

# Hesketh-with-Beaconsall Parish Council

## Shoreline Summary

Edition Number 19 ~ June 2010



Was that it? Was that summer? I so hope not – whatever happened to those weeks and weeks of blue skies and warm sunshine I remember from my childhood, with its attendant misery of severe hay fever and being taken home from school and Brownie day trips because I couldn't see or breathe. Now in my 60's and having grown out of the 'summer curse' I hope that we will once again have those long hot summers so that I can sit in the garden and enjoy them – except now I don't much like the heat!

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2010

The present Council, elected in 2008, is now half way through its four year term, regrettably, we have seen two resignations during the last year with former Councillors Roberts and McLeod leaving the Council for personal reasons. We are grateful for the individual expertise and commitment that both Trevor and Christine brought and offer them our thanks and good wishes for the future. In their places we have welcomed Councillors Ron Tyson and David Maughan.

The Village has taken huge strides forward during the last year with promises of further significant improvements to come.

The Allotments Group has been working hard investigating the update of the Council's four acre site on Shore Road. The Allotments, as they were, are only really capable of being managed with machinery and many were operated on a semi-commercial basis; in practical terms, this effectively excluded the local householders who wanted to simply grow their own produce. The size of the individual plots was over 900 sq ms whereas a modern Allotment Plot is normally between 150 and 250 sq ms. It is now the intention to develop two thirds of the site as traditional Allotments and the remaining third as an exciting new "Permaculture" scheme. "GroundWorks Wigan" is currently undertaking a feasibility and design study and the Council is seeking additional funding from West Lancashire Borough Council; it is hoped that work on site will start very soon.



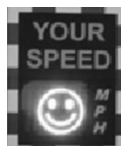
During the year, we saw the completion of the new "3G Sports Centre" built in conjunction with the Parish Council by Isherwood Developments on land adjacent to the Centenary Sports Ground. This has proved to be an outstanding success with three 'state of the art' all weather floodlit pitches being fully booked at peak times months in advance and the modern studio gymnasium attracting over 550 members with some 95% being from the local area. The social amenities have provided the sportsmen and others with excellent bar and food facilities and many local residents have enjoyed private functions there.

The Parish Council has also committed to improving the environment and visual facilities of the Centenary Sports Ground and the adjacent Village Hall site with landscaping, improved car-parking and the renewal of fencing and planting. In addition the council has instigated a scoping survey into integrating and expanding the whole site of the Sports Centre, Sports Ground and Village Hall to provide a comprehensive community facility which would be the envy of rural areas for many miles.

In addition to the existing facilities, provision will be made for mini soccer junior football pitches on the cricket ground, an artificial cricket wicket to encourage and develop junior cricket. It is also planned that an indoor centre is built as an extension to the existing cricket pavilion to encourage and develop indoor sports such as badminton, netball, tennis, basketball, indoor bowls and archery which would embrace all age groups and both sexes. To further enhance the whole site a pathway around the perimeter with seats and waste bins for the many dog walkers who use the area will be designed along with security cameras to protect users and discourage anti social behaviour.



Work is now also underway on the Village Hall's initiative in providing through West Lancashire Borough Council and the Big Lottery, a Multi-use Ball Court between the old Library building and the Band Room. The need for such a facility was clearly identified in the recent Parish Plan and was incorporated in the Village Hall's design aspirations some years ago. Floodlighting will be available up to 8:30pm in the evening after which time the site will be locked with new specially designed wrought iron gates and fencing; CCTV will also constantly monitor the area, the three buildings and the adjacent area on the Centenary Sports Ground.



Back in 2007, the Council was successful in getting the speed limit on Shore Road reduced from the National Limit to 50 mph. Following on from this, the Council secured a full safety survey of the road and the Parish Council has now approved a scheme of improved signage and road markings throughout its length and a permanent electronic speed warning device on the easterly approach to All Saints School.

