

TOWN COUNCIL SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee is responsible for producing Town Council Newsletters and its present members are: Cllrs. Brian Yoxall (Chairman), Ann Grant, Elizabeth Poskitt, Gerald Myatt. If you have any comments to make on the content of our Newsletters, please contact any of the above.

PLANNING ISSUES

The Town Council has been consulted by the District Council on several important planning applications over recent months, and has responded on each of them. The decision as to whether to grant permission or not then lies with the District Council.

JA Pye (Oxford) Ltd. submitted two applications in respect of the residential development of land to the east of the Marlborough School in Shipton Road. The Town Council re-affirmed its support for these applications and asked that particular attention be paid to the junction of the A4095 and the Shipton Road. The first application was approved by the District Council and a decision is awaited on the second.

Berkeley Homes submitted two applications for the development of the former railway station site, also known as the Young's Garage site. The Town Council recommended refusal on both of those applications for a number of reasons, including the loss of the station building, the loss of "Mrs Young's" house, lack of affordable housing, and impact on the street scene. Both applications were refused by the District Council and an appeal against these decisions is to be heard in October 2009.

The Town Council opposed an application by the Vanbrugh Unit Trust for an exception site development on land in Banbury Road. It was felt that the proposal did not accord with the provisions of the Local Plan. The District Council decided to grant planning permission for this development, despite the Town Council's objections and construction has started.

Old Woodstock Town Football Club applied for permission to erect floodlights at the Recreation Ground. The Town Council eventually felt that the physical characteristics of the scheme were inappropriate in this location. This view was shared by the District Council who refused the application.

"DO YOU NEED A GARAGE?"

The Town Council has a garage in Rectory Lane that is available to rent. Anyone interested is invited to contact the Town Hall on 01993 811216

Peter Anderson, Town Clerk, Woodstock Town Council (www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk)

ANTI- SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Residents will recall the spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that blighted the whole town around Christmas and the New Year. Thanks to a concerted effort by the police, the Town Council, the school and residents themselves, there has been some considerable success in combating this, but there are still some areas of concern. It does seem that action directly involving local residents and a joint approach is the answer. The Town Council and the Neighbourhood Action Group made up of local residents has recently helped try to re-establish the Hensington estate Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

The idea of Neighbourhood Watch is for residents to feel safer, perhaps to encourage a greater sense of community and teamwork and, most important of all – for residents to have the confidence to report incidents or concerns straightaway to the police or other authorities.

We've got some good neighbours in the Hensington area already interested in Neighbourhood Watch, but need a few more to make it really effective. It isn't onerous and needn't involve endless meetings or loads of paperwork. Really it's just about chatting to neighbours, neighbours looking out for each other, and keeping a watchful eye open for things of concern and knowing how to report them.

If you are interested in helping with the Hensington estate Neighbourhood Watch, or in just being a part of it, have a word with Stan Scott on 812311 (stanscott@talktalk.net), anyone at the Town Hall, or Colin Carritt on 811977 (colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk).

Colin Carritt

WOODSTOCK@900

In the year 1110, King Henry 1 ordered the building of a wall to enclose the Royal Park at Woodstock. The Mayor, Councillor Peter Jay, has suggested 2010 –, 900 years since the enclosure- should be an occasion for Woodstock to celebrate. A series of events which citizens can enjoy and which promote Woodstock and the Royal Park to the outside world are proposed. While some events will depend on developing supporting funds, many Woodstock groups and societies already have specific ideas to mark the historic year.

Events planned so far include a special lecture "Eleanor, Henry and the Rosamund Legends" from Alison Weir (who has written a life of Eleanor of Aquitaine, wife of Henry II) on May 11th in the Town Hall, a summer concert of English Music with Royal Park and Woodstock connections from the Woodstock Music Society, a book, perhaps on Woodstock and Royalty, a themed Carnival; and special activities at the schools. Other ideas are still being developed. It is hoped to appoint a Festival Director and to raise sufficient funds for some significant community activities.

This is an opportunity to generate real pride in our town and its surroundings by organising events, supporting what is going on and encouraging others to join in our celebrations.

???? (Suggestions for activities and information: Elizabeth Poskitt, 811590

CHANGES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

In early July the Town Council held a reception for Canon Roger Humphreys to bid him and his wife Celia farewell, and to thank them for all they had contributed to the life of Woodstock over the last fifteen years

There have been significant changes in the parish since Roger came to Woodstock in 1994. He was installed as Rector of Bladon and Woodstock. But since then the Rector of Bladon and Woodstock has been given oversight of five parishes, namely Begbroke, Bladon, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Woodstock and Yarnton, known collectively as the Blenheim Benefice. The name of the post is now Team Rector of the Blenheim Benefice.

