

DUCKPADDLE NEWS

June 2014

Whetstone Parish Council

www.whetstonepc.org.uk



Now the summer months are here, the most popular calls received by the Parish Council are concerning grass cutting and dog fouling. We thought it might be helpful if we highlighted in this issue, the areas that we, as your Parish Council maintain on your behalf, together with contact details for areas and services not provided by us. You can however, still report these issues to us so that we can "signpost" you to the appropriate service provider.

Cemetery and Churchyard

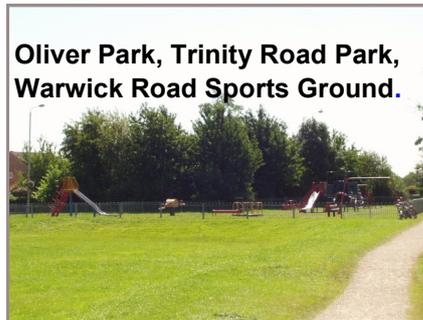


Public Open Spaces

Browns Way, Broadbent Close, Bodicoat Close, Biggs Close, Cannam Close, Coales Avenue/ Charles Way, Hubbard Close, Harrison Close, Halford/ Muntjack Close, Peacock Way, Sanderson/Whittle Close and Worsley Way.

Parks

Oliver Park, Trinity Road Park, Warwick Road Sports Ground.



GRASS VERGES ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY AROUND THE VILLAGE ARE NOT OWNED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AND ARE MAINTAINED BY LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL. ANY ISSUES WITH THESE AREAS PLEASE TELEPHONE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 0116 3050001.

STOP PRESS

It is disappointing to have to report that once again, plants have been stolen from the flower bed in the Village Green. This is planted each year as a focal part of the village for all Parishioners to enjoy. Please do not let the few spoil the enjoyment of all.

Edward Wright Room - Whetstone Parish Council

Looking for a venue to hold a business meeting/conference/children's party/activity class or a family/friends celebration in quiet pleasant surroundings with newly refitted kitchen facilities, disabled access and toilets, car parking for up to 25 cars all inclusive for £12 per hour, plus projector/computer links available at a small extra cost. We have recently refurbished the small front office and this is also available to hire.

Please note we now also have availability on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings

Tel: 0116 275 1987— Email: office@whetstonepc.org.uk

STOP PRESS

Due to a cancellation the Room is now available all day Tuesday between 9 - 5



Badgerbrook Primary School

The summer term has arrived at Badgerbrook Primary School and we're looking forward to a busy few weeks, accompanied, hopefully, by some sunshine.

We've had a variety of events going on in school recently, our Year 6 pupils have been studying hard and have taken their SATs tests, the results of these will be out later in July but we know all pupils (and parents) involved, worked really hard and we're sure they've all done very well. After a hard week of tests they went off to enjoy a deserved residential break at PGL in Lincolnshire where they joined in activities such as high ropes, canoeing, raft building and wall climbing.

We held an excellent musical evening recently where spectators were treated to various ensembles from pupils.

We had soloists, the choir and musical groups performing, Proceeds were shared with the Bodie Hodges Foundation and an enjoyable time was had by all .

We've had various book and cake sales and the environmental club held a very successful plant and home grown produce sale.

Anyone walking past may notice our very attractive looking school vegetable / flower garden nurtured by our environmental group and hugely supported by one of our grandparents.

We're very grateful to the group and Mrs Stretton for all their hard work.

Dates are in place for our school sports days, fingers crossed for some good weather on these days, it's lovely to hear the children enthusiastically taking part. Good weather would also be nice on Saturday the 5th of July when we host our Summer Gala between 1 – 4pm, everyone is very welcome to come and enjoy the various stalls, games and entertainment that will be on offer and we really hope you'll support this excellent event.



St Peter's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Torrential downpours didn't stop the Water Champions' team of 24 staff volunteers from Severn Trent Water when they arrived at St Peters CE (A) Primary School, Whetstone on Wednesday 4th June. Wheelbarrows, spades and forks at the ready, the team donned their yellow florescent jackets and prepared themselves for the extremely wet and muddy task ahead.

What a transofmion! It was like something from TV's 'Groundforce' or 'DIY SOS'

Pupils boosted the team's morale and kept the smiles and laughter going throughout the day, as they had to cope with what had been the wettest day so far. You could truthfully say it was raining cats and dogs!



At the end of the day the garden was transformed from what had been an overgrown stretch of land with over-hanging trees and metre high weeds and nettles, into a tranquil, imaginative, wildlife nature garden perfect for all aspects of learning and more.

