



EYNESHAM ECHO

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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Your new councillors

Three new parish councillors were sworn in at the last Parish Council meeting. Please welcome;

Andrew Bickley

I have lived in Eynsham since 1998 and have become more aware during that time of the work which the Parish Council does to improve village life. My wife Liz and I have two sons - one is now at University having successfully studied at Eynsham Primary, Bartholomew and Cherwell College. The other has just finished at the Primary school and is moving up to Bartholomew this September. I work for the Atomic Energy Authority at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) near Abingdon on Government Liaison, having previously been involved in business strategy at Harwell, and studied physics at University.



Sue Brown

I was born in Eynsham and have lived here most of my life. I have 3 children, 2 attending Bartholomew and one about to start an apprenticeship. I work as an Officer for Oxfordshire County Council in the Childcare Development Team. I enjoy walking, cycling and archaeology. I also have a passion for Oxford United Football Club and am a season ticket holder. I am keen to see the village community continue to thrive and grow and have a particular interest in issues that affect children and young people.



Nick Relph

I was born and educated in London. I attended Manchester University gaining Geography honours degree; I then trained as an accountant in the NHS in Yorkshire and became a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in 1983. I was Finance Director of Oxfordshire Health Authority and was subsequently Deputy Chief Executive. I served as Chief Executive of Berkshire Health Authority in 1999, Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority in April

2002. Chief Executive of Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow PCTs. I moved to Eynsham with wife Anne in 1985. Our son attended local primary and Bartholomew School. Anne now runs a luxury wedding cake company from the village.

You will find the contact details for all councillors are on the back page.

Gravel threat returns

Oxfordshire County Council is holding the final consultation for its Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy up to 2030. The consultation on both of these draft plans began on 5th September 2011 and will close on 31st October 2011.

County Councillor Charles Mathew observes:

"The proposed policy affects the Lower Evenlode and Lower Windrush Valley in that more than 85% of the gravel excavation is planned north of the Thames, in this area, while some 80% or more of the presumed need (20.2 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel over the period) will be south of the Thames, at places such as Didcot, Grove and Harwell.



"With Newbridge being closed to HGVs with a carrying capacity of more than 18 Tonnes, it might be thought more appropriate to dig the majority of the gravel near to where it is to be used. If one adds to the traffic problems which currently exist on the A40 today, the onus of 700,000 additional movements in the period (transporting gravel), access to our area may become very difficult indeed.

A meeting will be held to discuss this final consultation policy on Wednesday 28 September at 19:30 in Stanton Harcourt Village Hall, where your views will be most welcome.

The draft plans are available at;

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste

The full story is available at Eynsham Online



Library under scrutiny

The Parish Council meeting on 5 July received a presentation from County Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Cabinet Member with responsibility for libraries. With the additional funding received from Central Government it has now been agreed that all libraries will stay open. Eynsham Library will be a core library, funded and operating exactly as it always has.

Cllr Heathcoat said the role of the Library may change from the traditional one - with more involvement in providing, for example, refreshments, hobby classes and any other innovative ideas to make the Library become more of a hub in the community.



The County Council are asking that 'Friends of the Library' are formed by every library.

Cllr Wright advised that the Friends of Eynsham Library have £13,000 of funds in trust and the County Council hold a further sum of \$106 funds for the Library.

The Parish Council meeting on 2 August agreed that all those who use the library and work at the library be included in the thoughts and plans of 'the Friends'.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would inform the County Council that at a date in 3-6 months they would like a review meeting to discuss the future of Eynsham Library and all its users. The Parish Council will consider this again in November.

Eynsham Youth club update

Local young people will continue to enjoy youth centre provision in Eynsham. "When the County Council announced its withdrawal of funding in November 2010, Bartholomew School head Andy Hamilton and County Councillor Charles Mathew were quick to see the benefits to the school and the community of developing a combined Youth and Sixth Form Centre. As a result, Eynsham Youth Club will have a renovated building for the benefit of the young people of Eynsham and its surrounding villages which is also available for daytime study by Bartholomew sixth form students.



"This sharing arrangement enables the building to be used more efficiently and protects valuable youth services at the same time". The renovation, currently in its final stages, was funded by OCC's Big Society Fund to the tune of £41,000. A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from the Sixth Form, the Youth Club, the local community and Bartholomew School, will coordinate and oversee the co-operation of the Youth Club and the Sixth Form Centre.

A schedule of meetings will be published shortly.

From week beginning 19 September, Youth Club sessions will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday lunchtimes. Bartholomew School has generously agreed to sponsor the Youth Club and day to day organisation will be their concern, with support and guidance from Paul Lawrence of Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP) and from dedicated and experienced workers.

