

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Newsletter

Shoreline Summary

Issue 15 Summer 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2009

The present Council was elected in May last year from thirteen prospective candidates; three new Members, in the guise of Mrs Maureen Baldwin, Mr Paul Blane and Mr Trevor Roberts, joined the Council whilst former Councillors Mr Chris Jones and Mrs Lesley Standish-Gore narrowly missed being elected in a very close fought contest. In September last, Cllr Mrs Lesley Jackson decided that as the result of other voluntary work, she was unable to devote sufficient time to the Council and regrettably tendered her resignation. With no election for the vacancy being called, the Council voted to co-opt former Councillor Chris Jones who had failed to be elected by only three votes earlier in the year. During the early summer, we saw the Parish Plan launched. This important document, which was delivered to all the houses of the village, was the culmination of eighteen months work by a small dedicated and hard working group under the Chairmanship of Councillor Steve Kirby. Four ongoing groups, Community Facilities, Conservation & Environment, Transport & Traffic and Youth & Youth Facilities are now continuing the work in an effort to deliver some of the aspirations and desires of the community.

During the year, work was completed on the provision of street lighting at the westerly and easterly ends of Shore Road with new columns erected and lantern heads being fixed to the existing overhead power poles. We had originally hoped to illuminate the whole length but the decision by United Utilities not to allow any further lanterns on their distribution poles meant that the cost of completing the scheme would have quadrupled. We have had our Speed Indicating and Recording Device (SPIRD) in action at two locations in Moss Lane, two locations on Station Road and two locations on Shore Road. The statistics produced have shown a steady drop in the number of motorists breaking the speed limits; information is still routinely passed on to the police; the equipment would appear to have been a worthwhile investment.

News that the Village had been allotted £97,000 by West Lancashire District Council to undertake an "Inspire" scheme was welcomed by the Council in May last year. The scheme which is due to commence later this year will work along with the new Booths Food store to improve and enhance the village centre; the Council also secured a grant for a new notice-board for the village centre and undertook a tree planting scheme on the northerly side of the old railway bridge. A further new style bus shelter with seating, lighting and raised kerbing was installed during the past weeks on Chapel Road adjacent to Cropper Gardens to service the Southport bound buses. The CCTV equipment installed at the Shore Road recreation ground and the Station Road Play Area has proved tremendously successful with incidents of vandalism and damage dramatically reduced. A further grant has now been awarded from West Lancashire District Council to help provide CCTV and remote monitoring at the Village Hall complex. This will provide security not only for the Village hall but also for the Band Room; the adjacent Centenary Sports Ground and the planned Ball Court should this proceed.

We have also enabled the excellent new sporting facilities, currently being constructed by Isherwood Developments, to proceed by granting access to the site from the Centenary Sports Ground. This is being constructed in line with the planning permission previously granted to Hesketh Bank Football Club but at no cost to the club, Council or village. The development will not only provide changing facilities for the Football Club but also the excellent floodlit all weather pitches, which are already, complete, along with a Studio Gymnasium and Family Area in the clubhouse.

Turning to the current financial year and being mindful of the current economic climate, the Council have reviewed all its activities and costs and as a result have managed to reduce the 2009/2010 parish precept by nearly 11%, producing a reduction approaching £5 on a band D property. Despite the financial constraints, we have now been able to embark on three exciting new projects: Firstly we are looking at the possibility of revamping our allotments on Shore Road to make a more "user friendly" set of plots. The existing plots or strips are only really manageable with machinery which has precluded many would be gardeners from leasing one. We hope to be able to re-launch the site with better facilities and the possibility of one or more "Community Plots" soon.

Secondly we have undertaken to endeavour to kick start the long discussed 'Linear Park' on the banks of the Douglas in conjunction with the Coastal Path from Southport to Preston. We will be in touch with other stake holders and interested parties over the next few months and hope to be able to instigate a Feasibility Study later this year.

Lastly, mindful of the concerns currently being expressed by many residents, the Council is presently investigating the possibility of employing a "Village Warden" with the power to tackle dog fouling, litter, fly posting, dangerous parking and other anti-social activities as well as being a security presence in the evenings. This is still in its early stages and over the next few months we will be seeking the views of residents.

With all the publicity being currently given to MP's allowances, it is worthy to note that Parish Councillors do not routinely receive any allowances other than a £100 Chairman's allowance and our Parish Councillors have not claimed any expenses during the last year. 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 Ian Cropper our Parish Clerk for their support to me as their Chairman, and their work for the whole community.



