
PARISH NEWS

News from Lower Heyford Parish Council -- Number 70 -- DECEMBER 2006

OCC COMMUNITY RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Council has been concerned about the unsatisfactory access to Footpath 11, on Station Road opposite to the point where the Pain's Close path emerges. There is a sheer bank very close to the road which is awkward to ascend and in the opposite direction, users tend to be precipitated straight into the road with approaching traffic having no inkling of their presence until it is too late. Consequently, the Council has been awarded £250 from the Fund to make improvements.

The Council is proposing to put wooden steps into the bank and provide a handrail with the grant being to cover the cost of materials. This is a community project and volunteers to undertake the labour are needed. The Clerk would be pleased to hear from anyone who is able to help in this way.

Kidlington Lynx

Passenger numbers on this community minibus service to and from Bicester on Tuesdays have fallen dramatically over recent years and operator, the Banburyshire Community Transport Association, is planning in conjunction with Cherwell District Council, to convert the service to a pre-booked demand responsive dial-a-ride service with no fixed timetable or day of operation. The problem is that the present service is available to all members of the public and the proposed dial-a-ride arrangement would be open only to those with disabilities or mobility impairments, who find it impossible to use conventional public transport. The Council has been asked by OCC (overall responsibility for public transport) whether this change would have a significant bearing upon the community and the Clerk would like to hear from anyone who would be affected in any way by the proposals.

Aves Ditch Path

This right of way, which runs south from the Lime Kiln corner just past Lime Hollow, along the Caulcott side of the Ditch (also known as Ash Bank and less commonly Wattle Bank) was classified as a Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP) and earlier this year, in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, it was re-designated as a Restricted Byway. This allows use only on foot, on horseback and leading a horse or by vehicles other than mechanically propelled (eg horse drawn carriage). Incidentally, towards the Kirtlington end, it is necessary to cross to the Middleton Stoney side of the Ditch because the line of the route has been overgrown by expansion of the wood to the west and whilst, the Council believes the landowner does not object to this diversion, clearance of the legal line has been proposed to OCC in connection with their Rights of Way Plan.

Bonfire Party

This raised the sum of £414.30 for the Village Hall Relocation Fund and the opportunity is taken to express thanks to the Lower Heyford Relief in Need Charity for funding the superb firework display

Village Hall

After 6 months of inertia, Corpus Christi College has been prodded by the Trustees' solicitor into suggesting that the Trustees should make an offer to secure release from the covenant preventing use of the land for other than for a village hall. This may be a back-to-front approach to the issue, but the Trustees have made an offer and are now waiting to hear if the amount proffered is acceptable,

Parish Council Elections

More of this in the next edition, but the present Council's term ends in May (election normally first Thursday of the month, but this has yet to be confirmed) and this is advance notice of parishioners' need to consider standing for election – if there are insufficient nominations to fill the seven seats, vacancies will have to be filled by co-option which is both undemocratic and unsatisfactory.

SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 16NOV06

Police Beat Officers – The formal meeting was preceded by an introductory address from WPC Caroline Brown, she together with PC Sean Sullivan, being the Beat Officers for each of the 38 communities in the Bicester Division

Valley News-future – see October edition – Noted that Editor satisfied publication can continue with financial assistance, which the Council has already agreed in principle (*Upper Heyford and Somerton to contribute too*)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – New duty to conserve biodiversity noted

Station Road Rail Bridge: temporary weight limit* – Agreed Council surveillance exercise to be undertaken on 21st November (*some 28 registration numbers reported to OCC for potential prosecution*)

Gulley cleansing-Caulcott – Noted that eventually carried out by OCC after concerted pressure to act

Jubilee Oak* – Noted that Corpus Christi College had agreed to carry out the work (clean out accumulated deadwood and raise canopy), though had not acknowledged its ownership of the tree

Keep the Horton General Campaign – Noted that the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust had announced that an independent review by a stakeholder panel was to be carried out with a view to advising on whether, and in what form, the proposals to move services from the Horton should be taken forward

Oxford to Banbury railway – Noted that rebranded as 'The Oxford Canal Line' and that to be marketed by the Oxfordshire Canal Partnership (British Waterways, CDC, OCC and Oxfordshire Narrowboats)

Summer Sunday rail services – Noted that some 650 passenger journeys recorded, but insufficient to rebate the amount guaranteed to First Great Western to cover their losses and therefore the Council's agreed contribution of £200 is now payable

Heyford Station Improvements Scheme* – Noted that OCC was pursuing non-arrival of 2nd bench seat for the southbound platform and display cases for FGW notices

Affordable Housing – Noted that in view of the refusal of Corpus Christi College to consider either of alternative (*to Valley View*) sites proposed on The Lane and Station Road (see October edition), CDC was now attempting to identify another suitable site or sites to broaden the scope before a renewed approach to the College on the basis of an appeal to their social responsibility

The Base-Revised Comprehensive Planning Brief – Noted changes being made to first draft, especially with regard to demolition programme to satisfy objections from English Heritage that too much had been proposed

Planning Applications – Decisions noted as follows: **06/01633/F** (4, Knaptons Croft-one and a half storey side extension with two storey front extension and conservatory to rear) – Approved with conditions; **06/01703/F** (Lime Hollow, Lower Heyford Road-change of use of agricultural land to tennis court with 2.7 metre high fences surrounding) – Approved with conditions; **06/01740/TCA** – (adjacent to Heyford Bridge-pollard approximately 18 willow trees) – Approved; **06/01762/F** (Oak Tree Barn, Greenway- non-compliance with condition 11 (permitted development rights withdrawn for new windows) of 05/00153/F to allow the enlargement of sitting room window and the retrospective repositioning of the store room door) – Approved on amended plans (changing 1 large to 2 separate windows) with conditions; **06/01806/F** (Caulcott Farm-change of use of site for cutting and bagging of timber logs) – Refused; **06/01819/TCA** (Heyford House, Church Lane-extensive schedule of tree surgery and felling) – Approved; **06/01822/TCA** (56, Freehold Street-fell fir tree) – Approved; **06/01909/TCA** (Owls Nest, Market Square-reduce and reshape 1 willow tree and 1 maple each by 30% - Approved and **06/02020/F** (21, Freehold Street-installation of solar panels) – Withdrawn by applicant

Lower Heyford Relief in Need Charity – Trustee Richard J. Makepeace re-appointed for a further 4 year term with effect from 30Nov06 (*The Council is responsible for the appointment of the trustees of this charity*)

*** Indicates matter arising from previous synopsis**

The aim in this synopsis is to publicise just those items considered to be of greatest public interest, which have not been covered elsewhere in this publication, within the available space – full copies of the Minutes may be purchased in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (10p per sheet) by arrangement with the Clerk or may be inspected on the notice-board within the church porch

THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL
RESIDENTS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ON THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY AT 7.00PM (VENUE TO BE ADVERTISED)
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