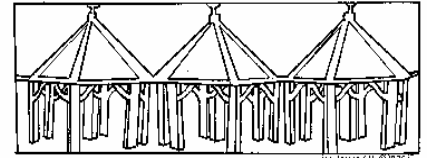


THE BROMLEY

BULLETIN.....



Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2002 Number 18

Abbots Bromley Parish Council and the new Code of Conduct

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all parish councils to adopt a revised standard Code of Conduct, and also demands that individual councillors sign up to the Code and complete a personal Register of Interests.

Parish Councillors have always signed up to a comprehensive Code of Conduct but the new legislation requires much more personal detail about each councillor. (Councillors are in addition still required to declare any relevant interests at any meeting where this may be appropriate.) A new Standards Board for England has also been set up to investigate complaints.

You may have heard something about reactions to the new Code of Conduct in the press. Across the country this has ranged from whole parish councils resigning en masse through to full implementation without protest.

Locally we have taken the view that it is very much a matter for the individual councillor to decide their own position and act accordingly. Those who are happy to adopt the Code have considered the matter carefully. Those who do not wish to sign are concerned that the new requirements are excessive compared to the powers and budgets of Parish Councils and that their introduction mid-term changes the basis on which they were elected to serve.

Having studied the requirements and implications of the Local Government Act 2000, three of the nine councillors feel unable to sign up to the model code of conduct that this law required the Parish Council to adopt. They do understand that – sadly - this will disqualify them from continuing to serve as members of the Council to which they were elected in May 1999 to serve for a period of 4 years.

Once the period for compliance has elapsed, the three councillors – Michelle Moore, Chris Talbot and Mithra Tonking – will cease to be councillors. Vacancies will be declared and filled in the same way as any other mid-term vacancy. Those interested should contact the Clerk to the Council, Eric Roy.

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Council welcomes Eric Roy as the new parish clerk.

Eric may be known to some of you as he set up the Abbots Bromley web site.

He can be contacted at 31 Goose Lane Abbots Bromley WS15 3DE, tel 01283 840153, fax 01283 840808 Email eric.roy@btinternet.com

Len Ferguson is now Chairman (01283 840538) and Philip Charles is Vice-Chairman (01283 840251).

Millennium Green

The Millennium Green and the Village Hall are the products of Community co-operation providing areas to be used as an ideal and safe environment for every age group. To make sure it stays in good condition and to avoid causing problems for other users and people living in the area please as a community help everyone to adhere to the following rules :

The play equipment is designed for children under 13 years and over 5 years old. It should not be used by anyone over or under these ages. The Trustees advise parents to ensure that an adult supervises children using the equipment and play areas at all times. So that people living nearby are not disturbed, please do not use the play area after 8.00pm during June to September.

Village Plan

The Parish Council has decided to join forces with our neighbouring parishes to initiate a village plan. It has become apparent that a "Vital Villages" Village Plan would hold more weight with the planners than a Village Design Statement. An application to the Countryside Agency for a grant has been successful enabling the Bagots Community Development Group to engage a Village Agent to work within the parishes of Abbots Bromley, Kingstone and Blithfield.

Applicants must possess good communication skills, have the ability to motivate people, be able to address and lead public meetings, have a knowledge of the local area and organisations, demonstrate commitment to improving the area, have experience in community activities; must have a clean driving licence and access to a vehicle.

20 hours per week (flexible hours)

£7.00 per hour on a self-employment basis

If interested please send for an application pack to: Louise Insley, Central Services Department, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE14 2EB.

Closing date for applications 8 July 2002.

St Nicholas 1000 in 2002

The year of celebration is continuing after the success of "Son of Man" with a number of events still to come, as well as more permanent markers of the festival. A new slate plaque has been placed in the Founder's Niche outside the church and a new sculpture will soon be installed in the large blank space inside on the west wall. It is hoped to provide covered foam seat cushions for all the pews in the church (this will take some time!) to make the seating more comfortable for those attending services, concerts and plays.

