

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/09

Traffic

We have been waiting for a long time for the promised Speed Indicators. Recently two black poles have appeared and I am now told the Indicators will be in place before the end of the financial year.

Parking

An ever worsening problem. We have had consultations with all the authorities and no easy solution has been found. The Parish Council felt the under use of the Village Hall car park was an area where discussions could take place. With representatives from the Village Hall Trustees Committee it has been agreed the car park should be opened to the public with certain conditions. A three month trial period will begin shortly. It is appreciated that this will probably only alleviate parking North of the village. Other ideas are being investigated.

Planning

The Parish Councillors' duty has always been to represent the view of the Parish. Generally we believe the village envelope should be maintained and the surrounding Green Belt be preserved. Housing should be available for all types of villager and in particular all types of houses. Unfortunately, the planners do not always agree with our observations and allow houses to be built which the Parish Council feel are inappropriate development. We find this very frustrating but persevere with reports back to Chelmsford Borough Council.

Condition of Roads and Verges

The roads and verges have suffered throughout this last cold winter. Reports are regularly made to Essex County Council Highways. Emergency holes are temporarily repaired but as conditions of the roads and verges are the same throughout the County financial reserves are limited and are now dealt with on a priority basis and will be done eventually.

Best Kept Village Competition

It has been decided not to enter this year as the report we received last year was largely inappropriate. With so much building work in progress and the poor conditions of the roads and verges judgement would be predictable.

Stock in Bloom

The Parish Council will continue to support this event that the Gardening Society organises. The entries have increased and the results have been appreciated by many and brightened up the village.

The Pond

A very invasive plant has taken over the pond. It has been decided the only remedy is to dredge the pond in the hope that it will remove the plant roots.

Car Park Area on Common

A hard top car park area has been completed on the common. Support for this project came from the Cricket Club, the Bowling Club and the Montessori School. The sleepers will be removed once the grassed area has hardened up.

Tree Planting

Seventy four `whips' have been planted in areas around the village. The School Gardening Club turned out to help the planting at the Village Hall. With small spades provided they did a wonderful job planting these small trees along the fence at the bottom of the car park.

Hereward Mount

The land adjacent to Hereward Mount has been handed over to the Parish Council for the village use. It is an ideal area for children to play, for Scouting activities, for dog walkers or just for a stroll. It can be entered by a small gate at the junction of Honeypot Lane and the B1007 or by a field gate 50 yards down Honeypot Lane. There are no parking facilities.

War Memorial

The War Memorial has now been listed as a Grade II listed monument.

Bin It Day

The annual clean up day is on **9th May**. Pick-up sticks, gloves and black sacks are provided and a skip will be placed on the Common car park. We urge all villagers to make an effort to clean up around their properties and to help clean ditches and verges around the centre of the village and Common. The tools will be available on the Common at 9am and the skip will remain until Monday a.m.

Manned Vehicles

These will continue to visit the village to collect articles that cannot be placed in a wheelie bin. It will be in All Saints Church Car Park between 11.15am and 12.15am on 2nd May, 27th June, 15th August, 5th September, 7th November and 21st November.

Children's' Activities

The Parish Sports Programme will be on Wednesday 27th May between 9.30am and 12 noon and Monday 3rd August between 1.00am and 3pm. It is open to all children between the ages of 6-14 years. It is held on the Common. It is 2 1/2 hours of multisport – Chelmsford Borough Council brings all the necessary equipment.

There will be a Play Activities Day for children up to the age of 11 years on Saturday 27th June in Stock Village Hall between 10am and 2pm. Staff do not take responsibility for the children, who are free to come and go as they please. Children under 5 must be accompanied by and supervised throughout by adult carers (with a maximum of 4 children per carer). These activities are provided by Stock Parish Council in partnership with Chelmsford Borough Council Parks Services. Another date will also be arranged for August but this is yet to be confirmed along with the Skateboard Park.

Footpath Map and Booklet

A footpath booklet and footpath map has been produced by Jenny Berkley which the Parish Council has financially contributed. The maps have been distributed to various points in the village, i.e. Doctors Surgery, Library, Post Office and can also be obtained via the Parish Council Office.

Summary

I am very grateful to all the Parish Councillors for their work throughout the year and in particular to our Clerk who works hard keeping us all informed with vast quantities of information and producing the minutes etc. The work is becoming more and more electronic and hi-tec. It is important that the Clerk and Parish Councillors are computer literate. The Parish Council appreciate and finds valuable all the work that Cllr. Ian Grundy carries out on behalf of the Parish at Chelmsford Borough Council.

Sally Johnson
Chair, Stock Parish Council
3rd April 2009