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THE BIGG ISSUE

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF DINTON with FORD & UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE 17

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PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE



Do you know what events are happening locally?

Do you know when the dustbins will be emptied after bank holidays or when the freighter will call at Dinton?

Do you want to know more about local history?

Look at the Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council website, all this information and much more is on the site. The site is located at:

www.dinton.org or www.dintonwithfordandupton.org

If you have an article or news item for the Parish Council website, please send your item to Colin Minton at colinminton@dinton.org or Barry Lynch at barrylynch@dinton.org for non-archive items and to Carol Lynch at carollynch@dinton.org for archive items.

Anemometer and Wind Turbines at Lower Waldridge Farm

Despite over 46 letters of protest and a demonstration by nearly 70 parishioners against the building of a temporary 50.2 metre (164ft) anemometer mast at Lower Waldridge Farm, Ford, District councillors on the Planning Committee voted by 6 votes to 4 to allow the anemometer to be installed. Our two District councillors, Judy Brandis and Brian Foster, who are on the committee, voted against the proposal. The anemometer is being erected to measure the suitability of the site for the installation of one or two 71 metre (232 ft) wind turbines.

Evidence from the UK Wind Speed Database indicates that wind speed at the site is very low at 6 metres per second at a height of 45 metres. Adam Cooper, the demonstration organiser and Ford resident, has stated that he cannot see why local residents should have their properties and quality of life blighted by the erection of an anemometer to measure wind speed when it is already very clear that there is insufficient wind in this area for the generation of electricity on any significant scale.

The location of the mast, and the turbines that might follow, will have a major impact on the tranquil and historical character of the rural landscape which includes stunning views of the Chilterns. The location is also less than a mile away from three heritage assets, the Waldridge Medieval Settlement, the Aston Sandford Ancient Moat, (both scheduled ancient monuments) and the Grade 11* listed Waldridge Manor, the previous residency of Sir Richard Ingoldsby, one of the regicides who signed the death warrant of Charles 1st.

The Parish Council will keep Parishioners fully informed of any further developments regarding the results from the anemometer and any application for wind turbines.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12.4.11

INTRODUCTION

I would like to start this evening by saying how lucky I feel to have had such a fantastically hard working Parish Council this year to support me: Diana Coole; Rebecca Lyall; Jon Horn; Colin Minton; John Owen and Helen Wild.

Sadly, three of our Councillors will be leaving the Parish Council after this evening: Diana Coole, Rebecca Lyall and Helen Wild. I would like to thank all three for the fantastic job they have done for the Parish while they have been Councillors, giving many hours of their time to work on behalf of the community. They will very missed but I know that they will continue to support the Parish as they have always done.

We are very pleased that Martin Usherwood is joining the Parish Council. If you feel you would like to join us and contribute to the parish we all love, please contact me or Keith, our clerk or any Parish Councillor. We have only one evening meeting a month, the second Tuesday of the month, although we keep in contact regularly by email. Please join us!

I would also like to thank our Financial Officer, Mike Thompson, who attends virtually every Parish Council meeting and manages our finances so well and also our Tree Warden, David Hobden, who does a fantastic job on our behalf.

I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk, Keith Gray, who continues to be an enormous support to the Council. We are pleased he will continue with us even though he has now been appointed as Clerk to Tring Town Council. Keith is to be congratulated on achieving his Certificate in Local Council administration during the last year.

Thank you also to Carol Lynch, who keeps the parish record for us; it is also now on our web site, which you will hear more about later.

Our County and District Councillors have also been very supportive this year, as have our local police and PCSO.

I can report that our finances are in a healthy state and we have been able to keep the precept at last year's level. At about a £1.00 per household per week, we hope we provide good value with the work we do on behalf of our parishioners.

Many people comment on our beautiful and special Parish. The Council has worked hard to try to retain this heritage. We arrange maintenance of the parish field and children's play areas, extra grass cutting, emptying of litter bins, regular cleaning of 'bus shelters, removal of tipping, new street signs and repair of some potholes, which is a constant problem. Despite this, our village roads still look like those of the developing world rather than rural Buckinghamshire. We also provided extra salt bins which were really useful this winter and an extra dog bin, which has been well used. We also have plans to carry out repairs to the brick 'bus shelters on the A418.

During the year we had a number of working parties to pick litter, plant trees in the Spinney, clear verges in Chestnut Avenue and to clear the footpath off Boot Lane to the 'old' scout hut area. It was great to see the support we had from parishioners for these activities.

We have also given support to a number of parish organisations during the year. We supported Ford Village Society with their VAS project, the Cricket Club in their grant applications for a new sewage system for the pavilion and the Marquee Group with the insurance for bonfire night. We also took responsibility again for Remembrance Day ceremonies at Dinton and Ford with the support of Air Vice Marshall Jefferson Mackey. He is always looking for poppy collectors, please let him or us know if you would be willing to help.

"Our County and District Councillors have also been very supportive this year, as have our local police and PCSO."