For your Diary:

Summer Evening – **Saturday 6 July** at 7.30 - supper at Portfields, Port Lane, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs M Green (tickets £6.50)

Treasure Hunt – a trail with questions about the village and its buildings will begin at the Vicarage on **Saturday 13 July** between 6.00 and 6.30. A prize will be given for the most correct answers – bring family and friends and test your knowledge of the village! £1.00 per entry sheet.

Burton Sinfonia concert – afternoon of **Sunday 14 July**

Harvest Hoedown – a Barn Dance for everyone at the Village Hall on **Saturday 5 October**. Ticket price includes supper - baked potato with filling of your choice, dessert and tea/coffee – and a licensed bar will be available.

Mystery Finale – watch out for a special event to conclude the festival in early December!

For further details contact Jill Foster (840522) or Gill Grundy (840208).

Richard Clarke

The Richard Clarke First School is taking part in a government initiative with the Department of Health "The National Fruit Scheme". This is a *pilot* scheme in which 500 schools nationally are participating.

The plan is that by 2004 all infant/ KS1 children – under 7 's will be entitled to a free piece of fruit each school day. Small fruits, appropriate to the age group are delivered three times a week.

The scheme has encouraged more children to eat fruit and realise that they do enjoy it. It is school's preferred Healthy Snack time option.

Sweets and chocolate snacks are discouraged at school as the energy benefits are short lived and have a detrimental effect upon teeth and maintaining fitness.

The Headteacher would like to encourage older children in KS2 to join in with the younger children by choosing to bring fruit for their morning break snack.

Abbots Bromley Swimming Club

This is held on Tuesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.00 (term time only) at the School of S. Mary and S. Anne, Abbots Bromley. It is for male/females over the age of 18.

The next set of sessions commences on **Tuesday 3 September**.

If you would like to join or require further information please contact Margaret Bennett (01283 840263)

or Kerry Bentley (01283 840875).

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Thanks for all the favourable comments during the weekend. None of it would have been possible without the help of a great team- Jill Crooks, Paula Stuart, Michelle Moore, Barbara and Brian Newey, Mirrie Barker, Beryl Osbourne, Gill Grundy, Ian Haywood, Dave Core, Jane Bailey, Jayne Upton, Phil Charles and Peter Bosson.

Thanks also for the following donations:-

A.B. Show Committee £200, A. B. Cricket Club £200, A.B. Parish Council £300, British Legion disco £252, Beryl Osbourne raffle £100, Bagots Ward for a grant of £150 to purchase bunting.

On the more practical side, invaluable support was provided by all the "Bouncers" at the teenage disco; Nick Philips and helpers for letting off the fireworks; British Legion for the fund raising disco and the church service; the A.B Firemen for putting on a great Open Day;

the A.B. Cricket Club for organising the dawn cricket match and the adult dance; all the parents for providing the food for the children's party; the A.B W. I. for providing the cakes for the Tea Dance; Bernard Grundy and Ray Wright for the entertainment at the Tea Dance; Malc Brown and helpers for putting up the bunting.

Finally the team would like to thank everyone who joined in and supported the events to make it a weekend to remember!

A wooden bench with a Golden Jubilee plaque will be purchased with the funds left over.

Blood Donors

On **Friday 26 July** the National Blood Service will be conducting a new blood donation session at the Abbots Bromley Village Hall from 1.30 to 3.15 and 4.30 to 7.15.

This is the first session to be held in the village and the NBS would like to encourage people between the ages of 17 and 60 (if you are a regular donor you can donate until you are 70), who are fit and healthy to support the event. If successful they will return up to three times a year so please "spread the word".

The NBS needs 1000 donations a day in the Midlands to meet hospital demand. In Staffordshire alone 17,620 units of blood are needed by hospital blood banks each year which is 357 units a week.

Blood donors are amazing people who save and enhance lives every day. Have you thought about becoming a lifesaver? If you would like more information on becoming a blood donor please call the helpline on 0845 7711711. Alternatively more information can be found on the NBS website www.blood.co.uk.

