



EYNSHAM ECHO

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Issue N o. 115

February 2009

Your Parish Council



Website

The Parish Council is pleased to announce the arrival of its new website eynsham-pc.gov.uk. This is the result of a lot of hard work by our webmaster Joan Stonham and Renwick Data Systems – the successful candidate for the web design – many thanks to both. The site has all the information you ever wanted to know about Eynsham and around and is updated daily. The calendar of events is really useful so let us know if you have an event to include - there is a Contact button on every page. The business directory is a practical way to support our local firms too. Please make use of the website and feedback any comments you have with regard to its ease of use and content to the Parish Clerk – Sue Lee. The Parish Council look forward to hearing from you.

Youth Provision in the Village

At the December Parish Council meeting the new youth worker for Eynsham, Mr Mike How, was welcomed to the village. He advised of plans for provision in the village in the New Year. The Parish Council asked him to return to update them later in the New Year and to discuss the possibility of working with the youth service in the village.

Back Lane toilets

We have been in discussion with West Oxfordshire District Council with regard to the lack of toilets at Back Lane. The proposals from Lloyds have been dropped and a pharmacy is no longer planned. WODC are looking to either refurbish the existing toilets or demolish them and replace with a semi permanent toilet. It is hoped that WODC will involve the Parish Council in their planning for this site.

Parish Council Drop ins

The next drops in will take place on Saturday 7 February and 7 March from 10-11.30am in the Bartholomew Room. If you have any questions for the Parish Council or want to look at recent planning applications or minutes why not drop in and meet some of your parish councillors. There will be no drop ins in April or May.

Play Areas

There have been a lot of complaints with regard to behaviour on the Witney Road Play area recently – the police have been asked to increase their patrols around this area but if you see any problems – drinking, bad behaviour etc please do ring 0845 8505505 and report it to the police for action. The Parish Council has received a number of requests to cut back the foliage at the front of the play area to make it more visible to passers by – do you have any thoughts on this – if you do please let Sue – the Parish Clerk know.



Traffic Advisory Committee

This is an OCC committee made up of parish councillors, Stagecoach, OCC councillors and representatives, WODC councillors and representatives. It meets on a 6 monthly basis to review traffic issues in the parish. At the last meeting in January the issue of parking in the Market Square was discussed and in view of representations from the village and the forthcoming decriminalisation of parking - with the District Council taking responsibility for parking enforcement – it was decided that no further action would be taken to introduce a parking restriction scheme at present.

The continued need for monitoring of the traffic lights at the Witney Road/A40 junction was discussed - the promised monitoring that should have taken place in October 2008 has not yet been completed. The Parish Council are to write to OCC stressing the importance of this assessment of the lights as many people have pointed out the free flow of traffic when they were out of action. In addition since the accident the bus priority at the lights has not been working – Stagecoach advised of the delays to their services that this is causing and the Parish Council have stressed to OCC the need to get this back in working order – several faulty components have been responsible for its failure to date.

Abbey Fishponds

This winter has seen a number of improvements at the fishponds site which the Parish Council has financed. Damaged fencing over the walkway to the playing field has been replaced and the board-walks have been stabilised and made easier to use with the addition of handrails. At the Station Road entrance the car parking area has been improved with a new spread of gravel which should make access easier.

At the time of writing the fishpond committee is in the process of organising a survey with the Oxford Blues Metal Detecting Club. Both Hugh Coddington, Assistant County Archaeologist and Graham Keevill, "our fishponds archaeologist", have given their approval. Any finds will remain the property of the land owner and will be recorded along with the location of the find which may help in understanding how the site has been used over the years.



Planning

Amendments were received for the plans - 08/1341/P/FP – Land adj B4449 Eynsham Eastern bypass – erection of 100 dwellings with associated parking. Formation of new vehicular access and associated works. Neither the planning committee nor full council felt that these plans altered the objections placed on this application at its original submission. The proposal to make the Bitterell a bridleway was felt to be lacking in information and the timescale likely for this to be achieved was not clear. For the full response to the application please check out the minutes of the meeting at www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Annual Parish Meeting

The date of this year's Annual Parish Meeting has been set for Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As usual the annual report will be available before the meeting and more details will be circulated nearer the time.



Notice boards

The new notice boards are now all in place – Witney Road, Mill Street and Bartholomew Room. The two on Witney Road and Mill Street are open for the village to use to advertise events etc. Please make use of them rather than putting posters up on lamp posts, telegraph poles etc. There are drawing pins in the boards and it would be great if you could use these rather than staples or blutac as these are hard to remove from the back of the boards.

Brown Owl retires

The Parish Council heard of the retirement of Eynsham's Brown Owl – Theresa Berry - and wanted to thank her for her 30 years service to the village. Girlguiding has advised that Theresa had worked with them for 32 years which is a remarkable achievement and shows true dedication.



It was not surprising that she ran a permanently full pack with a waiting list as she took the girls away at least once a year – not only in Oxon but also to the south coast, she organised and dressed floats for the Eynsham Carnival and contributed towards the Flower Festival in the Church. In addition she would take the unit on day trips. In all her work she was ably assisted by her daughter, Sarah, and thanks must also go to her as she has also decided to leave the unit.

