

Deddington Parish Council Newsletter

May 2008



Message from the Parish Chairman

The activities of your Parish Council over the past year are outlined in this newsletter. As you will see it has been another busy year with significant investment in new facilities for the parish. If you have any views on what we are doing, or suggestions for the future, please come along and talk to us at the parish annual meeting, or use the 10 minute open forum at each parish council meeting. We normally meet at 7.30pm in the town hall on the third Wednesday of the month.

Martin Squires

Dates for the Diary:

Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 20th May
7.30pm Windmill Centre

The proposed wind turbine at the Windmill Centre, energy saving street lighting, and the Deddington On-line upgrade will be discussed. Residents are also free to table their own agenda items at the meeting.

Special Projects:



The Gaveston Gardens Working Party



Our Steward, Max, alongside a refurbished planter

Gaveston Gardens Play Area. Residents of Gaveston Gardens together with the Parish Council formed a working party to cut back the undergrowth in the play area. A magnificent effort by all concerned has returned the garden/play area back to a green refuge in the village. Another working group is planned for this year together with increased grass cutting.

Hempton Road Cemetery. The Hempton Road Cemetery has had a major face lift with a new footpath, more bulbs and plants. The layout has been checked against our records and all plots marked and recorded. This year we will ensure that all headstones are secure. We will recycle plants from the village planters to form new plant beds with the intention of creating a garden of colour and tranquillity.

Deddington in Flower. Following on from the town hall hanging baskets upgrade in 2007 this year all the village planters are to be refurbished. They have become overgrown and the plan is to add colour back to these welcoming landmarks at the entrances to the Parish.

Notice Boards. The backing material on the Parish notice boards is starting to lift and curl. The original manufacturers have accepted that there was a faulty batch of material and have agreed to supply replacement material. Consequently the boards will be repaired during 2008.

Your Parish Council:

Chairman

Martin Squires

Vice Chairman

Jim Flux

Environment & Recreation:

David Rollason

Helen Spencer

Martin Squires

Jonathan Watts

David Westbury

Finance & General Purposes:

Angus Alton

Don Anderson

Jim Flux

Geoff Todd

Brian Wood

Highways:

Alan Collins

James Privett

Jean Rudge

Planning:

Don Anderson

Jim Flux

Geoff Todd

Special Projects:

Martin Ince

Clerk

Lorraine Watling

Stewards

Susan Fuller

Max Pankhurst

To Contact Us:

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Or write to :

**Deddington Parish Council,
The Windmill Centre,
Hempton Road,
Deddington, Oxon,
OX15 0QH**

Highways

Over the last year the Highways Working Group has completed the installation of two variable activated speed signs as well as the new bus shelter and bike rack. We do not consider that the new signs will solve the speeding issues but they have resulted in an improvement. We are continuing to pressure the Police for random speed checks and we will continue to do so! Other primary issues we are working on are improved crossing points on the A4260 in Deddington (west/east) as well as the old problem of parking. Please bear with us on these points as it will take time to ascertain what can and cannot be done and lobby the correct parties on your behalf.

Environment & Recreation

The New Teen Scene Play Equipment



LOTTERY FUNDED



Dates for the Diary

**Parish Clean Up
Saturday 10th May
10.00am Windmill Centre**

The biggest project that we have been working on this year is the new teen scene play area at the Windmill Centre. This will be officially opened on Sunday 18th May. These facilities are already proving to be very popular. We are very grateful to the Big Lottery Fund, via Cherwell District Council, for providing a £20,000 grant for this facility. Over the next 12 months we will be focusing on the establishment of a new youth drop-in centre, hopefully opening one night a week in a central parish location.

Finance & General Purposes

The Finance & General Working Group supervises the financial management of the Parish Council. They examine the monthly bank reconciliations, and they report monthly to the Parish Council on income and expenditure against agreed budgets. The group is also responsible for preparing and agreeing annual accounts with the internal auditor, the external auditor, and the Parish Council. The group ensures that the Parish Council follows its agreed policy to maintain reserves, and manage its investments to pursue its objectives.

Planning

During the past year the Planning Working Group has examined 78 planning applications and made recommendations about them to the monthly PC meetings for onward transmission to Cherwell District Council. One very important task, commenced in the summer of 2006 and still ongoing, is consultation with Cherwell District Council on the Cherwell Local Development Framework over future possible development here in the parish and the remainder of the district. This will lead to Cherwell publishing its proposals for the parish and the district in Autumn 2008 which will then be subject to further consultation and discussion. Once the proposals are announced the Parish Council will no doubt be considering an open meeting to consider and formulate its response.