

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008

People

At our Annual Meeting, John Dunn was elected Chairman until next May, with David Bardsley elected Vice-Chairman. Robin Maclagan indicated that he would be happy to step down as Vice-Chairman in favour of David, who, he observed, had introduced several ongoing initiatives in his year of office as Chairman.

Robin Hood Airport

We continue to lobby the airport about noise nuisance in Everton caused by training flights, and are currently awaiting a response.

However, there is a more important, and worrying, development. A planning application is expected from Peel Airports (Finningley) Ltd. to relax Paragraph 8 of the planning agreement which forbids the landing and taking off of Quota Count 4 aircraft (Jumbos) between 2300 and 0700, in order to fly freight at night. The airport is currently losing £1m every month, and is looking for ways to turn its fortunes round.

We have asked to be treated as formal consultees over this issue, and have received confirmation that we will be.

Flooding

We can report that the District Council has logged our experiences in 2007, and an officer is expected to meet us to discuss the matter. We're still awaiting the outcome of the tests on the surface water drains on Gainsborough Road and Mattersey Road.

School Crossing Point

We were represented at a recent site meeting outside the school, when the following was agreed, hopefully to be implemented this year or next:

- A pedestrian "crossing point" should be established (where the existing kerb outside the school is already dropped). This will consist of a dropped kerb on the opposite side of the road and knobbed paving on both sides.
- Provision of "slow" signs on the road surface on curves at either side of the school.

Safer Neighbourhood Group

We remain concerned that fundamental issues such as burglary and car crime are excluded from the remit of the Safer Neighbourhood Group. We'll continue to press for the inclusion of such issues, which are probably the major concern of residents.

Affordable Housing in Everton

The latest position is that Acis Group Ltd. is in discussions with a number of landowners of possible sites for a development of four or five 2/3-bedroom dwellings, on a rented and/or shared purchase basis.

Best Kept Village Competition

Unfortunately, Everton didn't reach the final round of Category C of the competition, although the judges tell us that Category C was hard to judge, the calibre being very high.

Well, we tried, and the village looks better for all the effort from most of the community and the Parish Council. We think that most of the village actually looks better than it did when we won two years ago, so the calibre must have indeed been very high throughout the competition.

The judges' comments about Everton are brief, but overgrown gardens appear to have been the main deciding factor.

The Parish Council wishes to express its appreciation to everyone who has played a part, and in particular those residents who have tirelessly kept the village litter free, come rain or shine.

New Dog Waste Bin

We've located a new dog waste bin on Eel Pool Road, next to the entrance to the old Mattersey Road.

Nothing's Forever

Although a matter of speculation, we believe that, with the increasing momentum towards unitary local government, it won't be too long – perhaps just a few years - before we find ourselves dealing with a unitary principal authority, instead of the current arrangement of County and District Councils. At that point, the role of parish councils will become even more important. Those that don't embrace change may find themselves either abolished or grouped in clusters. We at Everton recognise this, and will take all necessary steps to ensure the future of Everton Parish Council as a thriving, dynamic local authority. We've already achieved Quality status, and will shortly embrace changes to the Quality Councils Scheme.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the autumn, 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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