During January of this year, we finally saw the start of the building works on the new Booth's Food-Store which is due to open in November. West Lancashire Borough Council in consultation with the Parish Council has carried out extensive improvements to the pavements in the village centre through its 'Inspire Scheme' and this paving will be

carried on into the Booths site to link the whole commercial area together; new seating, planters, waste bins and cycle racks have also been provided. In conjunction with the road works and mini-roundabout outside the Store, the Parish Council is hoping to provide new improved street lighting with facilities for attaching Christmas Illuminations. It is also hoped that the large amount of car parking to be provided by Booths will significantly improve the traffic flow in the area. As I have already commented in Council, Booths contractors are to be congratulated in the excellent way they have managed the site and kept the roads clean in difficult situations.



For some time now, the idea of a Linear Park on the westerly bank of the Douglas has been talked about in very vague terms. In an effort to kick start some action, the Parish Council put up £2,500 to the Borough Council who took the challenge resulting in a £23,000 full scoping survey being carried out. The survey has looked into various aspects of delivering this long term project and a working team at Borough level is now in place headed up by our own Cllr Iain Ashcroft as Chairman. Turning to the current financial year and being mindful of the current economic climate, the Council has reviewed all its activities and costs and as a result have managed to hold the 2010/2011 parish precept at the same level as last year taking the actual cost in real terms back to the 2005 levels.

I have been privileged to Chair the Council since November 2007 and I am proud of the progress we have made together. However it is now time for me to pass on the responsibility to Cllr Steve Kirby and I, as I am sure we all do, wish him well in his new capacity.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman, Iain Ashcroft and all our Councillors, not just those I have mentioned by name and of course Ian Cropper our Parish Clerk for their support to me as their Chairman during the past two and a half years, and for all their hard work they have undertaken for the whole community within the parish of Hesketh-with-Becconsall.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Sergeant".

**Parish Council Chairman - May 2010**

#### **BUS SERVICES**

Following the disappointing withdrawal of the Ormskirk Bus service the Parish Council asked if a Thursday Ormskirk Market Bus (2B) could be considered.



From Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June an Ormskirk Market Bus will be run for a trial period of three months. The bus will start in Banks and its first pick up in Hesketh Bank will depart Shore Rd/Chapel Road at 9:38am. It will continue to Ormskirk via Tarleton, Mere Brow, Holmeswood and Rufford. The return bus departs Ormskirk at 1:00pm. The Parish Council have been advised that if there is insufficient passenger numbers the service will be withdrawn at the end of the trial period – the message is very clear **USE IT OR LOSE IT.**

The Parish Council continues to make representation to Stagecoach on your behalf in an effort to get the late night weekend bus from Southport reinstated.

#### **WIN TICKETS FOR THE SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW**



The Parish Council has two tickets worth £32 to give away in our mini competition - just answer this question: - What is the botanical name for "Pot Marigolds"? Send your answers to the Parish Clerk at the address below before the 30th June 2010; the tickets will be sent to the first correct entry drawn from the hat.

Southport Flower Show is still the biggest Independent Flower Show in the country with a showground bigger than Chelsea and attracting up to 100,000 visitors. It is running for four days starting on Thursday 19th of August.

#### **PACT (Police and Communities Together)**

Your three local representatives on the Pact Panel are Parish Councillors Cllr Maureen Baldwin, 5 Rankin Avenue. Tel: 01772-814457, Cllr Richard Plant 12 Granville Avenue. Tel: 01772-512257 and an elected Community Representative. Please let them know if you have any areas of concern and they will raise the issues with the police at the monthly pact meeting. Copies of the PACT Newsletter are available under the 'Service Providers' section on the Parish Council Website [www.hwbpc.org.uk](http://www.hwbpc.org.uk) (There will be more information about PACT in the next edition of Shoreline.)

#### **PARISH COUNCIL:**

Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Paul Blane 92 Station Road, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Chris Jones Primrose Farm, Marsh Road, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Richard Plant 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank



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