

From the Horse's Mouth



AUTUMN 2008

The Parish Newsletter
of

Trimley St. Mary

In this Issue:

This issue of the parish newsletter contains a lot of feedback from your Parish, District and County Councillors.

Contact details are given later in the newsletter. They want to hear from you – it's your parish and they are not mind readers!

There is a lot of information on the Parish Web site, including minutes of Parish meetings.

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From the Chairman, Councillor Bryan Frost

I am sometimes asked what the Parish Council actually **does** - a fair question as it can appear at times to take on the characteristics of the proverbial iceberg - much of what happens goes on beneath the surface, and only rarely appears in the public perception.

This has perhaps been the case in recent weeks, where in contrast to the traditional lull in parish business which occurs over the summer period, there has been a heavy work load, due partly to the need to consider the Boundary Committee's proposals for the future of local councils in Suffolk. The deadline for comments was 26 September, and both myself and our Vice-Chairman attended briefings on the proposals.

Although there was a considerable amount of paperwork to study in respect of the alternatives proposed by the Boundary Committee, in my personal view there was a frustrating lack of detail concerning the implications which they would have for the resources and duties which might be devolved to Parish Councils. This lack of information was very disappointing, but one can have a degree of sympathy with the local authorities, who had very little time to prepare their responses, given that the consultation fell within the holiday period as mentioned above.

It would take a cynic to question whether this was a deliberate act, but it certainly was unhelpful to have so little hard information on which to base our view.

The Parish Council decided to support neither of the two alternatives proposed by the Boundary Committee, opting for a 'three unitary Councils' solution comprising East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich, and retaining Lowestoft within Suffolk. (Our reply to the Boundary Committee is shown opposite)

Local Issues

Turning to more mundane issues, I am pleased to report that at last, we have a '20s Plenty Road Safety Scheme in operation on the High Road in the vicinity of Trimley St Mary School. This is a whole year later than originally anticipated, and is due to our continued persistence in attempting to persuade the local authority to carry out this Scheme, which is being financed by the Parish Council.

There is less positive news on our continuing campaign to secure additional street lighting along The Drift, which has suffered from a lack of co-ordination between the local authorities, who seem to be only too keen to play 'pass the parcel'. We are grateful for the support of our County Councillor, John Goodwin, for his assistance and offer of financial support from his locality budget, as the Parish Council has undertaken to bear the cost.

These are just some of the areas on which we have been very active over the summer period. On most days a new issue emerges which requires our time and attention, perhaps not surprising when the

population of the Parish is considerably higher than towns such as Aldeburgh and Framlingham!

I am pleased to report that our request in the last newsletter for a litter picker met with a positive response, and although the control of litter, particularly along the High Road, is a constant battle, there has been a real improvement in this area and the Parish Council appreciates the hard work of our litter picker very much.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to record our grateful appreciation for all the hard work which Derrick Ellis, who has decided to retire from the Council following his move to Felixstowe, has put in over the past few years, not least in respect of this newsletter, which I am pleased to say he is continuing to produce and edit. Derrick has also represented the Parish Council on the Welcome Hall Committee and as a Governor of the village School, and he will be greatly missed.

Bryan Frost

30 September 2008

Parish Council's Response to the Boundary Committee

'Trimley St Mary Parish Council would like to register strong objection to the Suffolk draft proposal of an Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary authority ('North Haven') along with a Suffolk unitary authority (less Lowestoft) as, in our view, this would create an authority in which the interests of Ipswich would dominate those of the proposed parishes and towns within this authority to their general and particular detriment.

We also feel that the Suffolk alternative proposal for one Suffolk unitary authority (less Lowestoft) would result in an area authority, which would be geographically too large and diverse in nature to be governed and administered efficiently.

We are in favour of creating three unitary councils, namely East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich and of keeping Lowestoft in Suffolk. We feel that this would meet the needs of our local communities better than the other options being offered.

We wish to make the point most strongly that, in our view, there has been a scarcity of information concerning how the Boundary Committee proposals have been reached or how the additional powers and responsibilities, which are proposed to be devolved to parish councils, will be resourced.

Report from John Goodwin - Our County Councillor

Nice to give a bit of good news for once, after much effort by the Parish Council we have at long last got funding in place to do the works required to make the road outside Trimley St Mary school a "20's Plenty" zone. Efforts are ongoing to get some street lights in the drift: this will happen but it is surely a tortuous route getting the works carried out.

