

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009

Best Kept Village Competition

Unfortunately, we've gone downhill in the estimation of the judges since our glittering Best of Notts success in 2006, with a third place in 2007 and not even a shortlisting last year. Still, we're going to enter Everton again this year, and are looking to everyone in the village to help. Does anyone think we should enter Harwell for the first time since 2005?

Our main problem appears to relate to a few overgrown gardens, rickety gates, etc. Generally speaking, there are three elements which the judges will be looking at:

Domestic

Homes, gardens, gates, fences, outbuildings, hedges, verges, etc.

Community Facilities

Bus shelters, bus stops, litter bins, public seats, telephone kiosks, playing fields, green spaces, natural features, village halls, churches and churchyards, notice boards and advertisements, public footpaths, roads, etc.

Commercial

Shops, public houses, farm buildings, farmyards, etc.

There are also usually bonus marks for Special Community Effort.

The main thing the judges will be looking for is a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, weed-infested pavements, untidy gardens, etc. We're

hoping that individuals and organisations will help us to do well and win prizes.

Flooding

Councillor David Bardsley toured the village problem areas with Mr. I. Davies, District Council earlier in the year. A preliminary report has since been received from Mr. Davies, which confirms that, from initial observations, it appears that any natural watercourses which served the properties off Gainsborough Road have ceased to exist over time, and any piped systems have been built over, blocked-off or lost their outfalls and become blocked.

Further detailed investigation needs to be carried out to establish where the various piped systems run and outfall to. This will involve generating flows and dye testing, plus CCTV work. Some topographical survey work will also be required.

The District Council has applied to Defra and the Environment Agency for funding towards such small schemes, and an assurance was given by Mr. Davies that the District Council was committed to reducing flood risk and working with local communities and landowners.

Harwell Woods

We're experiencing real problems at Harwell Woods, with large numbers of people riding bikes there. The bikes and their riders usually arrive in vans, which are parked at the top of Pinfold Lane for several hours at a time, thus causing a nuisance generally, particularly to householders. For the information of residents, Pinfold Lane is a public footpath and private road. Other motorists should not use it, as vehicles are prohibited on public footpaths. Furthermore, the right of way through the woods, beginning at the end of Pinfold Lane, is also a public footpath, and so bicycles are prohibited on it. Bike riding in the woods is also an act of trespass against the landowners, Thornely Taylor Estates Ltd. and (in the case of the Site of

Special Scientific Interest) Everton Parish Council.

We're passing on details of vehicle registration numbers to the Police whenever we see such vehicles, but the vigilance of the general public would also be appreciated. Harwell Woods is a special place, containing a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which needs to be protected from damage by bike riders.

We also suffered a serious loss over Easter, when the main gate at the end of Pinfold Lane, and a stretch of fencing, were removed and burnt. The Police are investigating the matter and have taken the details of a number of suspects. However, the cost of temporary works to breach the gap, followed by purchase of a new gate and fencing, is going to fall on the shoulders of Parish residents through their Council Tax. Unfortunately, insurance cover for gates and fences is only available against vehicular and animal damage.

Gypsy, Traveller and Showmen's Sites in Bassetlaw

Residents may have seen publicity about the possible provision of sites in Bassetlaw. We're unaware of any proposals for such sites in the Everton area. We'd like to point out that all planning applications relating to the Parish receive our close scrutiny, although the final say always lies with the Planning Authority, Bassetlaw District Council.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the summer, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details below, and we have a 15-minute public discussion period at the start of Parish Council meetings. 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

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