Parish Council Chairman 11th May 2009

NEW 'HELP DIRECT' SERVICE FOR ALL ADULTS

Mandy Naylor from Help Direct West Lancashire attended the June parish council meeting to let us know about this new service commissioned by Lancashire County Council across the county. The service is open to all adults and its purpose is to help people get that bit of extra support they need to stay independent, to keep healthy, to stay in touch with and see friends, to keep their home and garden in good order, to take part in leisure activities or have opportunities to get involved in their local community. The main aim of Help Direct is to help people get the right practical support, some individual guidance or simply the right information and advice they need before a problem becomes a crisis. Help Direct supports them to reconnect with community and mainstream services, and also acts as a way of promoting these services. They maintain an online Wellbeing Directory (that will shortly be publicly accessible) of all such services within West Lancashire, and operate an advice line, 0303 333 1000, which is open Monday-Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-1. People can speak to an experienced Advisor who will deal with each call on an individual basis and take appropriate action to resolve the issues, whilst out of hours they can email askus@loc.helpdirectlancs.org.uk and they will respond the next working day. Help Direct West Lancashire has its main office in Ormskirk, but also hold 'drop in' sessions across the borough and are keen to set up a regular venue in Hesketh Bank. The Parish Council have suggested the Village Hall as a suitable venue and Help Direct would welcome feedback from residents as to a suitable day/time.

CENTRAL ADVOCACY

We offer support to adults in Central Lancashire in accessing or dealing with Health and Social Services care. *We provide short term one to one support. * The service is free, independent and confidential. * A regular 'Drop In' Session will be held at the Age Concern Lunch Club on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m. at The Methodist Hall, Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank. For further information contact: Central Advocacy Tel. No. 01772 534469 or Email central@centraladvocacy.org.uk

WEST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Will be at Hesketh Bank Village Hall on Wednesday 29th July from 10am to 1.00pm and Thursday 30th July from 12 noon to 3.00pm where they will provide Free of Charge FUN activities for children aged 8 and 13 years old. The activities will include indoor football, hockey, tri golf and arts and crafts (plus other indoor games and activities). If the weather is fine they hope to organise some outdoor activities as well. On Friday 31st July a trip is being arranged for those who attended, times & trip details are still to be arranged but participants will be collected from and dropped off at the Village Hall. Places are limited so look out for posters in the local shops. Further information is available from Karen or Sarah, Sports Development Team, on 01695 555570

LINEAR PARK

The Parish Council has recently approved a budget of up to £5,000 to set up a Working Group to move the project forward. Initially, this will identify key potential partners/stakeholders both from within Hesketh Bank and beyond. We will then consider how best we can work with the various interested parties in order to achieve some real movement on a project that most people agree has the potential to deliver huge benefits and therefore warrants a more concerted effort to overcome the considerable practical hurdles that stand in its way.

THE BECCONSALL

Are we saying goodbye to the Becconsall and hello to more housing? Are you concerned about what will happen to the Pub that was once at the heart of the village? Would you like to see it saved for the community? If the answer is YES please sign the petition at Top Shop Newsagents.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Is a new club aimed at providing an opportunity for people who don't "get out much" to meet together for fun and friendship for a couple of hours each week. The club meets on a Tuesday at 1.30pm in All Saints Church Hall. We plan to run a variety of activities including demonstrations of various kinds or to simply just have a cuppa and a chat. If the club takes off we can discuss together what else we might like to do. If you are interested in joining, please ring Pauline Sutton on 01772 813424

HBAFC FOOTBALL COACHING SESSIONS

Boys and girls aged under the age of 6, 7, 8 & 9, (Current School Years, Reception, 1, 2 & 3) are invited to attend coaching sessions at the excellent 3g All Weather Pitch at Station Road, Hesketh Bank on Thursday evenings 6.00pm-7.00pm, cost £3 per child. Also required are any budding coaches to help run the teams. HBAFC will fund the Level One FA Coaching Qualification. For further Information Contact: Paul Sergeant 814009 or Mobile 07713 158393

COMPTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Come Dancing, at All Saints Hall, Station Road, Hesketh Bank PR4 6SN on Saturday 15th August 7.30 - 1.30pm. Tickets cost £5.00, including supper, are available from Andrew Sephton - phone 01772 812296 or £6.00 on the door. Bring your own booze.

HESKETH BANK VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee has started their fund raising drive in an effort to make a start on the upgrade of their site. Look out for the 'Buy a Brick' Raffle and a Table Top Sale on 31st July 2009

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. Christine McLeod Primrose Barn, Marsh Road, Hesketh Bank ~ Cllr. Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Trevor Roberts, 79A Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank ~ Cllr. Paul Sergeant, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

PARISH CLERK

Ian T Cropper, Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport PR9 7PG

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