

# VILLAGE NEWS

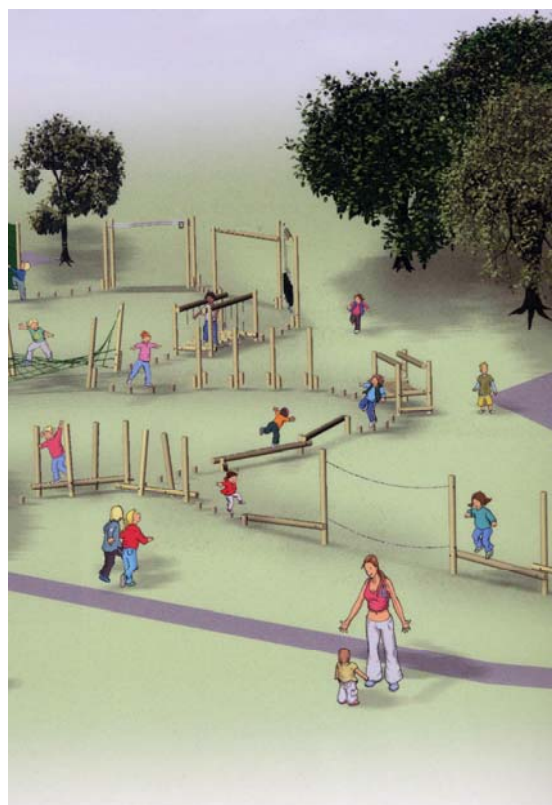
SPRING 2005

## IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR ALL

Members of the Recreation and Amenities Committee are investigating ways of enhancing children's play equipment and providing fitness opportunities for 9 to 90 year olds in the form of a "trim trail". For those who enjoy a less active approach we already have in place new picnic seating in Hinton Park.

Several suppliers have suggested how we might achieve this in the area of Eversley Park and have drawn up a variety of designs from which to choose. We are very keen to provide facilities elsewhere in the village so if you have ideas about the location of seats or play equipment please contact us via the Parish Office (details on back page).

So, who is paying for this? Each time new houses are built the developer either has to provide a recreational space at the site or pay a levy to the Winchester City Council Open Spaces Fund. It is this fund that pays for improved facilities.



## FINDING YOUR WAY

Exploring the footpaths in and around the village should be made easier soon, by the placing of all weather map boards near the King Charles Pub in Springvale and on the green beside the church. These boards will show the various rights of way in the parish and how these link with longer distance footpaths.

Later in the year we hope to follow this by publishing leaflets containing suggested routes with some background information about each one. The Parish Council has worked with Hampshire Paths Partnership on this project which has been partly funded by the Partnership and Winchester City Council's Open Spaces Fund. We are also trying to establish more paths as rights of way but experience has shown that this can take years to achieve as there are often legal issues to be researched.

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## THE LAST PIECE IN PLACE

The installation of the Broadview mosaic marks the completion of the Kings Worthy Millennium Mosaic Project. The project was sponsored jointly by the Parish Council and Southern Arts during the *Year of the Artist* (2000-2001). Joanna Dewfall, artist in residence that year, encouraged local groups and individuals to take part in this creative exercise. Many will be familiar with the largest of these located in the entrance hall of the Kings Worthy Community Centre. However, there are others around the village, the most easily accessible being at St. Mary’s Church.

The Broadview mosaic is the work of local historian and mosaicist David Johnston, ably assisted by members of the Worthys Local History Group. David is pictured here putting the finishing touches to this view of what the Roman Villa at Woodhams Farm might have looked like. The mosaic is positioned so that it faces the site of the villa on the other side of the valley. These works of art are well worth closer inspection – if you are not sure where they are just call the Parish Office (the number is on the back page).



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### A LOAD OF POOH

Several people have expressed concern about dog’s mess on the footpaths and pavements around the village. It is encouraging to see so many considerate dog owners clearing up with a carrier bag and a deft flick of the wrist.

However, there remain a small number of dog owners who may be unaware of the offence they cause others, particularly those with small children. At best this is a matter of disgust and at worst a health hazard.

Thank you to all the considerate dog owners - it would be nice to think that others would follow their example?

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### WATCH THIS SPACE

**Springvale Stores and Post Office** is considering a change of use of part of its premises to become a fast food outlet - most likely a fish and chip shop.

We arranged a meeting recently with managers of Springvale Road’s **Tesco Express**, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council concerning congestion around the store. Some deliveries have been rescheduled to non-peak times and the road markings have been improved. We hope to see better lighting and drainage in the car park soon.

**The King Charles Pub** has applied for permission to provide some children’s play equipment on the grassy area beside the pub.

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### A CHALLENGE

Please complete the following sentence and send to the Parish Office - we hope to respond in the next issue! “ **Kings Worthy would be a better place if.....**”

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## THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Whenever Winchester City Council receives a planning application, a copy is automatically forwarded to the Parish Council which then has the opportunity to respond within 21 days. A sub group of the Parish Council (**the Planning Committee**) meets monthly to consider applications received since their last meeting. There are four options open to the Parish Council: to support; to make no comment; to comment; or to object.

