

Deddington Parish Council

Newsletter

May 2009



Message from the Parish Chairman

Now is a challenging time for your Parish Council to maintain local services with falling income, but changes have already been made and more will be made to meet this challenge. With everyone working together, I am sure we can achieve good results.

Please come along to the Annual meeting, the open forum at every PC meeting, talk to a Councillor, or drop by the office if you have any comments. They are always welcome. On behalf of the Council I offer grateful thanks to all who contribute in any way to the welfare of our Parish. Jim Flux

Annual Parish Meeting
6th May 2009
7.30pm Windmill Centre

Report on the last year and open for any topic from Parishioners.

Finance & General Purposes

Why the Parish Precept has had to Rise

Deddington has had the benefit for many years of income from invested funds. This capital profit arose when the Parish was able to purchase the old County Council school at the Windmill on preferential terms as a sitting tenant. It was agreed that a significant part of the money should be retained so that the interest earned would supplement the precept paid by villagers through Council Tax. Legally we are allowed to spend the money on capital projects, but not to subsidise current expenditure. The interest has enabled the parish to enjoy a level of services much higher than would otherwise be the case.

In the year 2007-8 interest income was £27,122. In the budget for 2009-10 interest income is expected to be no more than £13,250. At present rates of interest income in the following year is likely to be lower still, as one year and two year fixed bonds expire.

The Parish Council has had to make difficult decisions to try to increase income and reduce costs. Although the precept, and Parish portion of your Council Tax in respect of Deddington has increased by 10% this year, this will increase income from £30,142 to £33,342, only an extra £3,200, and still leaves the parish charging very much less than some of our neighbours. Unless interest rates improve significantly, it is likely that similar increases in the precept will be necessary in future years.

We have had to reduce the weekend coverage by the village steward, and also reduce significantly the frequency of grass cutting in the parish. There will also be other savings, the effect of which will also be noticeable.

We hope that parishioners will understand the position we are in, and the steps that have to be taken.

Planning 62 applications were considered during the year with comments being forwarded to the local planning authorities. The PC has continued to be represented on Cherwell District Council's Local development Framework working group formulating future plans for the District, and facilitated a consultation exercise during a Farmers' Market. The PC has concerns about the number of trees in the Conservation Area which are felled and not replaced.

Your Parish Council:

Chairman

Jim Flux

Vice Chairman

Don Anderson

Recreation:

Martin Squires

Jonathan Watts

David Westbury

Finance & General

Purposes:

Angus Alton

Don Anderson

Geoff Todd

Brian Wood

Highways:

Alan Collins

James Privett

Brian Wood

Heather Ward

Planning:

Don Anderson

Angus Alton

Geoff Todd

Environment & Special Projects:

Martin Ince

Jean Rudge

Clerk

Lorraine Watling

Stewards

Max Pankhurst

Richard Banister

To Contact Us:

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Email : parishcouncil@

deddington.net

Or write to :

Deddington Parish

Council,

The Windmill Centre,

Hempton Road,

Deddington, Oxon,

OX15 0QH

Highways

Speeding, pedestrian safety, street lighting and parking have been the focus of our efforts this last year.

Surveys are on going looking at speeding down Earls Lane and the illegal use there of by HGV's through to Clifton. Many people don't seem to realise that the speed limit in Earls lane is 30MPH through out its whole length. The pinch point at Market Square / Chapel Square is also under review by OCC.

We are backing John Cheney fully in his appeal for a means of crossing New Street / High Street by lobbying OCC. There is a petition in The Library and the Unicorn for this purpose.

We are soliciting for streets willing to trial a street light switch off under an OCC initiative with one close already signed up. We are mindful to avoid any charges should groups wish to desist after a reasonable trial period.

Parking is still under current review by the PC working group.

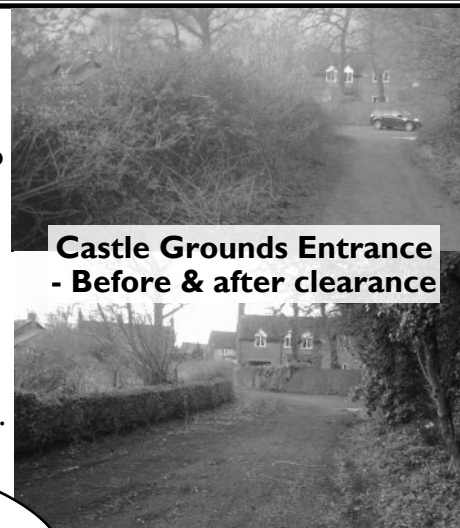
Recreation

The working group have recently cleared the entrance site to the Castle Grounds to provide improved parking and access. Plans are currently under discussion to establish a fitness trail at the Castle Grounds. A new volunteer group could help take this idea or any other new ideas forward. The parish council are keen to promote this site for recreational pleasure.

NEW GROUP NEEDED

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

If you are interested in joining please
Contact Martin on x338442 or
lamjsquires@aol.com



Castle Grounds Entrance
- Before & after clearance

The parish council is looking for volunteers to establish a group to manage issues that arise at the Castle Grounds.

During 2008 we refurbished the village planters, installed a new bench at Hempton, tidied up the cemeteries, and agreed new rules for burials.

Our plans for 2009 include:

War Memorial Cemetery :

Maintenance has now changed to the Parish Stewards.

In conjunction with interested parties this year we will be clearing overgrowth and making repairs to further enhance this tranquil spot in the heart of the Parish.

Environment : We will be applying for grants to establish wild flower meadows in the Parish. The first area will be part of the Hempton Road Cemetery. We will also ensure that care for our Environment is part of the Parish Councils planning.

Environment & Special Projects



Richard
Banister
(Weekend
Steward)
at work in
Cemetery