

DUCKPADDLE NEWS

Whetstone Parish Council

www.whetstonepc.org.uk

SPRING 2015



Village Appraisal results

In total we had 118 completed forms returned to the office. Not everyone answered all sections and some answered some sections with multiple choice answers. For clarity we are presenting the results as percentages of each question answered. This gives a clear indication of how respondents viewed each question.

The first four questions were demographic and the results show the mix of respondents. The issues from question 23 were collated and categorised and the ones that stood out as being the current issues are highlighted in the report.

The results will now be shared with the relevant authorities to see what can be done by way of progress including the NHS regarding Doctors Surgery provision and Leicestershire County Council regarding road safety and speeding. To Blaby District Council regarding dog fouling, litter and the environmental issue surrounding the former Wheatsheaf Public House and Leicestershire Police regarding speeding and ASB. We always signpost matters to the above authorities, on your behalf, on a real time basis.

Regarding the areas the Parish Council has responsibility for the following progress is being made:

- Regarding planning and economic development, we are a consultee on all planning applications and always look in depth at the effects an application will have on not only the immediate area but also the whole village. We have dealt with major developments over the last few years and have always tried to ensure development on Brownfield sites takes preference and that the mix of development is right for the village as well of ensuring we obtain maximum benefit to enhance the village infrastructure.
- We are currently looking at a Twitter account over a Facebook account. As a statutory authority a Parish Council has to be responsible in what it allows to be posted under its name. Facebook, although a more popular choice in the survey, cannot be controlled as to what contributors may add. Twitter has screening mechanisms before a "tweet" is posted and allow compliance rather than embarrassment.
- We are constantly maintaining and updating our play areas and as new developments come online, will look to either maintain these if in our domain or report any issues that arise to the appropriate bodies. On new developments we will also ensure developers deliver what they agreed to provide.
- We are always happy to receive reports of any litter issues and arrange additional litter picks over and above what we currently provide. We also work closely with the other authorities to deal with issues such as fly tipping within the village.
- We are to continue the Christmas lights scheme and will add to the successful lights that were installed last Christmas opposite the village green.

It is pleasing to see that an overwhelming 96% of respondents feel Whetstone is a good place to live. We will continue to work hard to turn a "good" place into a "great" place to live. Many thanks to all those who responded and giving us an up to date snap shot of the village of Whetstone. We will compare these results to the village appraisal results of 2000 and report on these in the summer Duckpaddle as to changes seen over the last 15 years.

Parish Council Village Update Appraisal 2014 results as a %age

Please tick the relevant box or add your response in the appropriate space provided.

Q.1	Are you?		
	Male	39%	Female 61%
Q.2	What age group are you?		
	11 - 17	0	60 - 74 46%
	18 - 24	2%	75 - 84 13%
	25 - 44	10%	85 + 1%
	45 - 59	28%	
Q.3	How long have you lived in Whetstone?		
	less than a year?	2%	26 - 50 years? 33%
	1 - 5 years?	10%	51 + years? 9%
	6 - 15 years?	20%	whole life? 4%
	16 - 25 years?	24%	
Q.4	Are you at present?		
	Employed?	29%	Training / education? 1%
	Unemployed?	1%	House wife / husband? 6%
	Self employed ?	9%	Permantly sick / Disabled? 3%
	Retired?	51%	
Q.5	Should we be encouraging more of the following with the village?		
	Small Business development		21%
	Small scale industrial development		5%
	More shops		33%
	More housing		35%
	More low cost housing		6%
Q.6	Which of the following is your major means of transport?		
	Bus	25%	Community Bus 1%
	Train		Bike 3%
	car	60%	On foot 11%
Q.7	Would you support improvements to road safety in the following areas?		
	Victoria Road / High Street / Brook Street		30%
	Enderby Road		29%
	Cambridge Road		21%
	<u>Other - Please indicate in the space provided</u>		20%
	Springwell Lane	Wychwood Road	Burnham Drive
	Grove Road	Trinity Road	Attfield Drive
			Vicarage Lane
Q.8	Do you think speeding is a problem in Whetstone?		
	Yes	74%	No 26%
Q.9	Has the recent Street Light part night switch off caused you concern?		
	Yes	33%	No 67%
Q.10	Do you think Whetstone should have its own Doctors Surgery?		
	Yes	90%	No 10%
Q.11	Is your current Doctors Surgery in?		
	Blaby	84%	Narborough 14%
	<u>Other - Please indicate in the space provided</u>		
	Countesthorpe	Enderby	Aylestone

