

VILLAGE NEWS

SUMMER 2005

NEW AMENITIES IN EVERSLEY PARK

In the Spring issue of **Village News**, we reported that the Recreation and Amenities Committee was investigating play equipment to be provided in Eversley Park.

We are proud to announce that we now have in place a **TRIM TRAIL** (top right) for older children and adults and an **ADVENTURE TRAIL** (bottom right) for younger children. For those less active, there is a new pavilion where you can sit and enjoy the view (for a picture, see page 3).

These new pieces of equipment have proved very popular with the children and even with some of our older residents. We have yet to see any of the Parish Councillors working out but if you go up at dusk you might just catch them! If you do, and have a camera to hand, we'll publish any pictures in a future issue of **Village News**.

All this has been paid for with Open Spaces Fund money which the Parish Council gets whenever developers build new houses in the village. There is still money available for us to provide amenities in other areas—see page 3 for more information.



GIVE ME SHELTER

The bus shelter on the B3047 in Abbots Worthy is a bit of an eyesore. The Parish Council is considering replacing it with something more in keeping with the general area but the cost of this would be quite high. We're not sure how much use is made of it and therefore if it's worth spending the money but...

WE KNOW YOU CAN TELL US!

Please call the Parish Office on 01962 884150 or send the clerks an email to kingsworthy.parishcouncil@ukgateway.net Better still, why not come to the next Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting in the Parish Council room, Community Centre, Fraser Road at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 14 September. We want your views!

IN THIS ISSUE

HEDGING YOUR BETS...

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

VACANCY

FOUL PLAY!

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

OUR CHALLENGE

COUNCILLOR PROFILE AND
DIARY

HEDGING YOUR BETS...

If you have a problem with a neighbour's high hedge, you may be interested to know that local authorities are now obliged to provide a means of resolving conflicts arising from disputes between owners/occupiers of residential properties. The process of making a complaint is quite straightforward but before doing so, there are a number of important conditions to bear in mind:

- The powers only apply to evergreen or semi-evergreen hedges more than two metres high.
- A fee of £450 is payable by the complainant (reduced to £100 if you receive any state benefit).
- Before acting on the complaint, Winchester City Council would want to see that reasonable steps to resolve the dispute have been taken by the complainant.
- Making a complaint about your neighbour may cause long-lasting friction between you. Therefore the matter is best resolved amicably—a mediation service can help with this.

The process of making a complaint goes like this:

1. A complaint is made to the local authority.
2. The authority decides whether or not the complaint is justified.
3. If the complaint is upheld, the owner of the offending hedge will be ordered to reduce it. An appeal against this decision can be made.
4. The complaint may be rejected, in which case the complainant can appeal against the decision

If you do have a problem and need help, there are a number of useful information sources. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's web site (www.odpm.gov.uk) has a really comprehensive page with leaflets to download and links to related web sites. One of these is a volunteer group called Hedgeline (tel: 0870 2400627 or on the web at <http://freespace.virgin.net/clare.h/>). You could try contacting the Winchester and District Neighbourhood Mediation Service (tel. 01962 813320) for help in resolving the situation. If you do wish to make a complaint, you can contact the Parish Office for advice and referral.

When all else fails, you can contact Winchester City Council's Enforcement Team on 01962 959289 for further assistance or a complaint form.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Calling our elderly or disabled residents, particularly those that live on their own. Are you a member of the **Message in a Bottle Scheme?**

The aim of the scheme is to ensure that your basic personal and medical details are kept in a location where they can be found in an emergency. The information is kept in a small plastic bottle and stored in the fridge.

When you get your bottle, there is a form inside for you to complete with all your details and two stickers, one for the back of your front door, the other for the fridge door. If the emergency services are called to your home, they will see these stickers and know to look in the fridge for vital information about you.

You can pick up one of these bottles from your GP's surgery. The Pound Road surgery has them in stock. It could save your life!



VACANCY... We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor—would you be interested in joining us? Although unpaid, it is very rewarding—just ask any of the other councillors! If you're interested but want to know more, why not come along to a meeting and see what goes on? The Autumn schedule is on the back page. For any details, contact the Parish Office on 01962 884150.

FOUL PLAY!

In the last issue of *Village News* we reported that the Council had received a number of complaints about dog mess. We asked that everyone follow the example of those responsible people who always clear up after their pets. Unfortunately, our plea seems to have fallen on deaf ears as there are still some residents who are not so considerate.