The garden has a pond for pond dipping with a frog house and a little fence to stop little hedgehogs

falling in, insect homes for bees and ladybirds, Bird feeders and a bird bath. There are pretty flower beds to attract wildlife and a vegetable bed. Also included is a storytelling area with

learning logs to learn, read, reflect and observe. Sticks and logs for building and creating dens and a mud kitchen to enjoy and learn about mud!

There was an art competition to design a signboard for the garden and prizes were awarded to a winner from each class; with an overall winner who had their design made into the actual signboard. The sign was unveiled at the end of the day at the opening ceremony of the garden. The overall winner was Erin Cane.

The individual class winners were: Isabelle Lyon, Reef Horrocks, Theo Cobby, Mazie Horne, Oliver Parker, Freya Stewart, William Edwards, Katie Lakin, and Gabrielle Smith.

The pupils at St Peters truly have the most amazing garden. Come and see!

DOG FOULING

At the Parish offices we frequently take calls regarding the issue of dog fouling around the village. The Parish Council provides a dog litter bin on all public open spaces which are emptied by Blaby District Council each week. Although most dog owners are responsible and clean up and use these bins, we are sorry to report that some owners are less responsible!! This has prompted one of our younger residents to write to us. (Names have been removed) This letter clearly says it all!!!! We have taken an extract from Blaby District Councils website regarding this issue and reproduced it here, together with appropriate contact details.

28 APR 2014

18th April 2014

Dear Parish council
Please let me introduce myself. My name is
I have to complain about something's happening on the green at the
end of Munt Jack road in Whatstone.

My first first complaint is people leaving litter all over the green.
On the 18th of April I saw 3 cans, lots of bottles, sweet papers and broken,
sharp glass. All of these are dangerous to people, cats and dogs!

My second complaint is dog poo. The dog poo bin is really
smelly but it's better than the grass smelling. Can you please
tell people to pick up their own dog poo?

I hope you enjoyed reading my letter.

(Age 8)

Summary

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, it is an offence if anyone in charge of a dog, whether it belongs to them or not, fails to remove the dogs faeces should it foul in any public area within the District of Blaby. This includes parks, footpaths and also private land where public are permitted to have access. Anybody who is witnessed committing an offence under the above Act will be offered the opportunity to accept a fixed penalty notice and pay a fine to discharge liability for the offence. Refusal of the fixed penalty notice or failure to pay the fine will result in legal action.

Blaby District Council (BDC) is also responsible for street cleansing and will respond to any reports of dog fouling, which need to be removed / cleaned.

How do I request dog mess removal / cleaning (for removal only)?

Contact BDC by e-mail, telephone, online form or by coming into the Council. The information we will need from you include your full name, full address including your postcode. Your home telephone number and a number which we can contact you on during normal office hours if this is different. Your email address (if applicable). **Details of the area where the mess is.**

How do I report offenders where an incident has been witnessed?

Contact BDC by e-mail, telephone, online form or by coming into the Council. Information we will need from you: your full name, full address including your postcode. Your home telephone number and a number which we can contact you on during normal office hours if this is different. Your email address (if applicable) **Details of the incident including the area and details of the offender (if known);**

How do I request to speak to a dog warden regarding a fouling problem to discuss preventative measures?

Contact BDC by e-mail, telephone, online form or by coming into the Council Information we will need from you: your full name, full address including your postcode. Your home telephone number and a number which we can contact you on during normal office hours if this is different. Your email address (if applicable). **Details of where the mess is and any information you may have**

Report Fouling

Further information

Dog mess removal / cleaning

The Environmental Maintenance Section will endeavour to clean up any dog fouling on the day it is reported, or the next day at latest.

Report offenders with known identity

If you witness somebody failing to clean up after their dog, and you know who they are or where they live, the Dog Wardens can issue a fixed penalty notice if you are willing to provide a witness statement.

If you are not willing to provide a witness statement, the Dog Wardens can still investigate the offender and make attempts to witness the person committing an offense.

Report offenders with unknown identity

If you witness somebody failing to clean up after their dog, but do not know who they are or where they live, the Dog Wardens can investigate the offender and make attempts to witness the person committing an offense. Any information that you can provide, such as times of offenses and descriptions of dog and owner will assist the Dog Wardens with their investigation.

Discuss a fouling problem

If you are aware of an area where dog fouling is a persistent problem, the Dog Wardens can investigate and monitor the area. Any information you can provide, such as approximate times when the fouling is occurring will assist the investigation.

