

Twyford Parish Council

www.twyford-bucks-pc.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS 2010 NEWSLETTER

A very Happy Christmas from the Parish Council!

There are a few things on which we should bring you up to date.

We are still wrestling with the two potential big projects that will have considerable effect on the village—HS2 and the waste incinerator at Calvert.

Additionally, in view of the expected cuts in the budgets of the County and District Councils, we want to encourage you to have your say on what we could do as a village, if some funds were transferred to us from the council budgets and also on some proposals that are being consulted upon by the County Council.

Also we will bring you up to date on various other items that we have told you about in previous newsletters.

HS2

Today, Monday 20th, the Secretary of State announced that the route that passes Twyford is to be the HS2 line. There is to be a consultation starting in February but whether there are any changes around us is not yet clear. He also claims there will be a “fair compensation scheme” for all those affected. We will see.

WRG INCINERATOR

Most of you will be aware that having considered the proposals of both Covanta and WRG, who were seeking to build incineration plants at Stewartby in Bedfordshire and at Calvert respectively, the Planning member of the BCC Cabinet decided to reverse last year’s decision and award preferred bidder status to WRG. This came as a considerable shock to most people not least as the Planning Application by WRG has not been accepted for consideration by Bucks County Planning department.

Luckily, one of the local County Councillors, the member for Grendon, John Cartwright, exercised his right to have the decision “called in”. This meant that as long as Mr Cartwright could make a cogent argument that the decision was perverse in front of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of BCC the whole project could be re-examined in detail at a later date. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which is made up of other Councillors, both Conservative and LibDem, not involved in the original decision, were convinced

that it was worth reconsidering the project and this will happen at a date early in the New Year. At that time supporters and opponents will be able to bring witnesses to argue out the case for and against

Whilst this is a promising step forward the fight is by no means won. The also happened in Oxfordshire in respect of the Ardley Incinerator and the objectors found out this week they had lost and the

Secretary of State has given permission for this to go ahead.

So, if Ardley is built, Calvert is given permission and Covanta is also successful in their separate bid to build at Stewartby there will be sufficient incineration capacity with 40 minutes drive of Twyford to burn about eight times the waste produced by Buckinghamshire!

The main practical argument being advanced by the objectors is that Buckinghamshire generally, and AVDC particularly, are so bad at encouraging recycling that the amount of waste could be reduced by about a third if these councils were as good at it as the best in the country. Achieving this would undermine the need for such a big facility at Calvert and would make it more sensible to get rid of waste more locally in other parts of the county.

If you feel strongly about the need to stop the incinerator please write to the Overview and Scrutiny Commissioning Committee at County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA or Email: kmacdonald@buckscc.gov.uk as soon as possible and certainly before 8th January.

THE BRIDGE

The Parish Council as well as the shop and a number of residents have been in contact with Transport for Buckinghamshire asking for clarification of TfB’s plans for the bridge. We have also enlisted the help of Hedley Cadd, our County Councillor. So far there has been no sensible response.

The bridge is dangerous; it is technically an offence under the Highways Act to use it and should there be an accident insurance companies will undoubtedly deny the claim. So folk use it at their own risk

Council Contacts Roger Landells 738424 rogerlandells@hotmail.com or Andrea Curtis 730617

Other Councillors – Ant Wood, John Boasman, Trevor Cook, Alan Riley, Rae Sloan, Bruce Steele-Tyson

WINTER MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

The winter weather is already taking its toll of the roads and a number of potholes including those that have been repaired earlier this year are appearing. The T-junction at Portway Farm seems particularly badly affected so please take care!

Persistent harriving by individuals as well as the PC has succeeded in getting the main road through the village added to the priority 1 routes for gritting and this seems to have made a huge improvement to that road. The PC is considering investing in a small gritter that can be used on the minor roads in the village and on the pavements. We would need volunteers to help operate this and the PC would have to source and pay for the salt/grit as TfB seem unlikely to provide any deliveries as the existing supplies have been depleted by this early bad weather.

LOCALISM

The big Government buzz word of the moment. What we think it means is that local organisations such as the Parish Council, or we think other formal organisations in the village, will be encouraged to take over tasks previously provided by either the County or District Councils. So, what can we do for ourselves better than these councils? The first things that come to mind are road repairs, grass cutting, and litter picking. What do you think we might do in addition? If we can get our ducks in line early and have a plan then we could be in a good position to get some budget transferred to the village. Please put your thinking caps on and get in touch with me or Andrea, our Parish Clerk with your ideas however wacky they are.

By the way, the Precept for the village that is part of the Council Tax bill that we all pay will be set by the Parish Council at the January meeting on Monday 10th January. The current proposal is to set this at the same aggregate level as for this year. However, if there are more or less homes in each band or if the level of discounts has changed you may see some minor differences in your own bill.

CONSULTATIONS

There are number of issues on which either the county council, AVDC or the Parish Council are seeking views. The planning rules are changing and AVDC are looking to the Parish Council to help them gather information on people's views. We will arrange a Public Meeting in the New Year to go through these.

We are also being encouraged to create a village recovery plan that can be put in place should there be any kind of general emergency in the village. The snow is one example of this as would be a general power outage or the restriction of home fuel deliveries, both of which seem very real possibilities this winter. We

aim to take this forward after the next PC meeting.

The County Council are producing a Local Transport Plan for which there is a consultation until February 25th 2011. If you would like to be involved in this contact our Parish Clerk and Andrea will get you a copy of the documents.

Are you happy with the speed of Broadband in the village? Is the slow speed creating difficulties for you in your job or because you cannot download entertainment products fast enough? There are two possible solutions. BT has launched its Infinity project which will deliver very fast broadband services. But Twyford is not on the map to receive this any time soon, maybe never. You can influence this, however, by going to www.BT.com/infinity and voting for Twyford to be one of five rural areas to be on the list. On the other hand the Buckingham LAF is hoping to set up a Community Interest Company to bring a similar speed broadband to all of north Buckinghamshire where BT is unlikely to find it commercially viable. This will be set up in conjunction with Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership (www.belp.co.uk). There is a questionnaire and further details on the BELP web site. If Twyford shows a lot of interest in this project we could be one of the first villages to benefit.

UPDATING THE PARISH PLAN

Because of all these issues we think that we should revisit the parish Plan that was first published in 2005. This is a splendid review of what was important to the village then, but as we know things move on and we need to be in a position to address new issues in the knowledge of the importance they are held by the village at large. Hopefully individual villagers, as well as all the organisations, clubs and societies in the village will take part.

BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION

At last we are nearly there! It has taken much persistence on the part of Ant Wood and Andrea Curtis but we have now signed the Transfer documents to gain possession of just under a quarter of an acre adjacent to the current ground. During the year coming we will need to make it secure and in due course level and fence it so that it is ready for use when needed.

VOLUNTEERS

If you think that you can help the village in any way please contact Andrea or me. We would particularly like those with project management or planning experience to help with the recovery plan. Also if you feel you can help with a community car scheme that may be needed if the bus services are curtailed as a result of the cuts please get in touch.