"Many people comment on our beautiful and special Parish."

"The Queen's Jubilee in 2012 ; please start thinking of how we would like to celebrate it."

Planning applications continue to take up a considerable amount of time, with 32 being dealt with this year. We always try to inform neighbours of local applications and the whole parish, where we believe this to be important, as we did this year with regard to the anemometer application in Ford. If this application is followed by an application for wind turbines, we may call a parish meeting to ensure all of the parish is informed of the plans.

A major project for us during this year has been the development of our Parish Council web site, with the voluntary help of Barry Lynch. We were very lucky that Barry was willing to give his time to develop a website and we would like to thank him for that. We are also very fortunate that Colin Minton is able to advise and help us on this using his extensive work experience to guide us. The notice board on the web site, plus our four editions of 'The Big Issue' and our Parish notice boards provide us with great ways to keep in touch with everyone. Please check them out!

The Parish Council is now becoming more involved in 'The Big Society' and devolution of services and funding to local councils. As part of this, we recently contributed to the Aylesbury Plan which is concerned with housing growth and Councillors regularly attend the Local Area Forum on your behalf.

FUTURE ISSUES

The Parish is facing a number of issues which we hope to represent you on in the near future:

The impact of HS2 on the local area.

Potential increase in traffic on A418, C63 and other local roads as a result of a proposed change by the County to the charging of transport costs to children living out of their school catchment area.

The erection of wind turbines, with incentives being given to farmers to encourage their installation.

Neighbourhood Help Scheme: I am aware that there may be people in the Parish who may need help with transport to the doctors or hospital or for prescriptions. I would like to try to get together a list of volunteers that might be 'phoned in such a situation. If you feel you would be willing to put your name on the list, please let me know.

The Queen's Jubilee in 2012 ; please start thinking of how we would like to celebrate it.

I would like to thank the ladies who made the tea for us and washed up; Sylvia Eaton and Janet Morgan. Also, we are grateful to our guest speaker: the Rt. Hon John Bercow MP; Speaker of the House of Commons, for sparing the time to talk to us about his role as the Speaker.

Lorraine Gooch

HS2 CONSULTATIONS

The Parish Council has responded to the consultation details of which are on the website.

Please visit www.dinton.org or www.dintonwithfordanddupton.org

Neighbourhood Help Scheme

Lorraine Gooch is still looking for volunteers to join the Good Neighbours Scheme, particularly from Upton and Ford.

Volunteers will be identified on a list as people willing to help with collection of prescriptions or providing transport for appointments to the Doctors or hospitals for those who need that help. If you are willing to help and have not yet contacted her, please telephone her (see the back page for details). It may be possible to reimburse petrol costs.

**DINTON VILLAGE
HALL**

The hall continues to be booked regularly during the week but there are still plenty of weekends when the hall is free to book.

Maintenance is still a major item and we need to invest in re-painting, 'spring' cleaning during holiday times. The boiler may also need to be replaced fairly soon. Should we consider installing gas (in case bad weather prevents delivery of oil again) and also converting to mains drainage. All of these projects will be costly so we need to start a Maintenance Fund.

We hope you will continue to support this valuable community amenity.

*Sylvia Eaton - Chairman
Management
Committee.*

News from Cuddington and Dinton C of E School

What a peculiar start to the term! It feels like we are just back and now we have another holiday.

Our first 2 days back after Easter were very exciting; as we had building work on the Junior site all 140 children were on the Infant site doing wonderful Science activities based on communication. The Foundation children also had a royal wedding tea party with 2 pupils being Kate and William for the afternoon! The year 5 pupils took part in an Olympic celebration at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

The year 2 pupils had a highly successful rugby tournament at Aylesbury Rugby Club where they not only came first but also exhibited exemplary sportsman - like behaviour throughout; we are very proud of them!

Arts week was a great success and the children produced some amazing pieces of art work varying from a Dragon made out of natural materials, to shields, to a 3 meter high Jabberwocky! It was fantastic to be able to share these with the parents on our open sessions.

As a culmination of their work on Alice in Wonderland the year 5 pupils held a tea party for their parents and representatives from both Cuddington and Dinton. Those of us that were lucky enough to be invited were treated to homemade cakes and sandwiches served by the pupils in bow ties, in a marquee, on our 'new' field, on a beautiful sunny day- who could ask for more? I was extremely proud of them and I know their parents were too.

We have had a number of whole school assembly at churches in both Cuddington and Dinton. It is wonderful to see all the pupils and staff celebrating together in such peaceful surroundings.

Our year 1 children have been to Banbury Toy museum and our older children had the opportunity to improve their cycling skills on the Junior site.

The Junior children competed in a cross country event at Sir Henry Floyd where one of our pupils came first; we are all very proud of her.

Our youngest pupils had a very exciting day in Oxford looking at dinosaur bones;

our oldest pupils also went to Oxford, but their focus was on Lewis Carroll and as part of their visit they went round Christchurch College and had a boat trip.