I made a plea at the September meeting of the parish Council for volunteers to consider becoming a school governor, there are many vacancies throughout Suffolk, would readers please give me a call or send me an e-mail if you would consider doing this very worthwhile job (contact details below).

Operation Stack is considered to be a success in as much as the Trimley villages no longer get gridlocked with trucks, however when the last Operation Stack ended there was a rush of trucks from further a field and the port could not cope with the volume of traffic. I'm not sure what the answer is to this problem. We plead with hauliers to stay away from Suffolk whilst the port is closed, but then once it is open again they all want to get to Felixstowe, get loaded, and try to earn a living again

Suffolk County Council has the aspiration to become the Greenest County. A recent cabinet meeting gave some examples of work that is ongoing in that cause, one of which is that many new buildings are now equipped with woodchip heating boilers, the woodchips being sourced in Suffolk. Not only a renewable source of fuel but one with minimum miles from source to destination and one that supports Suffolk companies. Suffolk are also one of the top performing counties when it comes to recycling, something for us all to be proud of.

Latest news, today (25th September) Suffolk County Council voted to recommend to the Boundary Committee of England that Suffolk become a single unitary authority on the grounds of service provision and affordability for the people of Suffolk.

There is much more that I could tell about the ongoing work of Suffolk County Council but I must not upset the editor who very kindly allows me to write for "From the Horse's Mouth"

My contact details are as follows, tel 01394 283195, mobile 07734 806040. e-mail, john.goodwin@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Regards to all, John Goodwin

Colneis Peninsula Safer Neighbourhood team.

Report from Raoul Pidgeon - Pc 728

May I take this opportunity to update residents about efforts being made by Police officers and staff of the Colneis team.

We have been increasing the accessibility of Police officers to residents by having a visible presence at both primary schools during drop off or collection times, by maintaining a presence outside Trimley Post office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and by attending the coffee morning at St Martins church, which is open to anyone for a coffee and a chat).

Residents will know that Police will be at these places on specific days and times. If there is anything, no matter how small, you think we, (your Police!) should know about, or you think we may be able to help you then please come along and introduce yourself.

In relation to vehicles parking on the double yellow lines at the junction of Church Lane and High Road. These lines are due to be repainted and then they will be enforced. Most people I move on are able bodied and have just got into the habit of parking there.

We have on several occasions had to speak to owners of motor vehicles advertised for sale, that have been parked along the High Road, some on or near to junctions. Police consider this to be leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position as it distracts the attention of other road users, when they should be concentrating on the junction.

Last but by no means least. Please close and lock all house windows when you go out. There have been instances of burglaries occurring, in our area, where access has been gained via insecure fanlight windows.

Trimley Green and surrounding areas

I am sorry to have to report again in this issue that there are still dog owners/walkers who are not clearing up after their dogs.

Would everyone who takes a dog for a walk around all areas of Trimley St Mary please be responsible and clear up after your dog and use the bins provided. There is a new one in Thurmans Lane and a refurbished one returned to its original position, next to the litter bin, opposite the Faulkners Way shops.

General litter is also a huge ongoing problem. The amount of cans and bottles (glass & plastic) is unacceptable. Sweet and other wrappers are always to be found strewn around. Would everyone please either use litter bins provided or take it home.

There have been a couple of incidents recently involving footballs hitting passers by. Would everyone involved in these games please be aware of others around them.

Trimley Green is for the enjoyment of everyone. Please keep it clean and safe. Thank you. **Councillor Ann Jacobs**

Life As A District Councillor

Well, the first year as a DC has flown by - the number of papers that have been read and researched for the various Task Groups would have been unimaginable before the election. However, the workload may be more than I could have thought but it has been varied and enjoyable. We do make a difference to the people in the district: recently for example, money was received from Government, which will enable 147 affordable homes to be built across the district.