At the May Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, Andrew Court and Shaun Williams gave an interesting and informative presentation about the youth football teams that play at Eversley Park. The councillors were pretty disgusted to hear that there is a real problem with dog mess on the pitches. Before any match or practice session begins, the pitches have to be checked, but clearly it's not the responsibility of the coaches to do this and it's a pretty horrible thing to have to do.

The Parish Council is putting a lot of time, money and effort into improving the village amenities and into supporting such initiatives. We want to do everything we can to encourage children and young people to get involved in sport and to adopt a healthy lifestyle. What we DON'T want is for someone to catch a disease like *toxocariasis* by falling on dog mess on a football field. It's possible that some parents would not allow their children to participate in case they became ill. Since we didn't make ourselves clear enough last time perhaps this will help:

- **ALLOWING YOUR DOG TO FOUL A PUBLIC PLACE IS AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE WITH A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE OF £50 FOR EACH OCCASION**
- **A MAGISTRATE CAN IMPOSE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF £1000 ON AN OFFENDER**
- **TOXOCARIASIS CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS IN EXTREME CASES. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY WERE AFFECTED?**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE (we really can't say it enough)

Clear up after your dog, using the red bins provided (the Parish Council will have more installed soon)

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!

If you know of a persistent offender, you can report them to the Parish Office, to the city council or to the dog wardens who make regular patrols of the village. You can be assured that any information you give will be confidential—the offender won't be told who made the report. The Parish Office number is on the last page of this newsletter. The number to call at Winchester City Council is 01962 840222.

What else can we do?

As we've reported in this issue, the Parish Council has been very busy providing new amenities for the village in certain areas such as the Pavilion in Eversley Park (opposite).

However, we're more than aware that there are other places that we have yet to consider and we're keen to ensure that we use our resources as widely as possible.

We could provide something in Willis Way, Firs Crescent, Stoke Charity Road and Lovedon Lane—what do you think?

If you have any ideas on how your area could benefit from some attention, please let us know. You can call the Parish Office in the Community Centre on 01962 884150 or pop in during office hours if you're passing.



OUR CHALLENGE

In the last issue, we asked you to complete the following sentence “*Kings Worthy would be a better place if...*” These are the replies we received, together with our comments:

The newsletter was printed on recycled paper

We agree! You should be reading this (and all future issues) on paper with a high proportion of recycled fibre.

We could be certain that the Springvale PO and stores will remain open

Again, we agree, but the Parish Council itself has no control over this. We can all do our bit to support the store by using it regularly. Nish Patel, the owner of the store, currently has a planning application in to convert part of the store into a fish and chip shop and takeaway (the plan is for the post office to be moved to the other end of the store). The Parish Council has given its support to the application as it should ensure the continued survival of this most valued amenity and provide a much-needed service to the village.

People did not discard their rubbish casually around the village/Parishioners cleared up after their dogs

Absolutely! In respect of the litter issue, there are plenty of rubbish bins in and around the village. If there isn't one close, people should take their rubbish away with them—there's no excuse for littering. As for the matter of dog fouling, see the article on page 3.

Less back garden development and demolition of perfectly good homes/there were no developers

All local planning applications are considered by the Parish Council's Planning Committee. We are only able to comment on these based on how suitable we feel they are for the village - the final decisions are always made at City Council level. Having said that, your feedback on any new application is still vital, so please make your views known to us by contacting the Parish Office or coming to any of the Planning Committee meetings (Autumn schedule below).

There were other comments and we'll address them in future issues of Village News. In the mean time there are bound to be more opinions so please keep them coming. **We really do want to know what you think.**

Who are the Parish Councillors?



Cllr. Robert Johnston lives in Bentley Close and is a City Councillor as well as a Parish Councillor. Robert is currently the vice-chairman of the Parish Council and chairman of the Finance Committee.

Before becoming involved in community service, Robert was an export manager, covering most of the world, especially the Far East and the Americas.

You can contact Robert via the Parish Office.

DIARY

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

AUTUMN 2005 MEETINGS

Full Parish Council

19 September, 17 October, 21 November (7.30 p.m.)

Committees:

Recreation & Amenities

14 September, 12 October, 9 November (7.30 p.m.)

Planning

28 September, 26 October, 30 November (7.30 p.m.)

Finance

14 September, 12 October, 16 November (10.00 a.m.)

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