

Everton Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2006

Parish Council Election

The following candidates have been returned unopposed for the Parish Council election (nine seats) on 4th May, 2006:

Richard Bacon, David Bardsley, Barbara de Bel, John Dunn, Liz Jefferies, Robin Maclagan, Krystyna Martin and Patrick Woods. Jen Marsh has decided not to stand this time, and we thank her for her excellent past service and wish her well for the future.

It's unfortunate that we won't have a Harwell representative. We welcome offers from residents (especially of Harwell) willing to offer their services as a co-opted member to fill the ninth seat. Please contact the Clerk.

Best Kept Village Competition

We asked CPRE for feedback on our performance in 2005 – with the intention of making improvements this year - judging begins in June. The main points were as follows:

Everton

Houses and gardens cared for and attractive
Public houses had impressive floral decorations
Church, Churchyard and Village Hall well maintained
Metcalf Recreation Ground awarded a Certificate of Merit
Some hedges and verges were overgrown and untidy, particularly in the Gainsborough Road/High Street/Chapel Lane area
Some pavements needed sweeping
Some telegraph poles had old notices on them
The Village Hall notice board was "rather rough" compared with other villages
Conclusion: Everton would do well in future if more community effort were expended on the neglected areas

Harwell

Unspoilt with impressive individual properties
A lack of community effort compared with other villages

The entrance to Harwell and other public parts could have done better
Conclusion: Harwell scored sufficient highly to justify hopes of a better position given more community involvement

Housing Needs Survey

The Parish Plan questionnaire exercise gave us a mandate to look into housing needs, with a focus on the possibility of a small development of affordable housing in Everton. We're pleased to announce that North East Bassetlaw Forum is to provide the necessary funding for Notts. Rural Community Council to carry out a survey in June. Every household will receive a questionnaire, and it's important that these are completed.

A631 – Interactive Signs

Last year we announced that the County Council had promised to install two permanent interactive signs on the A631 before the end of March. However, our District Councillor, Frank Martin, discovered in January that, unannounced, the funding had been diverted elsewhere. So, we acted immediately to get the decision reversed, and were successful. Inevitably, there'll be a delay, but the signs are on order.

Litter and Dog Fouling

We've been asked to provide a dog waste bin at Cross Lane/Everton Sluice Lane. We will if a volunteer or volunteers can be found to empty it, as already happens at Harwell. We're also prepared to look at other sites people might suggest, but again we need volunteers to empty bins.

Motorcycles in Harwell Woods

With the onset of spring, this problem is with us again. Most worrying is that the motorcyclists have started to damage the SSSI, which is a criminal offence. Please report any incidents to the police on 01909 500999. If anyone has any ideas as to how best to combat this problem, please tell us.

Planning

We said in our winter newsletter that we were still locked in correspondence with the District Council about planning decisions at Harwell, and that it's

very difficult to enter into a meaningful dialogue with them. We also said that things had deteriorated further, with them refusing to provide straightforward information about the application for four large houses at Harwell Sluice Lane/Pinfold Lane, whilst insisting that it had been provided.

We eventually decided to make formal complaints about the conduct of Councillors Isard and Quigley to the Standards Board for England. However, the day after we reached this decision, we were contacted by the Head of Planning Services about the possibility of a meeting (previously requested by us and refused by them) to attempt to solve the problem. Suffice it to say that the requested information has now been provided, and we won't be submitting formal complaints. However, Bassetlaw have been informed of our grave disappointment over the fact that officers and members wrongly insisted for several months that the requested information had already been provided, leading to a serious waste of time and money. As you can imagine, Bassetlaw have replied saying they don't agree that this was the case!

We believe that the significance of this protracted argument is to show the District Council that the Parish Council takes its involvement in the planning process seriously, and we will question them whenever they don't follow correct process. We hope this will lead to better decision taking in the future.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the summer, but don't forget our bi-monthly Saturday surgeries at the Village Hall (the next two are on 13th May and 15th July from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.), or our 15-minute public discussion period at the start of Parish Council meetings. You can also use the contact details below if necessary. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using HEDS Together. You can also read minutes of meetings, etc. on our web site: www.evertonvillage.org.uk

Contact Details

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