

CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES APRIL 2010

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting is called by the Chairman of the Parish Council but is not a Parish Council meeting - it is a meeting for all electors in the village and is an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past 12 months and how it has spent its (our) money. There will be reports from our County and District Councillors as well as from the Police. There will also be reports on the Village Fete and the Bonfire Night and It is hoped that there will be reports all organisations to which the Parish Council makes donations. The meeting will be on Monday 10th May 2010 in the Mission Room and will start at 7.00pm. All electors are very welcome to attend and to ask questions.

BEACON COURT

The Consultative Working Group was extremely disappointed (to say the least) with the response from Riversmead when the Group queried its collective recall of what was said regarding the consultation with Riversmead's elderly tenants and with the provision of taxi services to social events in Ware and Hertford.

Riversmead's Alan Dulson wrote: "I can confirm as communicated to the Consultative Working Group at the end of February that all Riversmead's tenants either within Beacon Court or the surrounding areas were given the opportunity to talk to a representative of Riversmead over the impending closure of Beacon Court. This did not take the form of a formal meeting but was conducted on a one to one basis with individual residents.

On the matter of taxi's it was communicated to the Consultative Working Group that if residents wished to attend social events at any of the other schemes (including the lunch club that was being re-provisioned at Grange Gardens) then Riversmead would be happy to arrange taxi's enabling tenants to share. I am sorry if this has been interpreted to mean that Riversmead would meet the cost, which unfortunately they can't.

As communicated Riversmead are happy to collect names etc of those tenants wishing to attend the lunch club (and any other Social Events) and ensure tenants can share a taxi if needed. Some tenants will be happy to arrange this between themselves but there may be others on their own who would benefit from assistance, which can be arranged through the WRVS at a cost of £5.

I hope this clarifies the matter, if however I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me."

The Working Group clearly remembered being told that all individual elderly tenants (bar one) had been spoken to and that Riversmead was paying for taxis!

The Parish Council has objected to the latest application for the Beacon Court site for a number of reasons, a summary of which was distributed to all residents.

The Working Group had a meeting with East Herts' planners which was slightly more successful than that with Riversmead and has also asked Mark Prisk for help.

The Parish Council is also planning a petition to East Herts on the moral issues surrounding the closure of Beacon Court. This will be available online, in the Church, pubs and shop.

PARISH COUNCILLORS TO LOOK AFTER SPECIFIED AREAS OF THE VILLAGE

It has been suggested that Parish Councillors take on a specific patch to make it easier for residents to make their concerns known. Do tell me what you think of this idea.

YOUTH CLUB

The Club run for 8 to 12 year olds has been so successful that it has moved to the Village Hall. Unfortunately, the Club for older children has been suspended due to lack of use. The Club was very sorry to lose its Chairman, Emma Cowley, who has moved back to Hereford. Nick Sharp has taken on this role for the time being.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PC Neal Dyton has warned that burglars are breaking into homes to steal car keys. His advice is to take the keys upstairs and not to leave them on the hall table.

SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Another reminder that the speed limit on the village's roads is 30mph. PC Neal Dyton and PCSO Neal Major have been checking speeds regularly. A number of motorists have received warnings or tickets, one motorist being clocked at over 50mph along London Road

PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEOPLE

... not cars. The number of cars being parked on the pavements is creeping up again. This is extremely inconsiderate to pedestrians who are sometimes being forced into the road to pass them. Please remind visitors that the white lines along London Road do not mean that cars can park on the pavements - they are there to visually narrow the road.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th May immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Mission Room, but certainly starting no earlier than 8.00pm.

Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council

01992 581994