

NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

March 2009



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ANNUAL PARISH FORUM



Your Annual Parish Assembly will be held on **Monday 26 April starting at 8.00pm** in Church House. This is your opportunity to find out what is going on in Newport and tell us what you think.

We will have particular emphasis on **housing and infrastructure** this year. Refreshments will be available from 7.30pm.

Jikes Hall development

Excellent progress is being maintained on replacing Jikes Hall, which is used jointly by the Scouts and Youth Club. The plan is to provide two separate units to replace the single hall which it is agreed is in poor condition, so that both organisations can have their own space.

The Parish Council, which owns the land on the Recreation Ground where the buildings are located, has joined the joint planning group to help drive the project forward.

Playgrounds

Work on the aerial runway, clearance at the back of the site and the new railings have now been completed and should be in use from Easter onwards. Meanwhile, the Playground Committee has applied for funding to upgrade the equipment and add some new items which may appeal to slightly older children.

We are also investigating the appeal of, and possible location, a BMX/Skate park within the boundary of the Recreation Ground in consultation with the Village Sports Committee.



VILLAGE WALKABOUT

From time to time you may have spotted a group of parish councillors in the village. The idea behind these walkabouts is to spot issues that need attention and to see how others are progressing. We will continue these, but also need to hear from you if there are any matters that you want us to look into. If this is the case, please contact the Parish Clerk.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The developers of the Frambury Lane site are attempting to determine the owner of the bridleway, in order to apply for an upgrade to a public highway. This is taking some time, so there has been no progress on the Planning Application. In the meantime, a meeting is being arranged with the Rural Community Council for Essex to discuss progress on the Cambridge Road site.

Village facilities

After the longest winter in thirty years, the PC has been taking stock of the amenities that have been tested to the limit (and beyond in some case). These include:

- **SALT BINS** – we have four of these in the village and they are filled and topped up by Essex Highways. This has not always been possible because of shortages of salt and gritting operations, so we are talking to ECC on how to improve the service and add some extra bins in critical locations. At the same time, it is important to emphasise that the salt is there for the public to use on the public roads and footpaths, but not to use this on your private property or, as happened on at least one occasion, to fill up bags and transport them out of the village!
- **FLOODING** – with the prolonged snow and rain there have been a number of occasions when the river and streams have been unable to cope, with minor flooding in some critical locations. We have been discussing the potential risk of flooding with the Environmental Agency and how to cope with the consequences. This has included a demonstration of new barrier devices known as Flood Sax (samples available at the Parish Council office), and a decision to clear the blocked up stream on the southern boundary of the Common. We'll have more to say about this at the Annual Parish Assembly on 26 April.
- **DOG WASTE** – It is now illegal to leave dog waste and, although most dog owners remove and bin it, there are still too many who don't. We already have seven waste bins in the village and these are emptied by UDC, but we have told that the Council is unable to cope with any more due to manpower constraints. However, we are to encourage dog owners to place bagged waste in either the other public bins, or take it home and place in your own black (non-recyclable) bin.
- **GREEN WASTE BINS** - UDC have confirmed that the Green Waste Container will again be visiting the two sites that we arranged last year. This will commence at the Station car park on Saturday 3rd April between 3.00 - 4.00pm, and the following Saturday, 10th April at the Allotments. This arrangement will continue until November.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

We have reported on this long-term issue before, so by way of an update;

- The 20mph speed zones are now in place in critical parts of the village, and the double yellow lines are in place at the junction in Frambury Lane near the Primary School.
- To improve the safety of pupils at Newport Free Grammar School, we have asked Essex Highways to provide a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Belmont Hill near the junction with Gaces Acre. This had been approved, but the combination of restricted funding from ECC and the potential high cost of re-routing BT underground cables has put this project in serious doubt.
- Parking is possibly one of the greatest challenges in a busy commuter village, and Newport is no exception to this with a growing population and poor public transport arrangements. We hear concerns from residents, businesses and commuters and we know there is no 'silver bullet' solution, but are working with Essex Highways on a number of possible projects that may give some relief to the problem.

You may also have read in the local press that the District Commander of Essex Police has pledged to do more about illegal and inconsiderate parking across Uttlesford. This is good news, but only if it results in stopping parking where this is prohibited, and the problems caused by parking on pavements are making it difficult for pedestrians and the emergency services to get round these obstructions - we haven't seen any evidence to date.

VILLAGE PLAN

A small group of residents has continued to meet to collate the results of the questionnaire. This has identified comments and concerns that have been made by several people. This may be used to write an action plan. They are hoping to print the Newport Village Plan at the beginning of June.



NEWPORT VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trustees takes place in the Green Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday, **12th May** starting at 8.00pm. At that meeting the Chairman will report on the increased use of the hall and the progress on the improvement plans. The latest enhancement sees the replacement of the old metal windows with more attractive new units, and there are plans to tackle the Trustee's 'wish list' as funds become available.

WELCOME TO NEWPORT

Work has now been completed on the new housing development in Bury Water Lane. The 14 properties now named Willow Vale are now being occupied and we welcome our latest residents to the village.

Responding to a planning condition, the developer has also provided a new footpath

and street lighting to improve road safety on that section of Bury Water Lane. This is welcomed, but the Parish Council is still concerned that the stretch of this road between the school and Cambridge Road has no pedestrian footpath and is in a dreadful state of repair after the severe winter weather.

Your councillors

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Peter Arscott | 541646 | |
| Lindsay Baillie | 541188 | |
| Margaret Bowker | 540737 | |
| Ted Denyer | 542554 | |
| Charles Gilbank | 543793 | |
| Alan Johnson | 543153 | (Vice-Chairman) |
| Cherry Mitchell | 540654 | |
| Jeremy Rose | 541114 | |
| Malcolm Sell | 541002 | |
| John Smith | 541498 | |
| Andrew Yarwood | 07714 708815 | (Chairman, and District Councillor) |
| Ray Gooding | 01279 813103 | (County Councillor) |
| Peter Wilcock | 01279 850198 | (District Councillor) |

Clerk:

Christine Griffin 01799 542541
Parish Office, 24 High Street, Newport CB11 3PH
newportparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

The Parish office is normally manned in the mornings, Monday to Thursday

visit our web site to see what's happening: www.newportvillage.co.uk

Diary dates

Wednesday 7th April
Full Council Meeting

Monday 19th April
Facilities Meeting

Monday 26th April
Annual Parish Assembly

Monday 10th May
Full Council Meeting

All meetings are held in The Church House and commence at 7.30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the press and the public, and time is put aside for the public to address the Council.

Written questions should be sent to the Clerk at least five working days in advance of the meeting.

Profile: Charles Gilbank

Charles is originally from Yorkshire. He moved to Bishop's Stortford in 1998 to take up a position at Birchwood High School as a teacher of PE. Charles moved to Newport in 2006.

He continues to work at Birchwood as Deputy Headteacher and has had a three year secondment to the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services, this has been to develop and deliver the New Secondary Curriculum

Reform to Headteachers across the country.

Charles lives with his partner Laura and three children, William and Madeleine, 4 and Harry, 18 months.

Charles and his family have a deep sense of community and feel that it is important to support the wonderful village of Newport, with the experience and expertise that they hold.