



SPRING 2006

From the Horse's Mouth

The Parish newsletter
of
Trimley St. Mary

This newsletter will be delivered to each household in the parish. Most of the topics in this issue cover the Council's response to particular points raised in the recent questionnaire, but some items are of general interest. It is hoped to publish further issues at 6-monthly intervals.

Questionnaire - Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire. Replies are summarised on page 6. Councillor Carl Storer gives a summary of written comments on Pages 2 & 3.

Dualling the Railway Line - Over a year has now elapsed since proposals to construct a five mile section of dual rail track from Trimley Station to a point in the vicinity of Warren Heath, on the outskirts of Ipswich, first emerged during the Felixstowe Port South Reconfiguration Public Inquiry. See Page 4 for progress update by Councillor Bryan Frost (Vice-Chairman).

Traffic on the High Road - It has long been recognised that there is a problem with the smooth passage of traffic on the High Road outside the school, this occurs at the start and finish of the school day. Residents complained and brought this item before the Parish Council. (PC). Councillor Richard Kerry (Chairman) continues the story on Page 5.

Waste Collection - The responsibility for the collection and disposal of household waste is shared between the collectors (each District Council) and the disposers (Suffolk County Council). Usually, disposal is into holes such as former quarries. Increasing waste, holes being filled up and the proposed Government increase in Landfill Tax in respect of each tonne disposed of to landfill combine to drive the need to divert more and more waste into recycling. Councillor Mary Dixon reports on Page 7

Trimley Station (a well-kept secret) - Trimley station has an interesting history. Read about it on Page 5

Mobile Police Station - Have you visited it yet? See Page 7.

Council Meetings – dates for meetings and contact details are given on Page 8.

Questionnaire Comments

Approximately 1500 questionnaires were delivered to households in the Parish. The results shown opposite are based upon the data in **281** completed returns, which represents **18.6%** of the households in the village.

There were many additional comments, which have been combined into a single 19-page document. However, a selection of comments received is given below.

Local Planning - There was widespread support for the council's policies on planning and housing.

- ❖ The two Trimley Villages have a unique and delightful semi-rural setting. Why should it have to change? Having moved here several years ago from London, away from the noise, dirt and congestion. I am against any changes to this area.
- ❖ Great Street Farm –The stables help to keep a rural feel to the village – where would provision be made to house the horses presently there? It is not so many years ago that livestock were at Gt. Street Farm and the farm in Thurmans Lane, please let us retain something of our past.
- ❖ Separate identity from Felixstowe – Resist all attempts to make us a suburb of Felixstowe – the Trimleys existed centuries before Felixstowe became built up, we need to keep our separate identity.
- ❖ I fully support the PC's stand on the future development of the village.
- ❖ We think it very important that no further large scale development take place in the Trimleys. The High Road is barely able to cope with existing traffic let alone any resulting from further expansion.

Road traffic is perceived as a problem by a large number of people. Problems commented on include congestion during the school run to Trimley St Mary plus the volume and speed of traffic through the village.

- ❖ Serious consideration should be given to banning parking/stopping outside the school.
- ❖ Concerned at the speed of traffic along the High Road, particularly in the evenings.
- ❖ I feel sorry for the residents near the school.
- ❖ I would welcome traffic calming and/or speed cameras along the High Road.
- ❖ More and more cars are being double-parked along Trimley High road and on the pavements. There have been instances of "triple-parking".

The Railway - There is quite wide support for the principal of reducing road traffic by increasing the rail capacity. However, there is concern about the prospect of increased noise and vibration caused by moving and stationary trains. The recent increase in train hooting at the approach to crossing points has exacerbated this problem.

- ❖ My main concern is the railway line. The noise at night is already horrendous if one likes to keep a window open. The trains are supposed to come through at 30 mph. Sometimes, with at least 30 containers behind, they are travelling at about 60 mph.
- ❖ If we are to have a second line could something be done to the track to reduce vibration. Also with increased number of trains how will residents get to their homes over the crossing?
- ❖ Very concerned about excessive noise and diesel exhaust pollution and the freight trains stopping for long periods at signals to the rear of Chatsworth Crescent.
- ❖ The continual hooting has become more noticeable of late and this, plus the trains going through regularly at night, does not lead to a good night's sleep.

The Parish Council - There is a support for the Council but it is clear that there is lack of visibility from a resident point of view.

- ❖ Lack of info of Council meetings, where, times and what is to be discussed. Plus results and actions after meetings. Info, Info, Info!!
- ❖ Questions should be raised as to the “visibility” of what is going on with the Parish Council, so villagers need to be better informed as to issues being raised at any council meeting, perhaps agendas printed in the local press might help.

Other issues raised were

- ❖ Too much litter in the village.
- ❖ Concerned at the amount of on pavement parking ... making the passage of prams/pushchairs and wheelchairs difficult.
- ❖ The children’s play area (at Stennetts) is woefully neglected and possibly dangerous, especially when used as a gathering point after dark.

The Trimleys

The name is thought to derive from Old English 'Trymma', or “Trima”, and 'Leah', meaning Trymma's clearing.

