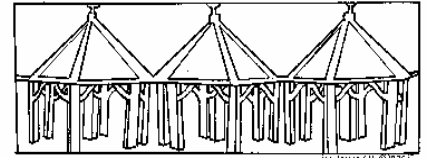


THE BROMLEY

BULLETIN.....



Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2002 Number 19

Vital Villages Scheme

The Vital Villages scheme covering the Parishes of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield and Kingstone was launched at a Public meeting held on the evening of 15th October 2002.

Following a presentation about the scheme by Councillor Alex Fox and Village agent Paul Sweetman, the evening developed into an open discussion about the opportunities and concerns involving the Parish.

The attendees brought forward many issues that could be developed by the Vital Villages scheme. These included the provision of facilities for the youth and schemes to involve the youth in the running of Parish activities. The provision of external sporting facilities for football and cricket. The development of local plans for housing, employment and transport. The development of Blithfield reservoir as a resource. Supporting and developing the retail services. Helping local organisations realise their full potential. Looking at local issues that affect the characteristics of the village such as car parking. Identifying people who would be able to develop and facilitate daytime activities for local people. These factors can be addressed by the scheme and by presenting them in a professionally produced plan, the benefits for the community could be realised. To collate everyone's thoughts into the Parish plan a working group has been established from people living in each of the Parishes. They will help develop a questionnaire that will be sent to every household with the aim of allowing everyone to have their say about the needs of their Parish.

The Vital Villages scheme would like to hear from any individual or organisation who are able to contribute to the scheme or would like to hear more about the benefits of the scheme.

RISES

Recycling Incentives Scheme in East Staffordshire (RISES) is the name given to a new initiative from East Staffordshire Borough Council intended to increase the proportion of our domestic waste that gets recycled. Under the scheme, charities in Abbots Bromley will benefit according to the amount of waste that we recycle using the bins in the Crown car park. A local committee is being formed to decide where funds should be distributed and this will comprise Linda Fox, Fiona Kirby, Michelle Moore and Frank Robertson. The potential benefits to the village amount to several hundred pounds per year, and will increase in line with the amount we recycle.

So please get recycling!

Butter Cross

The repairs to the Butter Cross were finally carried out just in time for Horn Dance Day and included extensive remedial work in addition to the accident repairs. Since the Butter Cross is a "scheduled monument", the intention was not to make it look like new, but to retain as much of the existing character as possible. Special air dried oak was used in the repairs and, in time, this will weather to match the original material. A number of the joints in the roof braces were remade to replace rotten wood and the lead work and damaged tiles on the roof replaced. The last major repairs were in the 1930s and, with this latest work, it is hoped that the Butter Cross will be good for many decades to come.

New Councillors

The vacancies on the Parish Council mentioned in the last newsletter, have now been filled by co-option – as no election was requested within the statutory period. We are delighted to welcome Clive Cooke (840928), Bob Esling (840778), and Jean Needham (840481).

Abbots Bromley Show

There was a lot of interest in continuing the tradition of the Village Show as a result of the plea by Phil Charles for more people to get involved. Following the AGM a new committee was elected. The Show date for 2003 has been set for **Saturday 21st June**. It is intended to bring the Show back into the village and hold the main events in and around the Village Hall. Hopefully, most of the clubs, groups and societies in the village will participate in providing stalls, activities or just volunteers to make the day a success. The committee is currently working on the format for the day. Although there are plenty of ideas, they would welcome anyone who feels they have anything to contribute. In particular, representatives from any of the groups in the village would be welcome at any of the committee meetings to discuss their possible participation in the day's events. If anyone wishes to join in the challenge of this venture, or simply wants to volunteer their services please contact:- Tina Scanlan, Chairperson(840072), David Harrison, Co-ordinator(840677), Helen Wilson, Secretary(840224) and Pat Esling, Treasurer(840778). The Chairperson would like to extend a public thank you to the outgoing committee for working so hard over the years to provide the village with such successful annual Shows, a tradition which one can only hope to continue.

Bobbies back on the Beat

Following an in-depth review of the force's work relating to the public, the police have initiated a "Public Reassurance Project" which aims to give the people of Staffordshire the policing service they have asked for. The new system is based on three key concepts:-

Community Beat Officers- named officers responsible for a specific area, providing a visible presence, with an aim to build up community contacts to help residents feel safe. Our police constable is Richard Boulter and he can be contacted on 01785 233972 or on e-mail at (richard.boulter@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Pro-active Teams - officers who will specialise in intelligence led policing, targeting prolific criminals, reduce volume crime and boost detection rates.

Divisional Incident Management Teams - will respond to calls that need an immediate response. The introduction of a new "tidal staffing" system should put more officers on duty at peak periods.

It is hoped that in this way the concern of the public might be allayed and the liaison between them and the police strengthened.

Affordable Housing

Building work is well under way on the six new houses on part of the Fire Station site in Goose Lane. These houses are being built by the Beth Johnson Housing Association and are designed to offer affordable housing to local people. There will be 2 three bedroom (5 person) houses for rent and 4 two bedroom (4 person) houses for shared ownership. The houses are due to be completed by early May 2003. For further information contact the Beth Johnson Housing Association .

Shared ownership houses - Gill McGovern (01782 203569)

Rented houses - Christine Carter (01782 219200).

Do you take full advantage of your Post Office?

Many villages are losing their facilities for a variety of reasons and in Abbots Bromley our Post Office is of great value. Do you know of all the services available there? Many of us use the Post Office for paying TV and fishing Licences, vehicle taxes and collecting pensions, but there are many other services available and using these could save journeys into town. Bills can be paid FREE for the telephone, electricity, gas, Inland Revenue and Stores – with the additional advantage of setting up a budget scheme for these payments. FREE BANKING for personal customers. That is the cashing of cheques and paying in of monies for the following – Alliance and Leicester, Barclays, Cahoot, Co-op, Lloyds TSB and Smile. Ask for details.

Holiday Monies– 0% commission, all the year round on foreign currency and commission free buy back on return. Ask for the forms. Holiday Insurance – a policy can be set up over the counter the same day – free for children. We are fortunate to have our Post office "Use it don't lose it".

Broadband Access

Many of you who use the internet may be aware that it is now possible in some parts of the country to have "always-on" high speed access. BT only provide the service where there are enough people interested. If you would like to register your interest to help expedite availability in Abbots Bromley, then e-mail Simon Evans (simon.evans@lineone.net)

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