The process of finding a new team rector is underway and is likely to take several months. It has been decided that applications will be considered from both women and men. Until the post is filled, the benefice will be led by the Team Vicar, the Reverend Andrew Parkinson, who is based in Yarnton. He will be assisted by Revd Dr Shaun Henson, based in Bladon, and Revd Brian Wood, based in Shipton, and by retired clergy who live in the benefice, including Revd Canon Barbara Doubtfire and Revd Dr Stephen Pix, both based in Woodstock.

If you have any queries either contact The Revd Andrew Parkinson 01865 375749, or Pauline Richardson 01993 812095 or Colin Turner 01993 812190, churchwardens.

Pauline Richardson

MISCELLANY

1. The Town Council organized a special Reception at the Town Hall on Saturday, 11th July to raise funds for HELP FOR HEROES as part of a more general fund raising bike ride (on a special 7 seater bike !!) by men from the Royal Engineers from Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham to Headley Court in Surrey. The aim was to raise funds towards improvement of the rehabilitation centre at Headley Court and it is pleasing to report that the Woodstock event contributed a handsome £1357 towards the overall total of c. £10,000.
2. Feedback from residents on improvements desired to the Woodstock Wanderer Bus Service has been disappointing but the Town Council has made representations for enhancement of the peak hours service to and from Kidlington and for better connections between Bladon and Oxford services.
3. Negotiations are continuing with Royal Mail to ensure that "surcharge" items can still be collected at Woodstock despite the transfer of the Sorting Office to Kidlington and a petition containing c.400 signatures has been passed to Royal Mail emphasizing the concerns of Woodstock residents about the effect of this change on the future viability of the Post Office
4. Have you seen the new WOODSTOCK TOWN WALK LEAFLET now on display at the Visitor Information Centre? It's full of interesting information about our town.

Brian Yoxall

MEMBERSHIP OF TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

1. MAYOR'S COMMITTEE

Cllrs. P. Jay (Chairman), Gardiner, Cooper, Glees, Grant, T. Redpath, Richardson.

2. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Cooper (Chairman), Edwards, Gardiner, Myatt, P. Redpath, Richardson, Yoxall

3. STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Yoxall (Chairman), Carritt, Grant, P. Jay, Poskitt, P. Redpath

4. WOODSTOCK @ 900 COMMITTEE

Cllrs. P. Jay (Chairman), Poskitt, Richardson, Stokes, Yoxall

5. TRAFFIC ADVISORY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Cooper (Chairman), Carritt, Glees.

5. YOUTH CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllrs. Cooper (Chairman), Richardson, Stokes.

6. OXFORDSHIRE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Chr. Gardiner

7. ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. T. Redpath (Chair), P. Redpath, E. Jay, Poskitt, Richardson, Thomas.

8. PROPERTY WORKING GROUP

Cllrs. Edwards (Chair and Council Member for Property) Gardiner, Glees, Grant, Poskitt, Yoxall

9. BLOOM WORKING PARTY

Cllrs. Richardson (Chair), Poskitt.

10 WALLHANGINGS TRUST

Cllrs. Yoxall (Chairman), E. Jay,

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY CENTRE USERS

The Woodstock Town Council is mindful of the exciting 900 year celebrations that are planned to take place next year. As part of this, we want to create an enduring legacy. One possibility would be to have a refurbished or rebuilt Community Centre. To this end we want to ask you, the local residents, what you would like to see the Community Centre offering.

Please can you return the questionnaire below to the Town Hall or to the following e-mail address: info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

- Do you use the Community Centre because:
 - a) its physical facilities are suitable for your present needs
 - b) the charges are reasonable
 - c) a combination of a) and b)

- Would you like to see any alteration to the physical facilities?
YES/NO . If yes, please go to next question

- What extra facilities would you like to see incorporated into a refurbishment/rebuild?

- Do you think a new Community Centre, including parking, could be accommodated on its present location, or would you prefer a new build on a new site to allow for a greater range of facilities

- Would you be prepared to pay higher charges if the Centre was improved in the way you would wish?
YES/NO .

- Would you use the Centre more frequently if it was altered the way you wish?
YES/NO.

- Would you use the Centre differently from present?
YES/NO. IF YES, please indicate how

OTHER COMMENTS

(Please carry on over the page if necessary)