During the year councillors are briefed on different topics by senior officials from industry, commerce and government (recently the NHS and the chief executive of the company that runs the British Nuclear power stations). After each session Councillors get the chance to question the speaker, this always ending in a lively debate on local issues. The NHS speaker was questioned on the lack of NHS dentists in this area and asked to make sure the this was addressed. **This is local democracy at work.**

During the recent LDF debates a lot has been written on the role of the councillor and the so-called representation of the electorate. As a councillor you have to represent all not just the few. You must read papers, listen to both sides and make a judgment on what you consider is right for all. Like it or not, new homes are required on the peninsula and the LDF Task Group have to try to locate the best possible places for these. After careful consideration and consultation with the Parish Councils the conclusion was to support the proposed option for the housing to go in areas 3 and 4, Felixstowe needs new homes therefore they should be built within Felixstowe, however, the Task Group which I am a member decided after a debate not to support the officers on this occasion. However substantial homes will still be built on Greenfield sites, as Brownfield is scarce. The document must show that there is enough land available to build the homes required in the next fifteen years. In the present financial climate home building is slowing down, this of course does not help the much needed affordable market, more social rented accommodation is required, we are all painfully aware of this fact, housing associations cannot afford to buy land or at the moment purchase homes from developers. SCDC is committed to delivering 33% of affordable homes in the new LDF Policy.

The private rental option is out of the reach of most of the young people who wish to start a life together, without many thousands of pounds for a deposit home ownership has, for the time being been removed as an option. I suppose we could all sit in our own ivory towers and say no to new homes, but as human beings are we really that selfish, just remember we all probably purchased at or near the first rung of the property ladder, it is now time we tried to give others that opportunity again.

Just to finish if you have not been in hibernation you will probably have heard that HM Government has asked the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) to look for a unitary solution for Suffolk probably brought on by the failure of Ipswich to achieve its own ambitions. The primary option is to link Ipswich with Felixstowe and other areas East West and South and call it the Haven; SCDC is not in favour of this option or the backup option either. Which of these two is the worst is a close run thing. The best option, which could be considered is, the East West and Ipswich option, we with coastal concerns would work together and do what we do best, leaving Urban Ipswich to look after its own and the West of Suffolk to manage itself. There has been quite a bit of scare tactics being used: there would have to be three of everything I.E Fire Services etc, utter nonsense. The new authorities would continue to do, what they do at the moment, it is called shared services. Shared services save you the taxpayer money and will continue to do so Unitary solution or not, SCDC is one of the best performing councils in the Country, why remove it likewise so is SCC, the council taxpayer in this District receives good value for its contribution to the tax pot.

DC Cllr R A Kerry

Report from Cllr Graham Harding (District Councillor)

We have recently been in discussions with EDF and they have agreed to put the majority of electricity distribution poles underground. This hopefully will be followed by BT working in conjunction with them which should tidy up the High Road and then flower beds may be put at the bottom of Faulkeners Way and one sign which will show the shops in Faulkeners Way.

In planning I emphasise that we are asking for a minimum development in the hope that area 3 and 4, originally proposed by the Parish Council will still be accepted.

The pits, which most people by now will know, has caused, through the noise from the scramble bikes, considerable problems in the nearby areas. The landlords of the various pieces of land have agreed that this will come to an end and we are at present in discussion with the safer neighbourhood team in trying to come up with the best solution for everybody.

Graham Harding
District Councillor

Agreed Policies

The council has adopted a set of policies which provide a basis for its day-to-day activities and guidance for making decisions.

Communications

Distribute questionnaires to residents on important issues

Produce a newsletter twice a year

Maintain an informative & active web site

Make effective use of Parish notice boards

Local Planning

Resist building on green field sites

Support the need for a small amount of affordable housing

Support the need for additional sheltered housing

Retain the separate identities of the Trimley villages from each other and from Felixstowe

Retain the rural setting of Trimley St Mary village

Planning Applications

Check for impact on neighbours & street scene

Seek to retain properties suitable for first time buyers

Resist any developments to south of railway line

Resist any developments to north of A14

Transport

Retain station buildings

Encourage cycle networks

Seek to reduce volume of traffic through the village

Oppose HGV traffic

Liaise with user groups

Maintain & improve public transport

Protect rural nature of village

Donations

Only donate to causes that benefit residents of the village

Consider each request on individual merit

General

Oppose proliferation of street signs & adverts

Welcome Hall Users

Two groups that regularly use the Welcome Hall tell us what they do.

Trimley St Mary WI

On the first Wednesday afternoon each month the Welcome Hall is busy with the activities of Trimley Women's Institute. They meet to enjoy the company and talk over a cup of tea, usually with home made cakes, but also to hear speakers on a range of different topics. During 2008 this has included a fascinating talk about Suffolk Punch horses which was followed up by a visit to the Hollesley Stud, current news of Trimley Nature Reserve from the warden and an entertaining sweet making demonstration with delicious samples.

