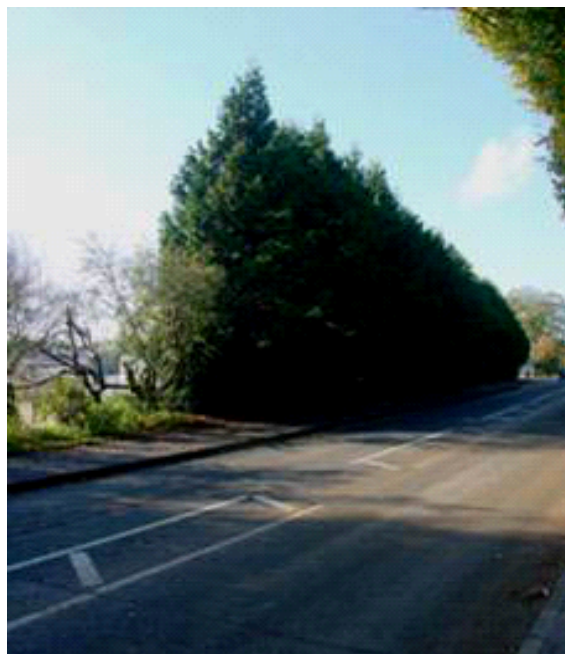


VILLAGE NEWS

WINTER 2005



PEEK'S FIELD AND THAT HEDGE



THIS

OR

THIS?

For those unfamiliar with this part of the village, this is the open space between the Church and Jubilee Hall - currently a building site. When the developers have finished, the remaining part of the field will be transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council who will maintain it as a recreational area. Currently there is a very tall evergreen hedge beside the road and we may have the opportunity to remove it if villagers think this is a good idea.

To some it is an oppressive feature which spoils the entry to the village whereas others think it forms a good barrier, particularly reducing traffic noise for those on or around the field. The hedge could be trimmed to avoid obstructing the pavement but could not be reduced in height as this would simply increase its growth rate and would probably be unsightly.

If the existing hedge were to go, it could be replaced by a slower growing, more manageable, hedge of mixed English hedgerow plants which would also have the advantage of being a more diverse habitat for wildlife. The cost of whatever we do should be covered by the sum the developer pays to the Open Spaces fund. *What do you think?*

Please contact the Parish Office - we are relying on your views to help us make a decision.

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SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Kings Worthy Primary School has been working on a package of measures to reduce the number of vehicles dropping and collecting children at the school. The proposals also aim to encourage pupils and parents to walk or cycle to school. The Parish Council is keen to support the initiative, particularly measures to reduce traffic speed and create a safe crossing on Springvale Road. In fact we have already been in discussion with HCC about this. We can make representations about this but any decision is not ours to make. Other proposals include the reduction of hedge height around the school boundary and an all weather path to bisect the field that would enable people to walk in a straight line from the Eversley Park/Sports and Social Club car park to the rear entrance of the school (in red below). Our concerns here are the impact this may have on the appearance of the area and, obviously, the cost involved. Another option is to look at the feasibility of upgrading the existing footpath along the top of the field and extending it to the car park (shown in green).

What do you think?

Please contact the Parish Office and let us know your views.



We have had some very positive feedback about this leaflet which was distributed with the last newsletter. If you have mislaid your copy we have a few spares in the Parish Office. Part of the feedback was

from those who found some routes partially blocked - where we have been told of the problem we have arranged for HCC to clear them. Some people have said that the map is incomplete as several paths are not shown - we had to be very careful to include only established rights of way or permissive paths. Paths like the one up the embankment from the Springvale Arch and around Top Field and the track to Woodhams Farm are not yet rights of way, although we have made claims for them to be so. The legal process is long and complicated. In the case of Top Field we were almost there but an objection was raised and the HCC legal team dealing with this have no idea of the likely timescale to resolve the matter.

Would you like us to investigate the possibility of an occasional guided walk around the Parish? Please let us know.

Our apologies to **Mervyn's Coaches** for omitting them from the list of coach companies operating in the village.

Carols on the Green

We invite you to come and start the festive season by joining us in singing traditional carols outside the Community Centre on Wednesday December 7th between 6 and 7pm. Please bring a torch with you. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall.