Q.12	Is Crime/Anti Social Behaviour a major issue in Whetstone?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="32%"/>	No <input type="text" value="68%"/>
Q.13	Do you think litter is a problem in Whetstone?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="49%"/>	No <input type="text" value="51%"/>
Q.14	Should we provide more play areas in the village?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="35%"/>	No <input type="text" value="65%"/>
Q.15	Should we provide more exercise equipment in the village?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="35%"/>	No <input type="text" value="65%"/>
Q.16	Do you have internet access?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="67%"/>	No <input type="text" value="33%"/>
Q.17	Would you use a Facebook page if the Parish Council had one?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="20%"/>	No <input type="text" value="80%"/>
Q.18	Would you use a Twitter page if the Parish Council had one?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="6%"/>	No <input type="text" value="94%"/>
Q.19	Do you visit the Parish Council Offices on Cemetery Road?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="39%"/>	No <input type="text" value="61%"/>
Q.20	If yes, are the Parish Office opening hours sufficient?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="85%"/>	No <input type="text" value="15%"/>
Q.21	Should Christmas Lights be installed around the village?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="83%"/>	No <input type="text" value="17%"/>
Q.22	Is Whetstone a good place to live?		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="96%"/>	No <input type="text" value="4%"/>
Q.23	Are there issues you would like to make us aware of as a Parish Council		
	Yes	<input type="text" value="78%"/>	No <input type="text" value="22%"/>

These issues were compiled and categorised. The biggest single issue was dog fouling with irresponsible dog owners letting their dogs foul and not cleaning it up. The others related to speeding, the former Wheatsheaf Public House and one off issues that had affected residents in their particular location.

10,000 squares and still knitting !

Do you remember the Rainbow Tree Knitters and their appeal for double knitting wool some time ago? Well they're still going strong and have just completed their 10,000th square! It's amazing that this little group who meet up once a week for a coffee and a natter have achieved such an amazing task! Every square they add to the collection gets made into beautiful a beautiful blanket, is sent to London then shipped to Uganda. Thanks to the wonder of the internet we receive messages all along the journey and see photos of the children these wonderful

blankets get given to. A recent email stated in "despite of the hot

weather the children fight over the colourful blankets"



So well done ladies keep up the excellent work, and please, if you are having a clear out any spare double knitting wool would be very much appreciated it has a long journey ahead of it! The ladies meet every Tuesday from 10-11am at The Rainbow Tree Coffee Shop.

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.

The construction on Springwell lane was causing an issue for residents. This was being reported to Blaby District Council enforcement officers on a regular basis.

Parking along the Dicken was highlighted as an issue. The Clerk would contact the relevant Sports Clubs for actioning.

Councillors received an overview by Jon Wells (Regulatory Services Group Manager) BDC regarding enforcement and Dog fouling. The Dog warden would patrol the areas highlighted and stencil the problem areas and school walk areas. The Wheatsheaf and Electroform site were discussed. An offer was made that the Parish Council tidy up the sites but permission was needed before this can happen.

Council discussed the purchase of LED Christmas Lights for the village, it was resolved that these should be situated on the trees opposite the village green.

An accident had taken place and damage was sustained to the fencing on the Dicken. This was the subject of an insurance claim.

The Clerk highlighted the Social media feedback from the recent Village Appraisal, this would be the subject of an agenda item at the next meeting so members could discuss the issue.

A new sign had been installed at the Council Offices. It was agreed that this gave the building a professional corporate look.

The rebate from the Non Domestic Rates had been received which totalled £19,803.35. Thanks were given to all concerned.

Cllr Malc Burley resigned from the Parish Council after 25 years of service, a letter was to be sent thanking him for his many years of service to the Parish.

The Clerk updated members on the final results of the Village Appraisal, the full results would be shared with the Village via the spring edition of the Duckpaddle News. Council were pleased with the response.

The Clerk showed members photos of the newly switched on Christmas lights, the illumination of the fourth tree was to be budgeted for and would be lit next year. The Office had received many calls from Parishioners thanking the Council for the work done.

The Social Media results from the appraisal were discussed and the Clerk would investigate the setting up of a twitter account to share tweets to the village.

The next three meetings of Council take place on 19th March, 17th April and the 22nd May.

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

At St Peter's we cannot believe it is nearly the end of the spring term. Once again it has been a packed term with children enjoying learning in a variety of ways. We are very proud of our children and the work they put in at school, after school and their caring ways.

WOW! WHAT A FANTASTIC START TO 2015 IN THE TIGERS CLASSROOM! (EYFS)

Our topic has been about animals, which so far has seen us look at pets and vets, farm animals and the Chinese New Year! A highlight during our first topic was the decision to make a vets role play! This has seen us take on roles such as a hardworking vet and upset customers! We have bandaged broken legs, injected against diseases and administered tablets and medicine to the many pets that have visited. During the

farm animal topic we learnt how to play 'Take Away - cow pat splat' and even pretended to milk cows over the water tray! With our design and technology skills we have constructed dragons from boxes and tubes to go with our Chinese New Year topic. There is always sooooo much going on in our foundation stage classroom – why not look at our page on the school website to get a real feel for life as a Tiger; and see why our teachers are so proud of us!

