

# TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL



## NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

[www.tarporley.org.uk](http://www.tarporley.org.uk)



### *Report of the* **TRAFFIC and HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

#### **Feedback from Winter Newsletter**

Several residents have been kind enough to send in their thoughts regarding this matter. Generally residents are agreed that some form of parking time restriction would be a good idea. The main bone of contention seems to be that people who work in businesses up and down the high street need to be encouraged to use the parking which is available slightly outside the main thoroughfare – namely the spaces behind the Community Centre, behind the Rising Sun, at the British Legion, Park Road and even Forest Road. This would then stop the clogging up of valuable car spaces on the High Street for drop in shoppers. In general a waiting restriction of two hours seems favourable to most. This is a topic for the Working Group to consider and hopefully progress in 2007

#### **School Buses**

Almost everybody who lives in Tarporley has a view on this matter. At certain times of the day, it is considered very dangerous when the school buses come down the main high street on their way to the High School. Unfortunately, whilst the Parish Council has contacted the bus operators to ask them to avoid the High Street, as best they can, they point out that it is also dangerous for the buses to turn right out of Nantwich Road onto the A49. Whilst we are considering temporary traffic lights to overcome this problem, the funding for such an option is still a long way off. Other suggestions such as requesting the buses to use the by-pass to come into the village, one-way traffic are also currently discussed.

#### **Yellow Lines**

Additional yellow lines are planned for Eaton Road in areas adjacent to the playing field. These have been requested to reduce the amount of congestion in Eaton Road during school hours. Removal of existing yellow lines outside the Chemist and Chocolate Shop are being progressed.

#### **Parking**

At the last CAM on 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Community Centre, our PCSO, Emily Benson gave a review of her 12 week initiative to combat parking problems in the High Street. A number of shops have complained in the past that they are not getting the passing trade they would like, and people not being able to

park in the High Street has been identified as one of the problems. Emily reported that she and some Parish Councillors had been into every shop/office/business in the High Street to request that the staff parked their cars in one of the three long stay car parks in the village in order to see how this eased parking for visitors and local shoppers. Most shops and businesses were receptive to the request to use the long stay car parks for a trial period of 4 weeks so see what impact this would have on their business. The PCSO and a Parish Councillor then re-visited the shops and businesses to ask for feedback and to see if staff would continue to park in the long stay car parks and not on the High Street. The responses were mixed with some shops clearly committed to freeing up the High Street for use by shoppers and visitors. However, this is not the case overall. During this trial period the three long stay car parks were more than capable of accommodating the extra cars using them, although the Rising Sun Car Park gets full the quickest, being the closest to the High Street.

At the present time Tarporley Parish Council is unable to introduce limited waiting in the High Street because this would require VRBC to decriminalise parking throughout the whole of the district, and they are not keen to do this in light of trying to encourage visitors and shoppers to areas such as Winsford and Northwich.

#### **Speeding**

At the CAM on 31<sup>st</sup> May local residents identified speeding as their most important concern and Emily is due to attack this over the next 12 weeks. In addition, the Traffic and Highways Working Group is investigating two initiatives: 1. A voluntary group of locals residents who could be trained by the police to conduct speed checks on motorists using a speed gun and then relaying their evidence back to police officers who will take the necessary action – called Speed watch. 2 To reduce speed limits in certain parts of the village from 30 mph to 20 mph.

We would welcome your feedback on any aspect of this report, and we are very keen to hear from residents who would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer on Speed watch.

Please either contact the Parish Clerk, Chartwood House, 20 Nantwich Road, Tarporley, CW6 9UW, Tel: 01829 733496, Email: [parishclerk@tarporley.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@tarporley.org.uk), or Spokesperson for the Traffic and Highways Working Group, Dawn Joyce on 01829 730824.

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE WORKING GROUP REPORT 2006/07**

Tarporley came 6th out of 10 in the Best kept village competition in 2006. This was very disappointing in view of the hard work undertaken by the Parish Councillors and the contract staff employed by the Parish Council to maintain the village. However the feed back form clearly showed that the difference between 6th and the top three places were very few points indeed and could be the result of different judges in the 1st and 2nd rounds. The feed back did not identify any particular area that Tarporley needed to address.

Sites for new and replacement litter bins were identified during the year and some of these have been provided. However there is still a long list of litter bins requested but not yet provided by VRBC.

It was a great disappointment that the hanging baskets were removed early last summer due to health and safety concerns over the weight of the baskets on the lampposts which were not built to withstand their weight. After a huge response from the Parish Council in discussion with Cheshire County Council and

VRBC, together with a petition organised by local resident Hannah Gregory, we are now delighted to be receiving 42 new and lighter units to be attached to 21 lampposts. These will be supplied by VRBC, together with a new water bowser and financial support for the cost of watering the baskets during the summer. However, from April 2008 it will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to finance the watering of the baskets

The Best Kept Village Working Group has entered the village for the Best kept Village competition again this year. The first round judging took place on Saturday 5th May and we will be informed in July whether we have gone through into the second round. Local volunteers helped to pick up the litter prior to the first round judging and all Tarporley residents are asked to do their bit and pick up any litter they see lying around. The Best Kept Village Working Group has also entered Tarporley into the Cheshire Community Council's Village Safety Award 2007 and the Cheshire Country-wide Award 2007.