Sitting comfortably

The Worthy's Conservation Volunteers have been busy on the disused railway again. Undergrowth has been cut back to reveal views across surrounding fields and to introduce sunlight into shady areas to encourage wild flowers and butterflies. Not only can walkers now enjoy the new views, they can also do so in comfort as the group has made a railway sleeper seat. They are pictured here at the end of the task. We are very grateful to them and the Hampshire County Council who provided the materials. Why not try it yourself? Just follow the road beside Tesco Express until it becomes a track, at the second railway bridge turn left up a gentle slope on to the old railway. Turn left and walk along the track until you see the seat. You could continue in this direction as far as the old Worthy Down station and go up to the tarmac road which leads past the vet to Stoke Charity Road.



The group welcomes new members so if you would like some fresh air and to get your hands dirty once a month please contact Connie Martyn (884145).

ACHIEVEMENTS

For those who haven't noticed, here are a few things your Parish Council has done in the last year or so, often with help from other bodies.

- ü completion of the extension of the Lionel Tubbs Hall to create a Parish Office and Community Centre
- ü upgrading of children's play equipment both at Eversley Park and on the Green beside the Kings Worthy Centre. This provides a more challenging and enjoyable experience for children as well as improved safety
- ü introduction of a "new look" newsletter
- ü improvement of the dog walk at Eversley Park
- ü installation of a picnic table and seats at Hinton Park
- ü provision of a "trim trail" for adults on Eversley Park
- ü provision of map boards showing footpaths in and around the village
- ü installation of the mosaic at Broadview
- ü creation and distribution of "Exploring Kings Worthy" leaflets
- ü near completion of the Village Design Statement after years of delay mainly as a result of changing Government rules and guidance
- ü preliminary investigation of the desirability and feasibility of a village website
- ü consideration of over 100+ planning applications

We're sorry if your particular project, interest or concern isn't on the list. We are working on lots of other things and there is a limit to what a group of volunteers is able to do! Our thanks to everyone who responded to our question *Kings Worthy would be a better place if...* All the comments should by now have been acknowledged and we are in the process of sending specific responses after discussing the points raised. **We always welcome constructive comments about any aspect of village life.**

Parish Council l or s' Per ks

One of the good things about being a Councillor is you get to visit places in the village you didn't know a lot about and to meet interesting people. Recently some of us visited The Day Centre at Cornerways in Church Lane. The Centre is for vulnerable older people with physical or mental problems. It provides a great opportunity to interact with others and be stimulated by a variety of activities including group games, exercise, quizzes, bingo and pub lunches. Staffing, equipment and premises are provided by HCC Adult Services but an active group of volunteers raises cash to increase the comfort and interest level of clients. There are many ways in which we can lend our support, ranging from volunteer driving to fund raising but probably the best starting point is to attend some of their activities (see below). To find out more please contact Dawn Inglis (881257) or Lesley Drew (885037) – you are assured of a warm and enthusiastic welcome. This is a really worthwhile service, deserving of community support and, who knows, we may be glad of it ourselves one day!

KINGS WORTHY DAY CENTRE SUPPORT GROUP

will be holding a

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

on

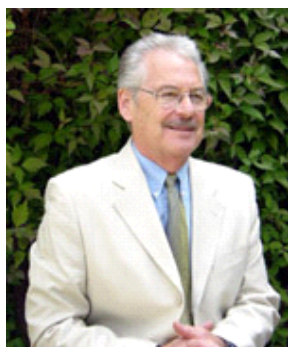
Saturday December 3rd from 10am to 1pm

at

The Day Centre, Cornerways, Church Lane

WHO ARE THE PARISH COUNCILLORS?

Tony May



I am semi-retired and have lived in Kings Worthy for the last 7 years.

I joined the Parish Council earlier this year and am on the Planning and Finance Committees.

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.

2005/6 MEETINGS

Full Parish Council

January 16; February 20; March 20 (7.30 p.m.)

Committees:

Recreation & Amenities

January 12; February 8; March 8 (7.30 p.m.)

Planning

November 30; January 26; February 22; March 29 (7.30 p.m.)

Finance

January 11; February 15; March 15 (10.00 a.m.)

N.B. Please check the notice boards as sometimes meetings have to be rescheduled.

KINGS WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL (Chairman: Robert Johnston)

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

Telephone and Fax: 01962 884150

Clerks: Barbara Fairbrother & Colin Arnett