Preventative measures

The Dog Wardens will endeavour to combat dog fouling in problem areas. Actions may include increased patrols, pavement stencils, extra signage, leaflet drops, and in areas where there is a persistent problem, the installation of CCTV cameras.

Please contact :-

Regulatory Services
Blaby District Council
Council Offices
Desford Road
Narborough
Leicester
LE19 2EP



Telephone 0116 2727555 or e-mail env.health@blaby.gov.uk

Whetstone Parish Cemetery

Whetstone Parish Council have a well maintained cemetery available to the parishioners of Whetstone. You may make an appointment with the office to purchase a burial plot or cremation space so that when the time comes your wishes are taken care of, and gives your loved ones piece of mind. We take the utmost pride in keeping this a peaceful haven, with plenty of benches for quiet reflection.



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JUST A MINUTE

YOUR Parish Council usually meets every third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at the Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the Parish Notice Boards. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend, whether you have a specific interest in an item on the agenda, or if you just wish to see Council in operation. Below are several extracts of general items of interest from the last three meetings

March

- ◆ Police were making progress with the issue of Graffiti on the Wheatsheaf Public House and areas around the village.
- ◆ Speeding had been reported on Attfield Drive, the speed camera data would be analysed to see how big the problem was.
- ◆ Severn Trent Water Authority are carrying out planned works on the overflow pit next to the village green later this year.

April

- ◆ Council were informed that Electroform site owners on the High Street had been issued with an “untidy land enforcement notice” which meant they have to tidy up the site within a certain time frame. If this was not done Blaby District Council will tidy the site and then pass on the costs to the owners.
- ◆ The Clerk showed members a pre-application consultation for a retail scheme off Cambridge Road/Warwick Road. This is not a planning application at this stage.
- ◆ The Clerk reported on the ongoing work taking place at Shellduck Open Space. This was being completed prior to the Parish Council taking ownership for a closed Nature Reserve.
- ◆ Suggestions for the naming of new roads had been forwarded to Blaby District Council for the Cambridge Road development. Remaining names from the War Memorial and also a link to Sir Frank Whittle had been submitted.

May

- ◆ The issue of grass cutting was highlighted. The Parish Council is not responsible for the grass verges around the village this is the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council. The Deputy Clerk will highlight this, and also the continuing issue with dog fouling in the next Duckpaddle News.
- ◆ There had been ongoing issues with inconsiderate parking from the parents at St Peters School. This had been reported to the Head Teacher.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that he had received a Resignation from Mr Brian Drury.

The next four meetings of Council take place on Thursday July 17th, August 21st, September 18th and 16th October.

e-mail: office@whetstonepc.org.uk

Tel: Leicester (0116) 2751987—Fax: Leicester (0116) 2753395

Whetstone Parish Council are pleased to announce a newly refurbished, modern, quiet working space, within the Parish offices. It is available to hire with competitive rates. There is full access to our kitchen facilities and car parking on site. Could this be the space you've been looking for? Please contact Sharon to view the office or for further information.



CRIME AND DISORDER

The following crimes have been reported during the last month:

2 x burglary to sheds/garages/outbuildings

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

The neighbourhood team have seen an increase in ASB which they are closely monitoring. If you see anti-social behaviour or it happens to you, you can report it to the police on 101, in an emergency call 999 or you can go into your local police station.

Warmer weather

I would urge all residents now that the warmer weather is with us to follow these simple crime prevention measures to help you have a crime-free summer:

Make sure all windows and doors are locked every time you leave your home, even if you are only popping out for a few minutes. Even if you are just in the back garden, close your windows and doors. If you see anyone who isn't usually in the area and is paying lots of attention to people's homes then call the police on 101.

If you believe a burglary is taking place dial 999.

Vehicle security

Never leave a car unlocked or a window open. Take belongings with you when leaving your vehicle. A thief will not know a coat or bag does not contain valuables. Use your garage when you are not using your vehicle. Remove your satellite navigation system and any marks that the cradle has left.

Further crime prevention advice can be found at: <http://www.leics.police.uk/advice-and-information>

To leave a message for a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team call 101 and when prompted enter the officers ID number. For PC Kit Chauhan enter 4214, PCSO Simon Stevenson enter 6073 or PCSO Zahid Malik 6577

WHETSTONE CRIME FIGURES

Local crime figures are now available on the national Police website: www.police.uk. This website provides you with helpful information about crime and policing in your area. Enter your postcode, town, village or street into the search box, and get instant access to street-level crime maps and data, as well as details of your local Policing team and beat meetings

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