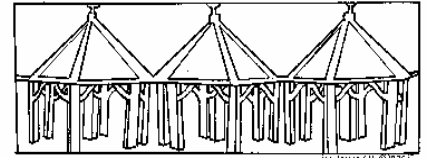


THE BROMLEY

BULLETIN.....



Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter February 2004 No 23

Best Kept Village Competition 2004

Let us try and win again this year.

Thanks for everyone's help last year, unfortunately we just missed getting the top spot. The main areas letting us down were places of untidiness and instances of dog fouling. We have time to plan – the competition this year runs from 1st May to the beginning of August, with several visits from the judges. For 2004 we have the enthusiastic support of Richard Clarke First School and the School of S Mary & S Anne. In addition the Parish Council would like to involve all the various village organisations and obtain the support of residents, particularly those who live on the main route through the village.

If you as an **individual** or as a representative of any **village organisation** are willing to give support to Abbots Bromley village in its bid to win the 2004 competition then please contact Alan Elkington (841011) or Jean Needham (840481) as soon as possible.

Be alert and help Abbots Bromley to achieve success.

Village Highway Problems

In a response to ongoing requests from residents to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village, the Parish Council have continued to lobby both the Police and the County Council Highways in an attempt to be proactive in solving this matter. There has been the occasional use of a speed gun by the Police, but we are not aware of any prosecutions. Changes to the road environment that would help reduce average speeds, have been looked at. Several suggestions were made to the Highways Department, including a 20mph speed limit, extended 30mph limits on entry to the village, "closing down" entrances to the village with roadside features, vehicle activated signs and a traffic survey. The Parish Council are disappointed that the Highways Department have been dismissive of these ideas to date, but they are undertaking a traffic survey to ascertain the extent of the problem. The Parish Council welcomes this as a first step, continues to take this issue seriously and will work towards finding effective solutions. Any additional support from the community can only strengthen the case, so if you have any views on the subject please contact Clive Cook (840928) or Linda Fox (840315).

Quality Parish Status

As part of the follow on from discussions initiated by the Rural White Paper, the government has recently announced details of a "Quality Council" scheme applicable to both Parish and Town Councils. The scheme sets out a number of criteria to be used in assessing whether a Council meets the quality standard. Abbots Bromley Parish Council already meets many of the criteria and has set itself the challenge of achieving quality status over the next year. One aim of the standard is to allow quality Councils greater freedom in the delivery of services to their communities.

The annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 12th May, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Village Precept 2004/05

The Parish Council has requested a slight increase in the precept for next year of 2%. It is hoped to maintain the standard of care for the village and to proceed with research into improving traffic problems. Other projects to be supported are the Community First Responders and Vital Villages. The Village Precept for Band D will be £25.28.

Abbots Bromley Community First Responder

We are pleased to report that the first training course for our CFRs started on Thursday 12th February in the Village Hall and is now full. Don't worry if you have missed this course since we are planning to run another one later in the year.

Please let us know if you want to put your name down for the second group or even if you just want some more information.

There are now 15 volunteers signed up, and this will be enough to start the scheme operating once they have completed both parts of their training. We would emphasise that the training is being given by Staffordshire Ambulance Service and all volunteers will have to pass a formal test to ensure they meet the required standards. We are now actively seeking funds to support the operational team with equipment and a suitable vehicle. Bob Esling (840778), Kate McLoughlin (840409), Liz Palmer (840667).

Millennium Green

The Trustees are pleased at how successful the Millennium Green has been since it was opened four years ago. Some of the shrubs and trees have now matured and the conservation area grown. (This area will be "tidied up" during the year.) Perhaps we can remind you of the Green's rules. The play equipment is designed for children over 5 and under 13 years old. Adult supervision of children using the equipment is advised at all times. Please do not use the play area after 6pm from October to May. Dogs are not allowed in the play area and please take your litter home with you. The AGM will be held at the Village Hall on 16th March at 7.30pm.

Village Show Saturday 12th June

Once again the main event will take place at the Village Hall, but there will be a variety of pre-Show events taking place. "Spot the Location" Competition, 29th May-5th June. "Rock of Ages" live music at the Royal Oak on Sun 30th May. Sports Day at Richard Clarke on Sat 5th June. Fun Run on Friday 11th June and the After Show Dance on Sat 12th June.

The theme for this year's parade is "Advertisements". Anyone who wishes to take part in the parade, or who would like a stall at the Show should contact us. We have welcomed new members onto the committee, but anyone who would like to contribute is always welcome. It is never too early to register your willingness to help on Show day, or to volunteer sponsorship or raffle prizes.

We cannot close the book on last year without reporting that Santa Claus visited over 140 children at their Christmas Party at the Village Hall on 13th December and that a good time was had by all. The Show committee also supported the Valentines Dance on 14th February. If you would like a voice in this year's Show, please contact us, Tina Scanlan (840072), Helen Wilson (840224), Bob Heaver (840480) or simply speak to any member of the committee.

Abbots Bromley Official Address

The Royal Mail will be sending out information to all householders concerning the change in our official postal address. You only need to reply if you DO NOT wish the name Abbots Bromley to be included in our official address. Our appeal will be successful providing there are no more than 20% objections.

Papers, Bottles and Cans

Please keep saving them and filling the village skips. Even with the introduction of the "blue bag" collection for newspapers (proceeds go to "Save the Children"), the paper bin will still be available for those who prefer this method of disposal. The recent money received is funding shrubs to be planted on the Crown Car Park bank by the Richard Clarke School. The next project will be to purchase flower containers and plants to enhance the village for the Best Kept Village competition. Since we began collecting in the village approximately £780 has been raised. **Please take your bags and bottle tops home.** This is private land generously offered to us by the Crown. If you find one of the bins full, please report this by ringing 0800 269098.

Tell Clarence

Problems with street lighting? call 0800 232323 and quote the reference number on the lamppost.

Project Playground Update

A site has been secured and fundraising is underway! It is not possible to use the Millennium Green for the playground, so the Parish Council have offered "The Nuttery" (land opposite Richard Clarke). A local company, Holford Contracts Ltd. will complete the ground works. Play equipment companies have begun to quote for the job. Fundraising events will be taking place in the future. Please support them if you can. Kind donations have already been received from the proceeds of the Cricket Club Carol Concert and Tom Thumb's Nativity. The target for the project is £30,000.

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