Every October Trimley WI celebrates the beginning of the local WI in 1918 with a birthday lunch in the Hall and some members of the other WIs in the local group (Kirton & Falkenham plus 3 from Felixstowe) come along for their afternoon meeting.

Trimley WI members have been meeting in the Welcome Hall for 90 years and hope to be there for many more. They always welcome visitors and new members and advertise their monthly meetings with a poster on the Welcome Hall notice board.

Felixstowe Musical Theatre

Twice a week for at least the last 18 years the Welcome Hall has rung to the sound of singing and laughing whilst rehearsals take place for the award winning productions by Felixstowe Musical Theatre.

FMT was formed in the early 1960s and the group used to meet at Orwell High School as an evening class. However, when a fee of one pound ten shillings a term was introduced for the class the group thought this was too much and they decided to 'go it alone'. They rehearsed in one or two places throughout the town before moving into the Welcome Hall. Shows were performed in several places, and 'on tour' before the group became regulars at the Spa Pavilion. There are still a few founder members within the company.

The group has gone from strength to strength winning its first award – The Leyson Trophy – in the early 1970s and winning many others throughout the years, the most recent being the NODA award for Best Pantomime of 2007 in the Eastern Region for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Rehearsals are currently running for Peter Pan, our next Pantomime, which will be on stage at the Spa from January 29th to February 1st 2009. New members are always welcome so please come along on a Monday or Thursday evening and meet the gang.

You'll enjoy it – oh yes you will!

Community Facilities

Mobile Library calls at the Faulkeners Way shops on alternate Tuesdays between 3.25 and 4.25. The service can be contacted on 07721 879853. The office can be contacted between 9am -12 noon, Monday – Friday on 07872 676698.

Trimley St Mary War Memorial - Correction

In the last Newsletter, Barbara Shout's telephone number was incorrect. Her number is 01394 273055. (Sorry Barbara. Ed)

Parish and District Council Information

Parish Website

Check out the Parish Council website at <http://www.trimley-st-mary.org.uk/>.

The aim of the site is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Parish Council in carrying out its duties. We do this by publishing our minutes, reports, plans and other relevant details. The main pages are:-

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| News | Councillors | Meetings | Policies |
| Documents | Welcome Hall | Contact Us | Local Information |

If you would like us to include any additional information or if you have any photographs that we can use, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

ALL TRIMLEY RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME to parish council meetings, which are held at Trimley St. Mary School at 7:00pm (unless otherwise advertised.)

Dates and agendas for meetings are displayed on the notice board adjacent to the school. Minutes of meetings are held in the Felixstowe public library.

All meetings will be held at 7:00pm in Trimley St Mary School until 2009 when meetings will move to the Welcome Hall.

Monday, 3rd November 2008

Monday, 1st December 2008

Wednesday, 7th January 2009

Wednesday, 4th February 2009

Wednesday, 4th March 2009

Wednesday, 1st April 2009

Wednesday, 6th May 2009

Wednesday, 3rd June 2009

Committees and Representatives

Finance and General Purposes - Bryan Frost, Mary Dixon, Neville Mayes, David Southgate & Carl Storer

Dock Liaison Committee - Bryan Frost, Mary Dixon & Neville Mayes

Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group - Bryan Frost

Planning Committee - Mary Dixon, Colin Jacobs & Neville Mayes

Parish Newsletter - Derrick Ellis, Ann Jacobs & Janet Wright

Transport Liaison Officers - Bryan Frost

WEBmaster – Carl Storer

Trimley St Mary Primary School Governor - tba

Safer Neighbourhood Team Liaison - Graham Harding

Strategy Meeting Coordinator - Carl Storer

Welcome Hall Management Committee - Mary Dixon, Carl Storer, Graham Harding

Suffolk Coastal District Councillors For Trimley & Kirton

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Falkenham,
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Richard Kerry.
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Clerk to the Parish Council

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Debra Cooper, may be contacted at:

01394 285193 (Office hours, Monday to Friday)

e-mail: debra.cooper4@ntlworld.com

If you have any request or information for inclusion in the next newsletter, please forward it to the Clerk.