

Twyford Parish Council

www.twyford-bucks-pc.gov.uk

AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the August Parish Council Newsletter. We are probably facing one of the most unsettled times for Twyford for maybe seventy years. In this newsletter you will find information about some of the issues facing the village which may alter our way of life massively over the next decade or so. In some cases the issues are external and, whilst we may have opinions as to the best way to go and we may voice these opinions forcibly and eloquently, ultimately the decisions will not be made within the village and quite likely not even within our county. However this does not mean that we should give up the fight. Other issues, however, are ones that we can influence and provide decision points that give us, as villagers, the opportunity to decide in which direction we wish to go. If we are to believe the new coalition government there will be the chance to actually address an issue that has been said to be very important but which has not been in our gift to change – the need for more affordable housing within the village for young folk in the village to occupy. It appears that in future communities will be able to decide what building is important to them and not have to rely on persuading a higher authority that this is what is needed. Should this become a reality it will also be incumbent on communities to ensure that the facilities that sustain them are maintained and allowed to flourish, schools, places of worship, shop, village halls, clubs and societies, recreation grounds, transport and even pubs and takeaways are facilities that help keep a community going and thriving so we must ensure that we use them or for sure we will lose them.

Many folk in Twyford get involved in what we have to offer, to those who do not for whatever reason – Come on in, you will probably enjoy it.

WRG Incinerator

WRG have held some exhibitions in various village halls in the area. Albeit the illustrations and plans were not complete and a lot of the information was held back as confidential, at least they are now in correspondence with communities.

WRG are planning on submitting plans to Buck County Council on September 14th.

SAVI are at a crucial point in their campaign: if you want to help them, please get in touch via www.besavi.co.uk.

HS2, The Exceptional Hardship Scheme has been launched, but rather ominously only for homes close to the preferred route, which is the one passing the end of our village. So, if you think that you may qualify for assistance you should contact HS2 in one of the following ways – register on the website www.hs2.org.uk, telephone HS2 on 020 7944 4908 or write to The Exceptional Hardship Scheme, HS2 Ltd, 3rd Floor 55, Victoria St, London, SW1H 0EU.

The Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, is, we understand touring the preferred route of HS2 and both the Parish Council and John Bercow have urged him to visit real locations, like Twyford, rather than just looking up and down the line from various bridges. Whether this will happen remains to be seen, the plans for the tour seemed shrouded in mystery.

There is a lecture on “HS2 The Project” in Reading on 13th September to be addressed by Sarah Hunter, Head of Operations, HS2 Ltd. This will be at THE TOWN HALL, “Silverthorne Room”, Blagrove Street, Reading, at 6:15pm. Everyone is welcome, by ticket which can be obtained from membership@ciltuk.org.uk quoting Event Code TVG035 or telephone 01536 740104.

The Parish Council is considering the merits of registering the Recreation Ground as a village green, this may serve to delay any consideration of the route or, at least, improve our chances of obtaining compensation.

SHOP – PLANNING PERMISSION – A consultation about the design of the proposed shop premises was held in July and planning permission was applied for shortly afterwards. The AVDC consultation period has now ended and all of the papers relating to the application may be seen at http://eplanning.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/applications/planning_details.htm. The application will be considered, hopefully next month.

Rock@The Rec

Saturday 4th September from 1:00pm is the date and time of this year’s musical event staged by the village hall. Weather permitting, there’ll be a range of entertaining sounds on offer, from brass band music to rock n roll. Created by soloists & groups, including some local favourites and guests from further afield. As usual, there’ll be refreshments available to keep everybody sustained throughout the afternoon and evening of what we hope will be an enjoyable end to summer 2010. See you there! If the weather is foul it will be a Ball@theHall

HAVE YOUR SAY — PCSO John Webb held a Have Your Say session in the Chapel School Room a few weeks ago. This proved very successful and he is now proposing to repeat this on a Monday, when the Post Office is open, later in the year. He is intending to organise a similar session at the Youth Club one Friday soon. If any villagers who are away from the village during the day feel that a session one evening would be useful then this can probably be arranged.

