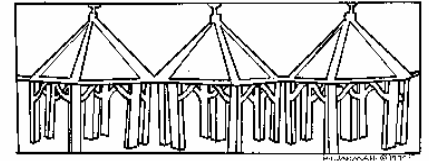


THE BROMLEY

BULLETIN.....



Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter June 2006 No 31

Annual Report 2006

A detailed annual report from the Parish Council is published on-line on the village web pages and can be found on the "Documents" page at www.abbotsbromley.com/pc. For those without internet access, copies of the report can be viewed in Church House, the Post Office and the Village Hall. Councillor Philip Charles (Chairman), noted in his report some key aspects of the work of the Council in the previous 12 months:

FULL REPORT CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Council members and officer
- Working groups/representatives
- Reports to the Parish Assembly from village organisations
- Notes from Parish Assembly
- Financial Report 2005/2006

During the year we have been consulted on 58 planning applications (compared to 73 in the previous year). These varied from tree pruning to a proposal for eight new houses on a site in Ashbrook Lane (subsequently withdrawn). A further application expected for the wind farm has not materialised, and the Parish Council currently has no indication of whether one will be made in the future.

Last year I reported that one of the more controversial applications had been for the redevelopment of the land at Ivy House. Although the Parish Council was content to support the change of use from light industrial to allow development of new homes on that site, the schemes submitted by the developer were not considered appropriate for the location. Rejection of the plans by East Staffordshire Borough Council was followed by an appeal to the Secretary of State, but in January the Inspector appointed to investigate, upheld their decision.

The village is fortunate to have many groups of dedicated volunteers who help make our community work. During the last 12 months the Council has been pleased to recognise and support their efforts with grants. In particular, the Council was able to support the Under 5s Project Playground with £8,000 towards equipment, the village hall with a grant of £2,400 towards the cost of improving access and Community First Responders with £1,000 towards new equipment.

Anyone who has lived in the area for some time will have been aware of numerous accidents at the turn into Newton Hurst Lane (often referred to as the "Newton Turn"). In conjunction with Blithfield Parish Council we have been unsuccessful in negotiating with the County Council for improvements. After several years of trying, we have now resorted to assisting Blithfield in a local initiative to re-align the hedge which will improve visibility for traffic making the turn into the lane.

Speed through the village continues to be a major concern for many residents and I would like to put on record my thanks to the other volunteer members of the Community Speedwatch team who have given up their time in the last 12 months to support this helpful initiative. Others willing to be involved could contact Clive Cook to offer their services.

Last year I reported that our application for "Quality Council" status had been lodged. In June last year the Council were delighted to be told that this had been awarded. Abbots Bromley were the first Council in East Staffordshire to achieve this status and only the seventh in the whole of Staffordshire. Apart from the recognition this brings, we hope to see further benefits in the future with increased access to funding and more effective partnerships with other local authorities. *(Continued overleaf)*

(Annual Report 2006 continued)

Our bi-monthly Saturday morning surgeries at 10am in Church House have continued to provide regular access to Councillors. These have created a useful additional means of communication.

Last year was a major milestone in the Best Kept Village competition when it reached the fiftieth year. This made our win as the Best Kept Village in East Staffordshire all the more significant. After some discussion, it was decided to use the £100 prize money from Tarmac to plant a commemorative tree on the village green. As this gains stature, it is hoped that it will serve as the basis for the village Christmas lights.

The play area at the Millennium Green is subject to a rigorous schedule of inspections to help ensure the equipment is maintained to a high level and safe to use. During the last year, items which came up have been addressed by the Council including safety modifications to the equipment and replenishment of the bark.

As we look to the future, the Council has been made aware of essential water main replacement work planned for the main street this summer. This will inevitably cause disruption to residents and through traffic, but may provide some temporary respite from speeding vehicles.

Assuming that John Prescott does not delay the elections in May 2007, the present Parish Council is now entering the final year in office and would like to advise residents who have an interest in the future of their community that they will have an opportunity to stand for election next year. Anyone interested in finding out more about what this would entail, can contact the parish clerk.

Dog fouling — important notice

In recent weeks there have been several instances of dog fouling, where the owner/dog walker has been disregarding the law and not cleaning up their pet's mess. The potential hazard to village residents, particularly our children, should be well known to all. The Parish Council receives numerous complaints of fouling, particularly on the main streets through the village, in Ashbrook Lane, village hall drive and the churchyard.

As a result of the current situation, the Parish Council is considering offering a reward to anyone whose identification of an offender results in a successful prosecution. We invite all residents to help bring an end to this antisocial behaviour.

The ESBC Enforcement Team can be contacted on 01283-508576.

Abbots Bromley Action Plan

The annual report includes a full update on the progress made with the Action Plan. In addition to listing the successes so far, it also identifies a number of further initiatives that would be possible if people who cared about their community were willing to get involved. To offer your services, contact Eric Roy (840153).

Parish Council Meetings

The next meetings are on 26 July and 27 September at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Surgeries

Parish Councillors will be available in Church House between 10 and 11am to informally discuss any issues that you would like to raise on the following Saturday mornings - 22 July and 23 September.

Clarence

Any problems with highways, lighting or signs can be notified to "Clarence" on 0800 23 23 23 or email clarence@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Recycling Bins

If any of the recycling bins on the Crown car park are full please do not leave your recycling material along side the bins, but telephone 0800 269098 and report which bin requires emptying.

Parish Councillors

Philip Charles - Chairman (840251),
Clive Cook (840928),
David Eatough (840061),
Bob Esling (840778),
Alan Elkington (841011),
Linda Fox (840315),
Roger Jarman (840678),
Kate McLoughlin (840409) and
Jean Needham (840481).

Clerk to the Council

Eric Roy (840153) or email to:
parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

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