FIRE & RESCUE VISIT

Year 1 had an informative visit from the Fire and Rescue Service. They watched a 'Francis the Firefly' cartoon which reminded them of the importance of not playing with fires or matches. Having spotted all the fire hazards in a picture, it moved onto practical survival skills. The firefighter taught them how to

'stop, drop and roll' to put a fire on their clothes out. The final task was to avoid the (imaginary) smoke by crawling out of a house and stopping a safe distance away. They learnt to never go back in – not even for the dog!

FAMILY OF SCHOOLS SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

With the upcoming Rugby World Cup, Leysland High School was an exciting venue for preparations for a science experiment. The children were fully briefed with safe use of a Bunsen Burner and then very responsibly used the equipment to burn food. Back at St Peter's the year 5's planned their test and are now ready to find the most energy filled breakfast, lunch or dinner. The children will be measuring the energy that different foods contain, aiming to find the best food to fuel the England Rugby Team.

1st Whetstone Scout Group

At the end of January this year 1st Whetstone Scout Group took the brave step of going away for 'Frosty Residential' why a brave step? you may ask....the last two times we have gone for a frosty camp we've been knee deep in snow! Luckily this year the weather was a little kinder to us and we just saw a sprinkling which we were able to play in but it didn't stop the range of activities we had planned. Over the weekend our 60 strong group consisting of Beavers age 6-8, Cubs age 8-10 1/2 and Scouts age 10 1/2-14 1/2, took part in wide games, campfire, fencing, fire lighting, tracking, map work and bush craft skills. During our time at Ullesthorpe every child achieved at least one badge to wear on their uniform and we all had an excellent time! Our thanks also go to Whetstone Parish Council who were able to support

with some funding for some much needed equipment for our outdoor adventures. If you are interested in hearing more about your local Scout group, or if you

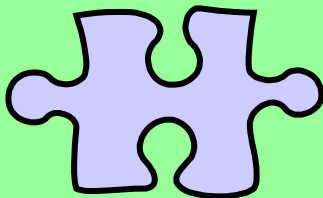
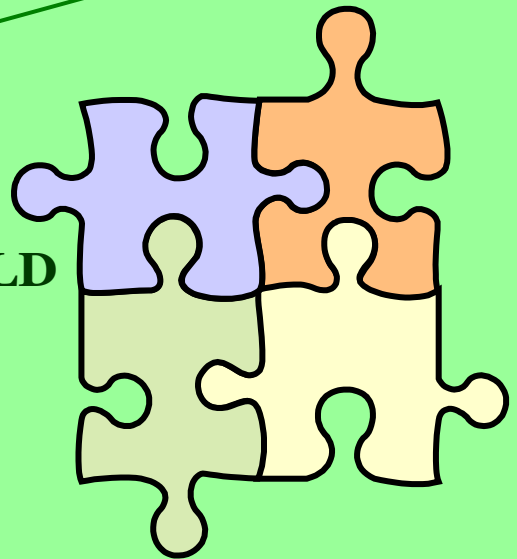
could offer some help, have an interested child or can collect some Sainsburys vouchers for us...pop into The Rainbow Tree to find out more!



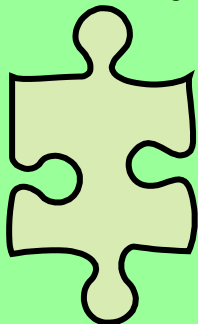


THE EDWARD WRIGHT ROOM

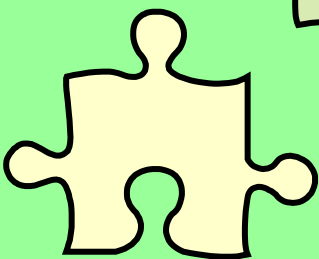
**IS IT A PUZZLE WHERE TO HOLD
YOUR PARTY, CELEBRATION,
MEETING , FITNESS CLASS ?
LET US SOLVE THE PROBLEM**



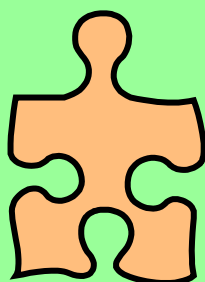
£12.00 per hour available 9am to 11pm
Projector and WIFI available



Disabled Access and Toilets
Car Parking for up to 25 cars



Seating for up to 60 people
Full Kitchen facilities including dishwasher



PUZZLE SOLVED

**The Edward Wright Room at Whetstone Parish Council
Contact Sharon at Whetstone Parish Council
Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester. Tel 0116 2751987.
YOUR LOCAL FACILITY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS .**