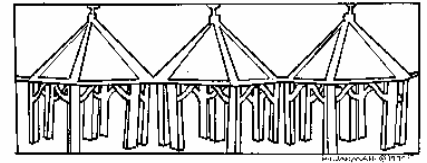


THE BROMLEY BULLETIN.....



Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter November 2006 No 32

Think Village—Think Community *Editorial*

There is something of a theme to this edition of the Parish Newsletter and it can be summarised as: Think Village – Think Community.

We are always in danger of thinking too much about ourselves and not enough about others. However, there are a number of areas where we should actively consider the needs of others as well as ourselves. Parking on pavements, allowing dog fouling, and speeding are obvious examples, but there are others like supporting local businesses, supporting RISES, and supporting our Community First Responders (CFRs).

Parking

Given the layout of the village, particularly in the main street; current levels of car ownership; and the understandable desire to park near your own front door; parking is a serious almost permanent problem that will continue to feature in the Newsletter.

A particular aspect of the problem for this issue of the Newsletter is that of parking on pavements. Stating the obvious: pavements are for pedestrians and roads are for cars. People with push-chairs, the elderly and even the fit and healthy should not have to walk on the road to get around cars parked on the pavement. Please consider others – Think Community.

Are you a future Parish Councillor?

A very positive way of supporting the wider community is by becoming a Parish Councillor. The election next May provides an opportunity for you to stand as a Parish Councillor and help support and develop our local community. Training will be available to help those who are elected to understand and fully participate in their new role.

Contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

Congratulations - Under 5s Play Area

Congratulations are due to the dedicated team who have recently completed the Under 5s Playground at the Nuttery in Schoolhouse Lane. The formal opening by Rev Davies at the end of September was the result of three years of hard work in planning and fund raising. The village now has a much needed facility for our younger children.

Village Web Pages

When did you last visit the village web pages? In addition to links to local weather and news, facilities are available for local organisations to publicise their events. See more at www.abbotsbromley.com.

Newsletter editor

After a number of years in the role, Kate McLoughlin has handed over responsibility for editing the Newsletter to Bob Esling (01283 840778).

The Parish Council gratefully thanks Kate for all her hard work and dedication in regularly producing the Newsletter during that time.

Dog Fouling

Dog mess is unpleasant and unhealthy. It is also avoidable as an issue on streets and paths in the village and surrounds.

If you are a dog owner please be responsible and clear up any mess the animal makes in public places. There is a legal obligation as well as a social one on you to do so.

If you wish to report an offender the ESBC Enforcement Team can be contacted on 01283 508576.

A much better outcome than prosecution is for dog owners to act responsibly. Again, Think Community.

Hedges

In a similar vein, please keep any hedges that border a footpath trimmed back so that they do not encroach onto the footpath and make it difficult for pedestrians – particularly where the footpath is narrow. Think Community.

Local Businesses

It remains hard for businesses to survive in villages – there is almost too much price and product range competition from supermarkets and retail parks. Indeed, we have seen two shops in the village close in recent times.

However, local businesses are close at hand, are necessary for those that cannot readily get out of the village, and usually provide a more friendly service. The Post Office, for example, provides a particular kind of service to the community especially the older folk.

The message here is simple. If we don't use local businesses they will all eventually fade away and we all – the whole community – loses. Think Community.

Community First Responders

The CFR vehicle has become a familiar sight since the group went live in February 2005. Over 600 incidents have been attended and many people have benefited from the CFRs ability to reach an incident in and around our Parish quicker than a paramedic or ambulance and apply pain relief and very sophisticated first aid.

Sadly this changed recently. The facility to use a number of drugs – including pain relief – has been withdrawn. This has dramatically reduced the level of care that the CFRs are able to offer.

The Parish Council has written to object to this reduction in the level of care and to press for the re-instatement of the withdrawn drugs. We would urge people from the Parish to do the same. None of us know who might need the CFRs next! If you do write, we suggest you address your comments to Mr G Catling Acting Chief Executive of Staffs Ambulance Service with a copy to our MP Michael Fabricant.

On the operational side of the CFR group, there are occasionally views expressed about the speed the vehicle is driven at. The CFRs have recently been advised that they are permitted to exceed the speed limit en route to an urgent call.

They have a desire, in the interest of the patient, to attend the incident as soon as possible and speed is a matter of balance and judgement. The very purpose of blue lights and a siren is to warn people that an emergency vehicle is in the vicinity so that it has the best chance of reaching the incident safely and in the shortest practicable time. While the Parish Council does not condone speeding in any way, let us remember that one day we could be the one waiting for urgent assistance.

RISES

The Recycling Incentive Scheme in East Staffordshire raises funds from the containers in the Crown Car Park.

Distribution of the funds is by a group of local people: Linda Fox, Frank Robertson, Jill Crooks, and Michelle Moore – and supports projects in the Parish such as: Under 5's playground; Community First Responders; re-aligning the hedge at Newton Turn; and a new tree for the village green.

So far about £2500 has been raised and distributed.

Only the re-cycling through the Crown Car Park bins generates funds for the Parish. Think Community.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meetings are on 10 January (Budget only), 31 January and 28 February 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 - 27 January and 24 March.

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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