15 February 2010 – 27 March 2010

This plan identifies sites for mineral extraction and waste management and gives land use policies to guide development until 2026. It will be vital in ensuring that construction materials are available to support planned growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and that sustainable waste management is in place for existing and planned new communities. This submission draft, approved by the County Council, will be submitted to the Secretary of State later this year. Views obtained during this consultation process will be summarised for examination with the Plan by an independent Planning Inspector commencing Autumn 2010. His report will be binding on the Councils. The Plan is expected to be completed by early 2012. For information visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/mwplan.

Consultation roadshows to take place at The Glebe Sutton 18 February 2010 and Arkenhall Centre Haddenham on 4 March 2010, 4.00 to 8.00 pm

Further information, Ann Barnes, Principal Planning Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 715526 or email mwplan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Energy Conservation! Tips to reduce your bills
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk>

**PARISH COUNCIL
Committee Representatives 2009**

- Burial Board:** All Councillors
- Village Hall Committee:** Mr D A Bamforth and Mrs Julia Bibby
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils:** Mr A Berry and Mr D A Bamforth
- East Cambridgeshire Parish Forum:** Mr K Mackender and Mr D A Bamforth
- Ely Sector Police Local Liaison Group:** Mr C Watson
- Strawburner Parish Forum:** Mr D Saberton
- Mepal Outdoor Centre:** Mr D Saberton
- Citizen’s Advice Bureau Trustee Board:** Mr D A Bamforth
- Play Area:** Mr D Saberton responsible for weekly inspections of equipment
- HCV Joint Committee:** Mr A Berry and Mr K Mackender
- Neighbourhood Panel:** Mr A Berry
- Parish Paths (P3) Scheme:** Mr A Berry

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, normally on the 2nd Tuesday in the month

**9 February 2010
9 March 2010**

Any items for the agenda should be placed with the Clerk at least **1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.**

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time to commence 15 minutes prior to the commencement of Council business as stated above. Please see the noticeboard to view agendas and minutes, and any changes to proposed meeting dates.

Additional meetings may be called eg. to consider planning applications as required by the planning authority.

| NAME | CONTACT |
|---|--------------|
| CHAIRMAN Ashley Bamforth | 01353 777453 |
| VICE-CHAIRMAN David Saberton | 01353 777423 |
| COUNCILLORS | |
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| Julia Bibby | 01353 777267 |
| COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS | |
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