Gordon Beach, Chairman of Eynsham Parish Council, said: "I am delighted that all the hard work has achieved its objective to ensure the future of a vibrant Youth Centre and studious Sixth Form in the village in the interests of all the community. The new centre will open formally later this autumn. This exciting venture has been the focus of much hard work by the community and the school and Eynsham owes a debt of gratitude to them; may this dual-purpose building remain a beacon of endeavour for the foreseeable future."

Fishponds Update

This summer there have been two main projects, firstly to clear the saplings growing on Harvey's House Mound, with them removed it is possible to increase the open area and consequently see the archaeological feature of the mound and moat. The Wychwood CAT group spent the first Saturday in June digging the roots stones and rubble out and this was followed by a group from Witney and Abingdon College taking further action. Eynsham Road Runners celebrated their 25th anniversary by doing some much needed renovations to the north path, clearing the fallen stones from beside the boundary wall and moving and raising the path nearer to it and out of the mud.



We're always delighted to see anyone who wishes to join in. Don't worry if you have no equipment - we will have some spares. Please wear strong boots and gloves! Further information: Verity Hughes - Fishponds Volunteers

Planning

A new development plan for the old gas works site in Spareacre lane has been filed with West Oxfordshire planning. A total of eleven 2 and 3 bedroom houses are proposed. An earlier plan included a retail unit and was the subject of objections from the Parish Planning committee. The new plan has removed this retail unit. The application 11/1291/P/OP can be viewed online at; <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/index.cfm>





Footpaths Update

Sue Osborne, chair of the Parish Council's Footpaths Committee, "The Footpaths Committee is preparing to walk all the parish footpaths once again, with

an aim to completing them by summer 2012. This will lead to an inventory being made of problems such as broken stiles and gates, missing signposts and waymarks, overgrown hedgerows and other obstructions, which will be passed to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for action in due course. Sue Osborne has spoken to Dan Weeks (OCC's Countryside Service Field Officer for West Oxfordshire) about identifying footpaths and rights of way that are at present 'wheelchair-friendly' in order to highlight these on the current map (see the map at www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk). The Committee is hoping to create some longer or circular walks for mobility-impaired users by improving those paths with the help of OCC. As ever, the Footpaths Committee would like to encourage all walkers to report any problems to them. More walkers, reporters, artists and photographers are always welcome! Please do get in touch.

Oxford Road play areas

Consultation on the refurbishment proposals for Oxford Road play area continue until the end of the month and details will be on view in the Bartholomew Room from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday 24 September. Please come and have your say.



More details at Eynsham Online.

Grants for groups

Eynsham Parish Council will be considering grants to voluntary organisations and groups in the parish at its Finance meeting on 18 October 2011 – you can view application form at Eynsham Online.

The closing date for applications is 4 October 2011.

Annual Poppy Appeal

The annual Poppy Appeal will begin at the end of October and finish on Remembrance Sunday. For more information please check the Royal British Legion website at; www.britishlegion.org.uk



Emergency Directory

The Parish Council has revised and reissued its directory of information that might be useful to residents and businesses in an emergency – you can view the document at the Eynsham Online website.

As a next step, it would be most helpful to hear from anyone who has services they could offer in an emergency, such as the use of a four-wheel-drive vehicle or a generator. Please contact the Clerk if you can help, or if you feel something is missing from the latest draft.

Community Payback – an update

The Community Payback team have been very busy around the village. They have so far: treated the exterior of the Pavilion, begun painting the interior of the changing rooms, re-painted the gate at Oxford Road, treated the benches, strimmed at Fishponds, cut back foliage along Oxford Road. They are now going to: do further strimming at Fishponds, cut back more foliage along Oxford Road, paint the railings near the Talbot inn along to the allotments. The team has to be supervised at all times and before any job can be undertaken a risk assessment has been carried out.

Changes at Brize Norton

As you will be aware operations at Brize are continuing to increase following the closure of RAF Lyneham, and the increased workload being undertaken by our forces in various locations



around the world. The base continues to provide logistics support of all kinds, and also has crews based abroad, such as the six in Kandahar. In addition the responsibility for repatriation has also returned to Brize. The Hercules planes have now transferred their activities to Brize, the next new planes to arrive will be the Voyagers, which are being built in Spain, and the first one is currently undergoing trials with the RAF at Boscombe Down. The Voyager will eventually replace many of the older aircraft flying from Brize, the Hercules fleet in 2012, the VC10s in March 2013 and the Tristars in December 2011.