Theresa was always very supportive towards Bampton and Brize Norton District – attending the meetings and joining with her unit in annual events like Brownie Revels, competitions etc.

She has been a big asset to Girlguiding and will be very much missed.

Circle Dance

In Eynsham Scout Hall on Mondays from 1.30pm - 3.00pm. Come and learn some fun dances from around the world. No experience or partners necessary. No booking and no termly fees. Pay £5.00 per session. Contact Mary Perryman on 01865 552688



Speeding

Investigating reported speeding problems in 30 mph zones around the Eynsham area, by the neighbourhood team, has resulted in the following results. All checks were made by the deployment of Speed Indicating Devices, or SID's. Checks are ongoing and we will keep you updated.

Percentage of vehicles checked exceeding 35 mph:

South Leigh	4.00%
Hanborough Road, Eynsham	1.75%
Witney Road, Eynsham	5.25%
Common Road, North Leigh	7.00%

All owners of vehicles exceeding 35mph will be sent warning letters and be put in the team's speeding file. Perceived hot spots will be monitored as much as is possible, and we will move to enforcement in some cases. However, with a few exceptions, it does appear that the majority of vehicles checked were within the legal limit.

If you feel you have a speeding problem locally please let us know by contacting a member of the Neighbourhood Team, or by calling into the Police office in the Eynsham Village Hall, or telephone us on 01865 883008.

May Day Celebration in the Square

Sadly, because Eynsham Scout Group's leaders and helpers are involved in the County Scout Camp which happens once every 10 years, they are unable to run the May Day celebration in the square this year.

If you or your group really want May Day 2009 to go ahead the Scouts can help with all the information you will need to run the event. Why not have a try? For more information, please contact Sue Greenwood on 01865 880339.

Proposed Rotary Club in Eynsham

Are you a Business or Professional person living or working in Eynsham, or maybe you are retired and want to put something back in the community?

If so the Rotary Club may be for you. Rotary is over 100 years old, there are 1.2 million members in 160 countries offering voluntary service in the community, local, national and international, we are non-religious and non political. You will make new friends; the opportunity to network, we have a good social programme, interesting speakers and most of all we make a difference in the world. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have just donated 100 million dollars to Rotary to help with our efforts to rid the world of Polio, surely this is testimony to the integrity of the largest service organisation in the world.

If you feel you have something to offer in forming a new Rotary Club in the Eynsham area then please contact Rotarian Brian Key on 01865 820702 or email: bwk69@tiscali.co.uk You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



Stagecoach 'S Series'

Stagecoach is undertaking a radical redevelopment of their country network to focus on the needs of their passengers and attract new customers out of their cars.

The redevelopment sees Eynsham's main bus service between Witney/Carterton and Oxford; routes 100/200 change to S1/S2

The service became fully low floor in 2008 allowing easy access for passengers in wheelchairs or those pushing buggies. Wi-Fi will be fitted in the summer and people can register for updates notifying them of roadworks or events, which may delay or alter their journey.

For full details of what's changing and the improvements to service people can visit www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire or pick up a leaflet on the bus.

Eynsham Parish Councillors

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email: sue.lee@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Help tidy up your village.

Start the year with an Eynsham clean up. Come and join us on Sunday 22 February and Sunday 29 March at 1.45 at Eynsham Baptist Church - all equipment supplied.

Job Vacancy

Cassington Parish Clerk

The Council is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and forward thinking person to take responsibility for all aspects of the administrative operations of the Council. Duties include publishing meeting agendas, producing minutes, liaising with contractors, outside bodies and actioning the council's decisions.

The post of Parish Clerk is part time, typically 7 hours per week, with hours to suit. There is a home working allowance. You will be required to attend Parish Council meetings which are normally the first working Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. The ideal candidate will have good organisational and computer skills and be a good communicator.

If you would like to find out more please contact the present clerk, Liz Bickley by telephone on 01865 884496 or by email: clerk.cassington@tesco.net

Transition Eynsham Area

In last December's Echo we featured an article by Rosalind Kent about Transition Initiatives. Rosalind said that she would be pleased to hear from individuals who would be interested in forming a starter group for Eynsham. Unfortunately the email address was incorrect. The correct email address is: roskent@metronet.co.uk



Swinford Toll Bridge

A new website at <http://scrapthetoll.blogspot.com/> has been launched which sets out the many problems caused by toll collection on the Swinford bridge. The website is intended to be a rallying point for a campaign to scrap the tolls, and offers some practical answers to the problems and suggests actions to take.

The deadline for the next issue is 12 March 2009. Items for inclusion should be sent to Sue Lee, Parish Clerk, 19 Bradshaw Close, Steeple Aston, Bicester, OX25 4SA. Telephone 01869 347652, email: sue.lee@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Items submitted after the deadline will not be included.

Lots of information and updates are available at Eynsham Online: eynsham-pc.gov.uk

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