The Welcome Hall

The Welcome Hall was provided in 1902 by the Pretyman family for the residents of both Trimley villages. It was built for their ‘welfare, education and recreation.’ The foundation stone was laid by the, then Lord Chancellor, Lord Halsbury.

The Centenary of the Hall was celebrated by a display of archive material. A letter of congratulation was received from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, which is now on display in the main Hall. Another of the items of interest on display was the trowel used when the original foundation stone was laid.

In the small room there is a framed picture, taken from an original oil painting, of life in the Trimleys before the motor car.

In February 1996 the building was in need of essential improvements and the Trusteeship of the Welcome Hall became the responsibility of the Parish Council. The day to day running is undertaken by a Management Committee.

The Welcome Hall is used today by a variety of people engaging in many different pursuits. If you think that you might like to join a local activity, a full list of the Groups using the Hall is available for anyone to see on the Parish Council website (www.trimley-st-mary.org.uk).

The Welcome Hall is available for hire at very reasonable cost and the contact is Mr. Ron Bennett on 01394 273655.

Dualling Update

Over a year has now elapsed since proposals to construct a five mile section of dual rail track from Trimley Station to a point in the vicinity of Warren Heath, on the outskirts of Ipswich, first emerged during the Felixstowe Port South Reconfiguration Public Inquiry. Since then, much speculation has occurred as to the extent of this proposal and its impact on the residents of the Trimley villages. Whilst two-thirds of those responding to the recent Parish Council Questionnaire supported the proposal, and an even greater majority thought that the increase in the number of freight trains represented a fair exchange in order to take more lorries off the roads, there has naturally been some apprehension as to how the villages might be affected.

It now appears that the original length of dual track has been cut back to some 4 ¼ miles, from Trimley Station to a point just west of the rail bridge at Levington.

Although it was initially thought that the idea would be for trains to pass each other along the length of double track, it now seems that the dual track will largely perform the function of a long siding. Much concern has been voiced about the possibility of standing trains emitting fumes in residential areas whilst they wait for access to the lines into the Port, but it is hoped that the time occupied by standing trains will be largely eliminated except in times of disruption. We shall see.

There is also concern about the sounding of engine horns, particularly during the night, which has resulted from enforcement of the Safety Regulations regarding the need to sound horns on the approach to certain types of level crossings. The dualling scheme proposes the closure or diversion of three crossings, including the crossing at Gun Lane, in order to reduce the number of locations at which the horns need to be sounded.

It is likely that a public inquiry will be required in respect of the project. If this takes place, it is likely to be held during 2006, with a subsequent start on the actual work in 2007 or 2008. Construction may take around a year, so the work could be finished by the end of 2008. Obviously all these dates are subject to change as events unfold during the course of the next few months.

It has been emphasised by all parties that the rail passenger service on the Ipswich to Felixstowe line is sacrosanct, and although some disruption is bound to occur at times when engineering possessions are required during the course of construction, it appears to have been accepted that the additional freight services on the dualled lines will be accommodated around the hourly pattern of passenger trains. This is very good news, as it should eventually permit a more reliable passenger train timetable, and will help to build on the solid pattern of growth which the passenger service is currently experiencing.

Trimley Station, a Well-kept Secret

Although the growth of freight traffic has been the prominent feature of rail news in recent times, it must not be forgotten that one of the original aims of building the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line was to develop Felixstowe as a seaside resort in the nineteenth century, by means of a passenger service. In fact, Trimley's railway station, dating from 1891, was opened several years before the present terminus at Felixstowe Town, and in the early days passenger trains ran to the original station situated on the site of the old Felixstowe Beach Station, which was sadly demolished in 2004.

Tucked out of sight a short distance from the busy High Road, it is perhaps easy to overlook the existence of Trimley Station, which is open for business each day throughout the year apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Although usage of the station has increased in recent years, it still remains an underused asset for the benefit of the whole community which can provide a stress and traffic-free journey into both Ipswich and Felixstowe at very reasonable fares.

Many years ago, the station gardens were regular winners of the best-kept station competition, and some of this tradition has been revived in recent years by the station adoption scheme which was introduced by the railway company. Betty and John Woollan, the station adopters, can be seen regularly tending the platform garden to provide a good display of colour to brighten the travelling experience.

Although the station building itself now looks somewhat forlorn, it remains largely intact and, for the historian, is rumoured to be the only remaining example of a country station built by the former Great Eastern Railway. Recent attempts to demolish it were met with resistance from the Parish Council, and this resulted in an evaluation exercise to consider possible alternative uses. These attempts continue at the time of writing.

Traffic on the High Road

It was necessary for the PC to implement steps to try to alleviate the traffic problem. This was by way of a meeting with Suffolk County Council (SCC) traffic officer; he subsequently came up with a solution. However after the statutory letters were sent to all the residents along the affected part of the High Road, there were some objections, which meant that the scheme could not be implemented.