Since the arrival of the new aircraft Brize have become acutely aware that their various activities have had an impact on the local community. They continue to look at their training programs, and reducing the noise caused by flying circuits, engine running on the ground at night, and the flight paths they use to both arrive and leave the airport. Clearly, however, they have a job to do, and it will be some time before the number of flights fall. The base has agreed to hold more regular updates on their activities in the future and we will continue to publish information as it becomes available.

Winter Playtime

The Oxford Play Rangers will be continuing their Thursday play sessions at the Oxford Road playing field between 3:30 and 6:00 pm through the winter, wrap up well!

GreenTEA Transport Working Group

Transport, in all its forms, accounts for about 1/4 of the average UK resident's carbon emissions, so this is an important area to look at when considering ways to prevent severe climate change. Our area covers Long Hanborough to Standlake and all the smaller villages between Oxford and Witney. We are looking at the possibility of starting a car-club in Eynsham; we need about 25 people to join in order to justify the first car. In addition, we seek a smaller village, not currently well served by public transport, which would be suitable for a shared taxi scheme. As members of the West Oxfordshire Transport Forum we are also taking part in an initiative to improve facilities for cyclists.

If you are interested in any of these ideas or would like to join our team please contact Nicholas on 01865 460 188.



Coming soon to Eynsham

A new Guide unit is going to be opening in Eynsham this autumn. Guides is a girls only space for girls aged 10 to 14. We are holding three, free, taster sessions on the 4th, 11th and 18th October between 7.00pm and 8.30pm in the Scout Hut on Back Lane for any girls that are interested. There will also be a display in Eynsham library from the 27th September to the 11th October about what Guides do. We're not only looking for girls - if you are an adult and are interested in becoming a volunteer helper - or to sign up for the taster sessions, please contact Rebecca Davis on 07725 593139 or email eynshamguides@hotmail.com



Medical Centre closure

The Eynsham Centre together with Long Hanborough Surgery and all other surgeries in the West Oxfordshire area will be closed for staff and doctor training on the 5th October from 1:00pm until 6:30pm. Urgent medical cover will be provided by the Out of Hours service. Please ring your usual surgery telephone number for contact details.

Recruiting now

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are seeking to recruit a dedicated individual over 18 years old to join the team at Eynsham Fire Station. Duties would include responding to a range of emergencies, training on-station one night per week and attending Brigade training courses. For more information please call Watch Manager Frank Patterson on 01865 881337.

Eynsham Choral Society

The society has a concert with a seasonal program on 3 December 2011, 7.30pm, St Leonard's Church, Eynsham. Tickets £10/£9 from Evenlode DIY. For more details at contact Margaret Owen 01865 455492

Your Parish Councillors

Mr Gordon BEACH (Chairman) 11 Fruitlands
01865 880979 gordon.beach@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr David ROSSITER (Vice-Chairman) 5 Bartholomew Close.
01865 881568 david.rossiter@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Richard ANDREWS 17 Dovehouse Close
01865 880106 richard.andrews@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Andrew BICKLEY Orchard House, Mill Street
01865 884496 andrew.bickley@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Ms Sue BROWN 1 Evans Close
01865 464267 sue.brown@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Alan COLLETT 3 Merton Court
07505 137564 alan.collett@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Peter EMERY 5 Acre End Close
01865 731199 peter.emery@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mrs Verity HUGHES 24 Beech Road
01865 880243 verity.hughes@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Andy MOSSON 46 Spareacre Lane
01865 880889 andy.mosson@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Ms Sue OSBORNE 38 Beech Road
01865 880285 sue.osborne@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Nick RELPH 26 Newlands Street
01865 464264 nick.relph@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Paul STALEY 6 Merton Close
01865 881807 paul.staley@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Mr Dennis STUKENBROEKER 12 Orchard Close
01865 880609 dennis.stukenbroeker@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Ms Jackie TINSON 33 Hanborough Close
01865 880830 jackie.tinson@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
Dr Fred WRIGHT 'Charfield', 15 Cassington Road
01865 881496

Your County Councillor

Charles Mathew: 01865 882205

Your District Councillors

Peter Kelland 01865 880028
Larry Poole 01865 375130
Margaret Stevens 01865 882384

Notice Boards

We need volunteers to keep the noticeboards up to date in Mill Street and Witney Road. Volunteers for delivering the Echo too please! A small payment is made for Echo delivery. For more information please contact the Clerk.

The copy deadline for the next issue is 12 December 2011. Please note that items submitted after the deadline will not be included. Contributions should be sent to Parish Clerk Malcolm Anderson, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU
Tel: 01865 716943 or email: clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk Lots more information and updates at Eynsham Online: www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk