

VILLAGE NEWS

AUTUMN/ WINTER 2007



There has been much debate, often passionate, about the possibility of a 30mph limit throughout Kings Worthy. Over a year ago we included an article in *Village News* about traffic issues and asked for your views, but had very few responses. More recent discussions revealed divided opinion on speed limits with the result that we are unable to convince HCC that there is overwhelming community support for a 30 mph limit. Several councillors were not convinced that changing the numbers on a sign would actually make any difference to the speed of traffic unless there was rigid enforcement (when was the last time you saw a police speed check in Kings Worthy?) and pinch points or speed bumps.

We try to make decisions based on fact and the last traffic survey carried out by HCC in Springvale Road revealed speeds that were within their accepted limits. Part of the problem is that some people genuinely think that traffic is travelling at excessive speed but it really is impossible to judge this accurately without a speed camera. There is no doubt that some vehicles do travel at excessive speeds and would probably continue to do so regardless of the speed limit imposed. It is difficult to legislate against this minority of blatantly irresponsible people – and they are by no means all ‘boy racers’. As we travel at 30 or 40 mph in our safe steel cocoon we need to be very aware of pedestrians who can feel extremely vulnerable when standing by, or crossing, roads.

We did, however, decide to propose a 30 mph limit in Abbots Worthy where the situation is very different with few pavements and obviously difficult junctions. Of course, those parts of the village that are already 30 mph zones or have one planned will be unaffected.

We know that those who wanted a more widespread 30 mph limit will be disappointed but who knows what will happen in the future? For example, if a large development proposed for the area between Mount Pleasant and Springvale Road were to be approved there may well be a need for traffic calming measures as part of that plan. As ever, please let us know your views.

Car o l s i n g i n g 2007

Please come and join us for some lusty singing on Tuesday December 17th at 7.00pm. This year we shall meet at the Springvale Chapel and finish at the Tubbs Hall for seasonal refreshments. Exactly what we do in between has still to be decided and will depend on the weather.



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MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

Article by Michael Edwards. Records Manager. Worthys Local History Group.

Since it was founded 25 years ago the Worthys Local History Group has built up a unique historical record of the Worthys villages. This consists of photographs, articles, research notes, maps, historical documents and all manner of titbits covering the life and times of the villages and their inhabitants from before Saxon times to the present. For many years this wealth of information, an invaluable source for anybody who is interested in our local history, was kept as separate paper archives for Headbourne Worthy and Kings Worthy but was not used as often as it could have been. The answer was to digitise the collection and so make it much more accessible to researchers using their home computers.

Over the past few months the entire collection has been computerised with many thousands of document pages and photographs being scanned and catalogued. At the same time the personal history archives of a number of active members, past and present, have been added. We have also taken the opportunity to keep abreast of changes in the village with digital photography of housing developments, road schemes, school reconstruction and all manner of other happenings. Our collections include the reminiscences of long-term residents, on paper and in the form of recordings, newspaper cuttings and maps old and new.



St Mary's Church from a watercolour by Thomas Bacon. The Old Post Office is seen at the left side. 1855.



Kings Worthy Foundry about 1931. London Road runs across the top of the picture, the railway (now the A34) and station are to the left. The road frontage of the site is now Wessex Windows. Just to save you telling us, we realise that this is actually in Headbourne Worthy!

And this is where we would like your help!

Have you got local photos or interesting letters and documents at home, which might shed some light on the history and development of our villages?

Have you lived here a long time and would like to share your memories with others?

If you have, we would love to hear from you and perhaps consider including your documents or memories as digital images in our records.

This might be your chance to add something to the village historical record for posterity.

From time to time, it is our intention to lodge a copy of our digital records with the Hampshire Records Office, providing our descendants with a glimpse of life in the Worthys Villages, not only of the present time but also of our own past.

If you think you have anything interesting to add to the collection, please let us know. You can send an email to edwards@springvale28.fsnet.co.uk or telephone on 883001.

If you are interested in the History of the Worthys, why not join our active Group? We meet monthly for talks and other activities at the Church Rooms or at St Mary's Hall Springvale. Meetings are advertised on village notice boards or we can send you a programme of our activities.

Work in progress : on-going projects

Web site: Much work has been done on the design and structure of the Worthy's web site. We have approached this with caution, believing it is important to start with good foundations to enable expansion in the future. It will be a community website which will also contain parish council information for both Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy. We will let you know when it's ready to explore!

Notice boards: We are replacing several tatty wooden notice boards with new ones like the one outside Tesco, which is made from recycled plastic and is virtually maintenance free. Tesco kindly paid for the first one, but the remainder will be funded by the Parish Council. There will be an overall reduction in the number of boards as it is clear that some are rarely used. The new boards have a glazed section for Parish Council information as well as an area for community use. There is no charge for displaying notices but it is helpful if outdated ones are removed. Please note: they are not intended for the long term display of business advertisements.

Bus shelters: A new bus shelter for Abbots Worthy is about to be ordered as the existing one is 30 years old and has become something of an eyesore in a Conservation Area. We hope the new one will be more in keeping with its surroundings. We are grateful to HCC and the Upper Itchen Valley Society for their contributions to the funding of this project. The vandalised shelter near the King Charles pub is due to be re-sited as part of the planning consent given to a nearby development – it would seem sensible to repair or replace it as part of the move.

Firs Crescent landscaping: There has been much consultation about this which has resulted in several changes to the original plan. We rarely get total agreement when we seek views but we hope the final plan will be acceptable. The area is owned by WCC who will be responsible for maintaining it.

Fryers Close: The landscaping of the green area between Fryers Close and the Springvale shops has finally been agreed upon, taking into account the views of local residents. This area is also owned by WCC who will look after it when work is completed.

Church Green is, at last, about to be transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council. Grass cutting will now become the responsibility of the Parish Council as will decisions about the diseased trees, thuja hedge and other issues and opportunities. We aim to liaise with residents of Church Green about this. There is already a landscape plan in place as part of the original planning agreement.

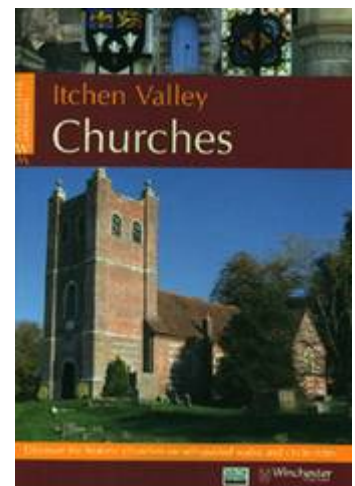
Playground equipment at Eversley Park and Fraser Road: This has passed its safety check but some older, less popular, play items and the soft surface beneath will be upgraded. We hope to have pictures in the next issue.

Burial Ground: We have received positive comments about the work carried out here, particularly in the central cremation area. Much, mainly unrecognised, work goes into making this an attractive and tranquil place.

Itchen Valley Churches Trail

For those who enjoy the scenery and heritage of the Itchen Valley (who doesn't when they get the chance!), this new publication could be useful. It's a well designed leaflet that outlines circular walks and cycle trails taking in many attractive and unspoilt villages, each with its own distinctive church.

The leaflet, which has been produced by Winchester Museums Service and the South Downs Sustainable Development Fund, is available from the Winchester Tourist Information Office at the Guildhall or we have a small supply in the Parish Office.



It's that time of year again

Hedge trimming again: where gardens border pavements and roads it is usually the responsibility of the householder to ensure that their hedge does not reduce the width of the pavement or road – we would all be grateful if you could do this. Sometimes we receive complaints about overgrown hedges which we pass on to HCC who then follow up the complaint. If nothing is done they will cut the hedge but also send you the bill. Hedge clippings can go in the green bag, compost heap or to the recycling centre – bonfires can upset the neighbours!

Parking on verges: at this time of year this can quickly turn the grass into a sea of mud – *please don't do it*. It is acceptable to park on the road (traffic regulations and common sense come in here). Some would even say that parked vehicles are effective in reducing the speed of traffic. Parking on the pavement is also not a good idea as it impedes the progress of pedestrians, particularly those with buggies or wheel chairs.

Dark evenings: this can create problems where street lighting is inadequate. Under the Community Safety Initiative HCC is prepared to provide 50% of the cost of improved lighting providing the Parish Council contributes the remainder. At a cost of £1000 upwards per street light we clearly cannot consider many requests. However, if you know of a problem area, please let us know. HCC is not keen to extend lights in rural areas. Also, if you know of a light which is not functioning correctly please let us know so that we can pass the information to the relevant contractor.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We try hard to deliver Village News everywhere in Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy but there are still a (very) few gaps. If you know of someone who didn't get a copy last time, please ask them to phone the Parish Office where we keep a supply. Also, is there someone who lives in the Bull Farm area who would volunteer to distribute copies to their neighbours? If so please let us know.

Welc o me...

To our 'new' parish councillors

Nick Culhane, Denis Welstead, Mike Lomas and Dawn- Marie Cox. We are particularly pleased that Dawn has joined us as it has been some time since we had an Abbots Worthy councillor.

To the Springvale Pharmacy

We are delighted that this long-standing objective in our Village Design Statement has been achieved. Please support Eric and Rose and also your other village shops, pubs, buses and local services generally. The message is simple – use them or you may lose them.

DIARY

Meetings are held in the Council room at the Kings Worthy Community Centre. There is a public question time at every meeting - everyone in the village is invited to attend.

2008 MEETINGS (none in December 2007)

Full Parish Council (Mondays 7.30 p.m.)

January 21, February 18, March 17

Committees:

Recreation & Amenities (Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.)

January 9, February 13, March 12

Planning (Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.)

January 30, February 27, March 26

Finance (Wednesdays 9.30 a.m.)

January 16, February 13, March 12

N.B. Please check the notice boards or contact the Parish Office as sometimes meetings have to be rescheduled.

KINGS WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road, Kings Worthy SO23 7PJ

Chairman: Robert Johnston

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