

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Newsletter

Shoreline Summary

Issue 5 June 2006

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Judging is underway for this year's Best Kept Village. The main judging began on 29th May and runs through to 7th July with final judging in the second half of August.

Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea Nurseries and Altys have again very kindly supplied the flowering baskets which we hope you'll agree are even better than last year's. Enthusiasts from The West Lancashire Light Railway have also made a special effort with a re-paint and floral enhancements. Volunteers from the Christian Fellowship have again undertaken a clean up and litter picking exercise.

Please try to ensure that these efforts are matched by your own attempts to keep your local patch looking at its best. It's amazing how much better the village can look when we all chip in.

NOW YOU SEE IT NOW YOU DON'T

Many of you will no doubt have seen the smiley ... or possibly not so smiley face of a SPID (Speed Indication Device) on Shore Road recently, but, no sooner was it there than it was gone, as one local resident remarked.

The reason behind this slightly puzzling cameo appearance is that this particular SPID belongs to the Lancashire County Council and not to the Parish Council. It therefore gets installed and relocated at various speeding hot spots throughout the Southern Division. (The official police view is that SPIDs have most impact when moved about in this way). However, as reported in the last issue, The Parish Council has agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a SPID to be retained locally. We have approached North Meols and other local Parish Councils to see if they are interested in sharing the cost of one which would then be available for more regular use at more of the local hot spots of the Parishes who are willing to contribute.

FREE TICKETS TO SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW!

The UK's largest independent flower show is back again this year at Victoria Park Southport from 17th until 20th August and YOU could win two free tickets. The show is packed full of spectacular exhibits, inspirational gardens, specialist plants, garden accessories, furniture and sculptures. There is also lots of entertainment for the children (free admission aged under sixteen!) To win your free tickets answer the following question:

When was Becconsall Old Church built? Send your answers to the Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper (contact details on back page) and he will draw out the winner from all correct entries received.

PARISH COUNCIL LAUNCH COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY

Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council has launched the fundraising for an ambitious plan for 21st century Community Sporting Facilities within the village with a conditional pledge of £50,000. Spearheaded by Hesketh Bank Football Club, the plan is to secure funding of £1.5m that will provide a modern community sporting facility for the village and surrounding area. The need for such facilities was identified in a survey consultation carried out within the village some three years ago when villagers identified the need for 'local sports and leisure facilities' and 'facilities for young people' as their second and third most important 'wishes'. The Council are delighted that the Club are taking the initiative in aiming to provide this much needed facility.

The Football Club currently has four senior and seven junior teams and over the last few years has held a highly successful "Mini Soccer School" in conjunction with Everton Football Club for boys and girls aged 5-15yrs. The addition of the new facilities on land adjacent to the Centenary Sports Ground will address some of the concerns that local residents have and give the young people of the village a new focal point. The facilities will include a floodlit multi-use games area with all-weather surfaces, which will allow the development of sports such as hockey, netball and tennis.

The Council's pledge, amongst other conditions, is subject to the balance of the required phase one funding being in place, before it can be realised; it is hoped that work on the £800,000 first phase will start in 2007. The second phase will include a community social room, fitness suites and an extension to the car park.

As we go to press, some irresponsible rumours are being spread regarding the cost to Council Tax payers of this grant. Whilst the actual budget will not be set until January next year, if as similar projects have been, the grant is financed by a Public Works Loan, the cost to a Band D property will be about 4.5pence per week.

THANKS PHIL AND GOOD LUCK!

Our local Community Beat Manager, Phil Corrigan, is with us no longer! Hopefully this is only a temporary absence, as he has done a sterling job since joining us over two years ago.

Unfortunately, Phil is currently suffering from a painful back condition which will require surgery. In the meantime he has been given less active duties in Communications at Police Headquarters and advertisements have gone out for a temporary replacement. We wish Phil a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on our patch soon.

COUNCIL CALLS FOR MORE ACTION ON DRUGS PROBLEM

At its meeting on 2nd June the Parish Council agreed to write to West Lancs. District Council to find out exactly what action is being taken to address the long standing and apparently increasing problem of drug dealing in Hesketh Bank. The District Council is responsible for coordinating a Multi Agency approach to drug taking, i.e. involving Police, Social Workers, Health Service Staff and Officers from within the District Council.

If you see or suspect any drug taking or drug dealing don't ignore it. Please be sure to report it to the Police.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Assembly 8th May 2006

As last year, I wish to begin this report by thanking my fellow Councillors and members of the community for their support during the past year. I need to reiterate my thanks to Ian, our Clerk, who has during the past year been steadfast and honest with his guidance and advice which has benefited not only me, but the whole council and indirectly the whole community. In my report at this assembly last year, I expressed the hope and wish that the Council would continue to move forward in service to our community. I believe that this hope has been realised and due to the hard work dedication and commitment of the whole council we have continued to build on solid foundations and are serving our community in a much more positive honest and open way. There is still much to do and there always will be but we are moving, I believe, in the right direction.

There have been changes throughout the year with Councillors Murphy and Trippier both leaving the Council and I wish to thank both of them for all that they did, especially Councillor Murphy's efforts on the playgrounds as well as his time as Chairman. It is good that the vacancies caused by their leaving have been filled by Councillors Twigger and Saynor who have both made very promising starts to their time on the Council.

There have been a number of initiatives completed, with the refurbished playground on Shore Road being very well received and used. We have clarified or are in the process of doing so, the vexing question of land owned by the Council in the Village. Our thanks go again to Ian for all the time and effort he has put into this issue. Ongoing work includes the refurbishment of the play area on Station Road, the lighting and speed enforcement on Shore Road, continuing work around the School, including better drainage and tree planting. These, together with our rolling programme of refurbishment and renewal and involvement with many other possible other projects will ensure another busy Year.

Of course, all this work comes at a cost to the community. As you may well know, the Parish has the second highest band D council tax in West Lancs. For a number of years the precept was set at a very low level with the effect that very little was done by the Council and maintenance was well in arrears. Over the last two years the precept has been much higher but as I said last year the need for this is appreciated and accepted by the council tax payers and as someone in the Village said to me recently " we can see where our money is going" and that is a message of encouragement. I am pleased to say that the rise in precept this year, is set at a lower level than in the previous two years at a little over 6%. I can assure all of you that we are very aware of our responsibility of being the guardians of public money.

If you or anyone in the community wish to ask about, or comment upon any aspect of the Council please feel free to contact either me or our Parish Clerk in the first instance and we will do our best to accommodate you. I wish to end as I began by thanking you, the wider community for the support you have given me and all your Councillors and to pledge that we will always do all we can to foster and strengthen this Community which we are privileged to serve.

God Bless you all.

Richard Plant **Chairman**

May 2006

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Richard Plant, Chairman 1 Silverdale, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Christine Farrington Birch Tree House, Shirley Lane, Longton

Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton

Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Margaret Saynor Dunkirk Farm, Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Lesley Standish-Gore 4 Foxglove Close, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Gerard Twigger Long Acres, Guide Road, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Joan Witter 43 Church Road, Tarleton

PARISH CLERK

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