This did not solve the problem; so a further meeting was set up between all relevant parties, the School, Police, SCC and PC. We now have a different proposal to put to the residents, which is to put in place double yellow lines to protect Station Road junction, to install bus stop boxes to both East bound and West bound stops, further protection for the entrance and exit to Brands garage and further protection for the crossing attendant. These would be subject to timed parking restrictions to allow for the use of the school on occasions outside of the normal school day. This is again however, subject to the approval of the scheme by the residents affected

It is the PC wish that this could be adopted because the vast majority of residents who returned the recent survey form did see this as a problem area. If this were thrown out again it would seem that all avenues as far as this is concerned would have been exhausted. As Chairman I can assure you that every concern that is brought to the PC is looked at and if possible a solution is sought, if, it is within the remit of the PC.

Questionnaire Results

Local Planning	Yes
Do you agree with the Council that no building should take place on green-field sites?	91
Do you agree with the Council that there is a need for a small amount of affordable housing?	77
Do you agree with the Council that there is a need for additional sheltered housing?	64
Do you agree with the Council that the Trimley villages should each retain their separate identities from Felixstowe?	96
Do you agree with the Council that it is important to retain the rural setting of Trimley St Mary village?	94
Do you agree with the Council that some minor relaxation of the physical limits of the village should be allowed, to permit the appropriate replacement or the re-use of redundant farm buildings?	70
Do you agree with the Council for the lifting of restrictions on the disused farm buildings and yard associated with Great Street Farm for housing and perhaps some workshop provision?	62

Road Traffic	Yes
Are you concerned by road traffic noise from the A14?	47
Are you concerned about the traffic congestion at Trimley St Mary school? ..	88
Are you concerned about Trimley High Road being used for through traffic to and from Felixstowe?	75
Do you support better provision for cyclists, such as extended cycle paths along the High Road?	72

Rail Traffic	Yes
Do you support the proposal for additional rail traffic by the installation of an additional rail track?	67
Are you concerned by rail traffic noise and/or vibration?	34
Do you think that increasing the number of trains from 24 to 40 per day will be a fair exchange for getting more freight off the roads?	73

Parish Council	Yes
Have you ever attended a Parish Council meeting?	35
Do you know how to contact your Parish Clerk?	67
Do you know how to contact your Parish Councillors?	62
Have you accessed the Parish Council Web site?	19
Do you know what your Parish Council does?	68

Waste collection and recycling

For some years it has been possible to take a wide range of materials to Household Waste Recycling sites at Carr Road in Felixstowe, Foxhall and some supermarket car parks, but collecting from each household is the only way to maximise the quantity of waste recycled. All the other District Councils in Suffolk have adopted a so called 'twin bin' scheme of waste collection. This is where each household has three coloured wheeled bins. Waste for recycling (garden and kitchen waste for composting in the brown bin and a second bin for paper, plastic, cardboard and cans) can be collected one week and waste for landfill the following week.

Last summer I was part of a small waste management research group charged with finding out how different systems were working then suggesting future options for Suffolk Coastal District Council. We sought the opinions of the town and parish councils in the District and had strong support for increased recycling and a range of measures including wheeled bins. (The Autumn SCDC newsletter 'Coastline' reported on this). The group saw the Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham where recycled materials are sorted and baled. We also visited towns in two nearby districts, Bury St Edmunds and Southwold in Waveney, on bin collection day.

The 'Twin Bin' scheme has been operating in Ipswich for some time and I have thought that the bins are often far too dominant and unsightly where they are stored in tiny front gardens. It was interesting to see that both in Bury and Southwold this was not an obvious problem. Residents were keen to recycle but tried to find inconspicuous storage sites, sometimes sharing bins where they had little garden waste or were small households in the town centre. Having gone through various stages, our report has been approved by the District Council. However, many decisions will have to be made about meeting the costs of adapted or new collection vehicles; cost, colour and size of new wheeled bins (the preferred capacity is 240 litres which takes very little more space than the existing brown 140 litre compost wheeled bins); ways of dealing with terraced houses and narrow cul-de-sacs serving several houses etc. etc. In other districts people in particularly difficult situations have been given the option to continue using sacks but very few have chosen to do so.

Your Local Mobile Police Station

Information and advice about safety and security is available at the Mobile Police Station.

PC 1103 Chris Richardson and Enquiry Officer Kenneth Mann make regular visits to the green on the High Road almost opposite Spriteshall Lane.

Anybody is welcome to call in – children as well.

Find out about the new '**Police Direct**' service, which provides:

- Latest information about local crime

- Advice to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime

Information on police activity to make Suffolk even safer.

Dates: TUESDAY 18TH APRIL, 0845 to 1200HRS

TUESDAY 9TH MAY, 1015 to 1145HRS

Council Meetings

All meetings are held on a Monday at Trimley St. Mary School at 7:00pm unless otherwise advertised.

24 April 2006 (also the Annual Parish Meeting)
08 May 2006 (preceded by AGM)
05 June 2006
03 July 2006

Dates and agendas for meetings are displayed on the notice board adjacent to the school. ALL TRIMLEY RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME.

Minutes of meetings are held in the Felixstowe public library.

A wealth of information is available on the Council's Web site at:

www.trimley-st-mary.org.uk

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