Jubilee Cup

At the Parish Assembly Borough Councillor Alex Fox was presented with the Jubilee cup in recognition of his significant contributions to key projects around the village including the St. Nicholas Church restoration, the new Village Hall and the Millennium Green. In accepting the award, Councillor Fox paid tribute to the other team members involved in each project and said it was a cause for great satisfaction that a village of our size had been able to obtain grants of £450,000 towards projects with a total cost of £600,000.

Update on Buttercross

Staffordshire County Council have now sent off the relevant papers to the Secretary of State for approval of the necessary works. The remedial work will be put out to tender and "fingers crossed" the Buttercross will be repaired for Horn Dance day.

Best Kept Village Competition

Please do not forget that the village is assessed on an on-going basis, and "judgement day" is not far away.

A concentrated effort over the next few weeks could achieve yet another favourable result.

Horse watch

Equine-related crime and nutrition will be discussed at a meeting scheduled for **Tuesday 10 September** at 7.45 in the Coach and Horses. Everyone is welcome, under-18s included.

An introduction from Inspector Andy Mason Uttoxeter Local Policing Unit Commander

Having served the police service since 1979 and spent the first seven years in the East End of London and Central London, I moved to Burton upon Trent in January 1987, and have worked at Burton and Tamworth in the rank of Constable, Sergeant and Inspector.

I came to Uttoxeter in April this year having spent the last three years working with the police, East Staffs Borough Council and the County Council to develop the community safety partnership work across the borough and prepare the strategy for 2002-2005.

Uttoxeter local policing unit covers a vast area of rural land from Mayfield in the north down to Barton under Needwood in the south. Whilst this LPU has the lowest number of priority crimes across the whole of the Trent Valley Division. What is also important is quality of life. Balancing these issues against the demand for our services has proved difficult over recent years. New structures are to be introduced, which will provide a balance between the officers that will respond to calls received from the public and the ones that will be available to the community to deal with longer-term problems.

One issue that has been raised is parking in the village. What I intend to do is to implement an initiative that will see owners of vehicles parked inappropriately receiving letters warning them of the consequences of repeating the offence. If seen again a ticket will then be issued.

Whilst I have your attention I would also remind people of the need for care in two particular ways:-

We often see an increase in burglaries where the offenders enter the house through open windows, left open for ventilation or because the householder has forgotten to shut them at night.

We have also had a series of burglaries across the division where high powered or high value cars have been stolen during the night. I would ask that people think about where they leave their car keys when they go to bed.

Acoustics at the Village Hall

The Management Committee of the Abbots Bromley Village Hall would like to announce that sound absorbent panels have now been installed in the Millennium Hall. With the addition of these panels, the Hall will be much more suitable for the playing of live or recorded music and the performance of plays. Grants of £5000 were obtained from the Lottery Commission and £2000 from Staffordshire County Council which helped towards the overall cost.

Recycling incentives scheme

Rachel Gibbs, the Waste Services Development Officer, has offered to attend the next Parish Council meeting on **Wednesday 31 July** at the Village Hall, to discuss the scheme in detail. It is hoped to raise the recycling rate in East Staffordshire from its current rate of 6.1% towards the statutory performance standards of 10% by 2003/4 and 18% by 2005/6. The Borough Council will be adopting a cash reward scheme based on the amount of material recycled in each village.

Dates for Bulk Waste in 2002

Skips for bulk waste disposal will be sited again on the car park at the rear of the Crown Inn, Schoolhouse Lane as follows:-

10 August (11.00-14.00)

21 September (10.15-14.00)

9 November (11.00-14.00)

Village Show

This year's Abbots Bromley Show was a very successful social event, no financial results are available at present. Handed in, but as yet unclaimed are various soft animals (which will be re-cycled by the Hospice stall on Horn Dance Day if not claimed), one children's shoe and a house key. Please contact Show Chairman 01283 840257 for details.

Unfortunately whilst the Show was taking place, a horse in a neighbouring field had 10ins of its tail slashed off. If anyone has any information about this attack could they please contact Judy Nolan 01889 882057.