The application is then returned to WCC Planning Department, whose officers decide on those applications in the *support*, *no comment* or *comment* only categories. If there is an *objection* the application goes before the planning committee of WCC who then make a decision.

If the decision goes against the applicant, they have the right to appeal. It is then passed up to the Government's Planning Inspectorate who may overturn the WCC's decision.

Although you might think the Parish Council's role in the process is limited, it doesn't mean we don't take planning issues seriously. Every plan is carefully scrutinised on its own merits in an even handed manner.

### SOME SPECIFIC CONCERNS

**Timing of applications** – some applicants cynically submit plans just before a public holiday, presumably hoping that the consultation time will be reduced. However, WCC has the power to extend the deadlines. Sometimes there is not a Parish Council planning meeting scheduled before the deadline. Whenever this happens, parish councillors discuss the application by email and their comments are incorporated by the Chair into a reply to WCC.

**Notification of proposed developments to interested parties** – as well as informing the Parish Council, it is WCC's responsibility to contact neighbouring properties with information about the application. Where a proposal affects more than one parish, WCC should inform both parishes. However, we understand that there have been instances where only one affected parish council was informed. For example, there were problems informing all parties about the Peek's development as the site is partly in Kings Worthy and partly in Headbourne Worthy. WCC have assured us they are working on this problem.

**Objections** – if you are concerned about the effects of an application, please write to WCC Planning Office. Please also send a copy to the Parish Office so that we can bear local objections in mind when making our response. If you would like to attend the meetings of the planning committee of the Parish Council, you would be most welcome. Full plans are available at the Parish Office and can be viewed on the Winchester City Council website [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

As Parish Councillors we understand that feelings can run high when a development threatens our surroundings and the value of our property. We will do what we can to help, however there is a limit to what we can achieve both in terms of our restricted powers and our personal time to devote to these matters. Our purpose is to represent a local lay person's point of view as the six councillors who form this group are all unpaid (no, not even expenses!) and have no architectural or planning qualifications.

### WORKING ON THE LINE

If you walk along the old Didcot, Newbury and Southampton railway line, you will have noticed a number of improvements recently. These are the result of the efforts of the energetic **Worthies Conservation Volunteers**, who have picked up litter and cleared some of the vegetation to make the area more attractive to both wildlife and people. Several areas have been opened up to create views and enable more light to penetrate gloomy areas. The track can be reached by the second railway arch on Hookpit Farm Lane and followed in either direction to Woodhams Farm or Worthy Down.

The group has plans to carry out improvements to several sites around the village to look after the habitats and to try to improve the diversity of wild flowers, butterflies etc.

The group meets monthly, usually on a Sunday afternoon - if you would like to join them for some fresh air and exercise and benefit the community at the same time, please phone Connie Martyn on 884145.



# YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Parish councils form the first tier of local government and work closest to the communities they serve. Kings Worthy Parish Council consists of 12 councillors (including the Chairman) and two clerks who work together as a team using their various skills and combined energies to serve our community and to try to ensure the smooth running of local services and amenities. The team represents the interests of the whole community and hopes to improve the quality of life and the local environment. The parish councillors are not paid for their efforts; they just hope to influence decisions that affect the best interests of Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy and to make a difference to the community.

We are directly responsible for some matters, for example the burial ground; the maintenance of some of the village open spaces; play equipment; litter; street lighting; seating and shelters. We rely heavily upon Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council, together with their contractors, to get the work done. We have the opportunity to comment on issues like planning and highways but the real decisions are made elsewhere. If you have a concern it may be a good idea to talk to the Parish Office who, if they can't help directly, will usually know who to contact to get things done.

The new Parish Office and Meeting Rooms are located in the newly refurbished Kings Worthy Community Centre and are open during office hours Monday to Friday. The office is efficiently run by our two clerks Barbara and Colin (see below). If you are planning on coming to the parish office, it's best to phone first, as sometimes the clerks are out, dealing with matters on site in the village.

For the system to work it is vital that you make your views on local issues heard. You can do this by writing, phoning (details below) or emailing us on [kingsworthy.parishcouncil@ukgateway.net](mailto:kingsworthy.parishcouncil@ukgateway.net)

Better still, why not come to one of our meetings? There is always a public question time on the agenda. You would be most welcome!

**You might like to know who answers the phone and greets you when you visit the Parish Office**



Barbara is usually in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings.

Colin works on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday morning



## A BIG THANK YOU...

...to Mr and Mrs Warner for 18 years of loyal service looking after the Lovedon Lane burial ground. We wish them all the very best in their well earned retirement.

## DIARY

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

The full council usually meets on the third Monday of each month and sub-committees (Planning; Finance; Recreation and Amenities) on the third Wednesday of each month. There are no meetings in either August or December.

*Please check the notice boards for meeting dates or phone the office.*

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE ON MAY 9TH AND THE AGM ON MAY 16TH.**

**KINGS WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL (Chairman: Gordon Adams)**

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

Telephone and Fax 01962 884150

Clerks: Barbara Fairbrother & Colin Arnett