Some of our pupils have taken part in a Dance festival at Haddenham Infant School where great fun was had by all learning some complex dance moves!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have expressed their good wishes and congratulations on my appointment as substantive Headteacher of the school. I am delighted to have been offered the position and will continue to work with all of you in the community to develop further relationships with parishioners.

Mrs. Kim Price
Headteacher

Dinton Fete 29th August 2011



Planning for this year's fete is well in hand. Weather permitting, we have been promised a fly past by a Spitfire! This is very good news as everyone loves them and it helps to bring in the crowds.

After much discussion the decision was made to raise the raffle ticket price to £1. This would halve the copious amount of writing on stubs and also the number that goes in the 'tumbler'. However, we hope that you will still buy and support us as this is our safeguard against lack of income on a rainy day. As

you are probably aware it costs several thousand pounds to set up the fete and this year we have decided to pay extra and have a trailer toilet - I'm sure everyone will be relieved at this news!

To save on endless phone calls, if you ran a stall last year or would like to volunteer for this year, could you please let me know. The sooner I can fill in the schedule the better and we know which stalls need to be manned. Also don't forget to consider teams for the

wheelbarrow race and the tug of war. Get practising!

If there is any organisation within the parish that has a project in mind, please write to me and we will consider any proposals after the fete when we decide on the distribution of any profits.

We look forward to meeting new and old friends at this annual community event and just hope the weather is wonderful.

Sylvia Eaton

PLAQUES

Would you like to have a plaque with your child's or grandchild's name on it in the younger children's playground in Dinton? If yes, please contact Jon Horn (see details on the back of the Bigg Issue). The cost is £12.00 and all the money goes towards the maintenance of the playground. It's lovely to see that we are now having plaques made for the children of the children whose names were originally placed there.

Vandalism on the School field!

As many readers will be aware, the school has recently re-laid the playing field surface creating a beautiful space for the children to get outside and run around in the fresh air at lunchtime, as well as playing organised sport. This has cost a considerable amount of money – most of which has been raised through the Race for Space Appeal and many Parishioners have generously contributed to this.

On Friday 27th May the children held a 'Bring Your Bear to School Day' to raise money for local charities chosen by the School Council. The day included a picnic on the school field. Unfortunately between 2 and 3pm after the children had left the field someone chose to drive a vehicle round the pitch several times, causing damage to the new grass. The incident has been reported to the police.

Please be aware of this and if you are passing the school and notice any suspicious or anti social activity, contact the police on the number provided in the information section of The Bigg Issue.

A GROUP OF VILLAGERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO BUY THE SEVEN STARS PUB!

The Seven Stars has existed, as a pub, since 1640. It has survived fifteen Kings, five Queens and two Lord Protectorates (Oliver Cromwell and his son "Tumbledown Dick"), but has had a very turbulent past ten years. We believe the only way for the pub to survive is for the villagers to own the freehold for themselves.

If anyone is interested in investing, they should visit www.savesthestars.co.uk or call Terry Heath on 01296 747314

DINTON with FORD & UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.dinton.org or www.dintonwithfordandupton.org

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01296 741 240

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Bell Ringing Tower Captain

Andrew Wild - 01296 748679

Church of England Minister

Rev'd Peter Rich: 01296 748068

Church Wardens

Velma Thompson - 01296 748561

Jean Moore - 01296 748063

Churchyard Working Party

Andrew & Helen Wild - 01296 748679

Cuddington & Dinton School

01844 291206

cuddingtonoffice@cds.bucks.sch.uk

Dinton Cricket Club

01296 748162

Haddenham Health Club

0844 477 8575

Girl Guides (Sue Napier)

01296 748554

1st Stone Brownies

01296 655692

Marquee Hire (Chris Robinson)

01296 748113

Parish Magazine (Dinton)

Mike Thompson - 01296 748561

Police Station (Waddesdon)

PC Dean Kingham - 0845 8 505 505

Pre-School, Dinton Village Hall

Valerie Partington - 01296 747495

Village Hall Bookings (Dinton)

Ruth Chelmick - 01296 747381

Hotline against Fly Tipping

0845 330 1856

Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)

June saw a significant milestone reached with the two year pilot trial passing the half-way point. Good progress continues to be made, largely thanks to the unstinting efforts of the twenty-seven Ford volunteers whose contribution and commitment is fantastic, and the pilot remains firmly on course to reach a successful conclusion.

The Ford project team continue to be supported by our neighbourhood specialist officer PC Dean Kingham whose visits to Ford with his speed-gun have re-enforced the "please slow down" message. In excess of 30 drivers have already been issued with speeding tickets and many others have been stopped and spoken to.

The success of the trial to date has given Bucks CC the confidence to extend the MVAS solution to a second pilot trial and the Ford project team are pleased to be able to share their experience with the project team in Ellesborough.

Meanwhile other Parishes continue to monitor the progress of the trial - they are likely to want to adopt the MVAS solution once Bucks CC approves it for roll-out county-wide.