John is also hoping to bring the TVP speed cameras to the village sometime soon to back up the Signs, one of which is now in operation. After a few months operation Bucks Highways will return to ensure that this is both registering the correct speed and that the trigger distance is sensible to allow vehicles to brake safely so that they go through the village at no more than the speed limit. The second sign, on Portway Road, has been delayed because of problems experienced by Central Networks, who install the electricity supply. For once, Bucks Highways are not to blame!

BUCKS CC AND AVDC CUTS IN EXPENDITURE – We all know that the country as a whole has borrowed far too much money and there is not too much left. This means that our county and district councils will both have their grants from central government cut significantly in the next few years and also will not be able to increase our council tax next year to make up for this shortfall. So, expenditure on services will be reduced and very difficult decisions will need to be taken. Please do not rely on the elected representatives at district or county level to make the right decisions. If you have a view about the services that are important to you then let the councils know. Bucks CC have produced a leaflet, available in the shop, which invites you to have your say, so pick one up and make your views known, you probably have many sensible ideas that will help the council decide where cuts should be made. If you cannot find a leaflet in the shop and you have internet access then log on to www.buckscc.gov.uk/bucksdebate or e-mail bucksdebate@buckscc.gov.uk. In addition there is a meeting at Royal Latin School on 2nd September at 6:30pm to discuss possible cuts.

EXPENDITURE – There are a number of items of quite heavy expenditure that the village should be facing over the next year or so. Money that we do not readily have to hand in the Parish Council coffers. So we need your input as to how important the items are to the village and how we might fund them should we be unable to get any kind of grant assistance.

First, we probably should be installing a number of new dropped kerbs to assist both parents with prams and pushchairs and more elderly residents pushing wheel chairs to get around the village. There are a few specific dropped kerbs around the village, and, of course, car drive ins are also in many places, but often the step up from the road, whilst fine for a car tyre, is a challenge for smaller wheels. In other places there may be a dropped kerb available on one side of the road, but not on the other – the crossing of School Lane at Church Road by the school is a good example, so the road way is used, which is less safe for mothers and children. We have identified between five and ten sites in the village that could benefit from kerbs, but each will cost around £1000! Possibly a grant from the local designated budget may come our way for this.

Second, the most recent ROSPA inspection of the playground in the Rec pointed out a defective piece of equipment, which has been fixed, and the trip dangers on the rubber surfaces that have either shrunk or have come away from the wooden borders which themselves have rotted. Needless to say the playground is now out of guarantee and Wicksteed, who installed the playground have quoted between £3,000 and £4000 to rectify the issues, if they do the work and about £1000 if they supply the materials for a DIY effort.

Third, the southern boundary of the Rec has a hedge that needs laying. This will cost between £700 and £1000. The eastern boundary, by the stream, which was to be worked on by the Drainage Board last autumn, but wasn't, remains in danger of collapsing. The solution is to put some piles and boards in and then back fill the bank. The Drainage Board were going to do the work for the cost of materials, about £300. However, their priorities have been altered, even before any budget cuts, and it is unlikely they will do the job. This work, which is necessary for the safety of users of the Rec, particularly unaccompanied children, if paid for by the village will cost another estimated £1000. **Lastly**, the tractor used for mowing the grass and towing the roller is proving a cash drain, it is old and needs pretty constant TLC to keep it working. Now being old can be a benefit because it does have a value to a collector. However, it is unlikely that the sale price will cover the expenditure required to replace it with a similarly specified newer machine. There could be a deficit of a couple of thousand pounds.

This means that if we did all of these jobs and received no outside assistance our expenditure could be between £15,000 and £20,000 and we will be tied to the current precept for the foreseeable future. So, which items are most important to the village? The Parish Council needs your input, please. What do we tackle and how do we pay for it?

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 all the organisations, clubs and societies in the village will take part, as well as individual villagers.

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