### **FLORAL DISPLAY COMPETITION**

**During July there will be a competition to decide the  
BEST KEPT GARDEN and the BEST HANGING BASKET**

**Judging by the  
HOLLIES FARM SHOP  
Who have donated the prizes**

**To enter contact the Parish Clerk, Chartwood House, 20 Nantwich Road, CW6 9UW tel.  
01829 733496**

### ***DOG FOULING AGAIN***

Residents tell us that dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village.

Dog Wardens patrol the village including the less built up areas so if you know of a dog owner who allows their dog to foul public areas and do not clean up after them please contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

**Dog fouling is a health hazard to children as well as being a criminal act**

### **Parish Accounts Short financial report 2006/07**

The opening balance was £33,100 and income during the year amounted to £33,000 from the precept and £17,900 from other sources. Expenditure during the year was £58,700 leaving £25,300 to be carried forward to 2007/08. Total fixed assets are £83,200. Major non-routine purchases during the year include work on the cemetery, the Community Centre CCTV and substantial VAT transactions associated with the play area. The opening and closing balances consist of reserves designated for specific purposes.

# TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(Presented by Chairman T Hill).

Tarporley continues to be a vibrant village, delivering an excellent range of services to its residents and an increasing number of visitors. It remains the duty of the Parish Council to ensure that it does everything in its power to further improve the appearance of the village and present it in the best possible light to visitors and residents alike.

Numerous initiatives are ongoing to achieve this objective and the reports from the working groups confirm the work that has been done in the past year. Of particular note is the opening of the SPAR store and petrol station. This excellent facility, which received wholehearted support from the Parish Council, has improved competition on convenience store retailing and restores a fuel station to the village. It remains a condition of approval for this site that a fuel station would form a key part of the redevelopment. It is pleasing to note that this facility is extremely well used.

The Children's Play Area was finally completed during the year with the full support of the Parish Council. I have the greatest pleasure of recording the unstinting work of Cllr; Graham Lees who has been such a stalwart throughout the project. CCTV has been installed to monitor this areas and the refurbished Community Centre Car Park and it remains a key objective to keep this area free from vandalism and for it to remain a pleasurable facility for the enjoyment of the many children who now use it.

Tarporley has an enviable record in the Best Kept Village Competition; it was therefore disappointing to note the poor performance in this years competition. The Parish Council led the protest when the hanging baskets were unexpectedly removed, apparently for safety reasons., in the early autumn. This protest, very strongly supported by a petition signed by nearly eight hundred and fifty people, has resulted in an agreement whereby hanging baskets, albeit with new approved fittings, will reappear on the lamp standards this summer. Fresh impetus will be given to the appearance of the village and an appeal to all residents and commercial premises, to play their part in the presentation of the village, in the coming year.

The Parish Council has now entered into a contract with the Cheshire Constabulary to employ a Police Community Support Officer for an initial period of two years. PCSO Emily Benson commenced her duties with effect from April 2007. The cost to the Council Tax payers of Tarporley is £11,000 per annum and this is the reason for the increase in the annual precept. It is hoped that Emily's appointment will improve security in the village and the information and support she is able to give to PC Chris McCourt will result in fewer acts of vandalism and misbehaviour that have been worrying residents over the last few years.

There have been some changes amongst Councillors during the year and everyone was saddened by the retirement of Cllr: Joan Foden. Joan was a long serving member and had given much of her time to serving the Tarporley community. She will be much missed on the Council. Councillors Jean Wall and Heidi Nickson left the Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May and will also both be missed for their dedication to Tarporley and their key roles in the working groups concerned with the Best Kept Village Competition and the Highways Working Group. . Heidi must be particularly commended for safely producing a son, William, and in addition finding time to perform her Council duties. It is pleasing to note that we have such youthful members on the Parish Council.

Cllr; Dawn Joyce joined the Council on the retirement of Joan Foden and has now been elected as Councillor for the Tarporley and Oulton Ward, on my retirement. We wish her every success in the future. At the time of writing this report, it should be mentioned that we are in a period of consultation, initiated by the Government, on proposals for possible unitary Local Government. The Parish Council is sadly not being included in this consultation process but has some strong views on the subject and will make them known in the fullness of time.

Finally my personal thanks and those of everyone who serves on our Parish Council must go to our Clerk, John Macdonald. John works tirelessly on our behalf and deals effortlessly with the torrent of bureaucracy that pours in from every quarter. He remains a much-valued asset and greatly appreciated by the whole community.

## Tarporley Parish Plan

After months of hard work, since September 2005, the Parish Plan's Steering Group has reached the stage of drawing up the Action Plan for the next 5 years or more for some key improvements for the village. The actions have been identified by the people of Tarporley through 2 household questionnaires, various consultation meetings, and a survey of the local businesses. The top priorities are: To set up a farmers'/ country market for sale of local produce. To reduce congestion in the High St. by re-routing school buses and by limiting the hours vehicles can deliver to the shops. To set up a "Dog-fouling" campaign To work with the High School to develop sports facilities / a sports centre for all- year-round use by the community and the schools. To seek funding to undertake a major refurbishment of the Community Centre. To establish a village information and tourist information point/centre in conjunction with a village museum.

Undoubtedly the hot topic for the village has been Traffic, Parking and the Roads, as shown by the opening subject of this Newsletter. However it is probably one of the hardest problems to resolve to the satisfaction of all sections of our village. Money has already been raised from various grants to start the refurbishment of the Community Centre and it is hoped that work will start before the autumn.

## Report of the Cemetery Working Group 2006/07

Preparations have continue to be made, to prepare the cemetery for use when burial is no longer available at St. Helen's Churchyard.

During the past year the entrance gate and path have been constructed and the grass is cut and the hedge trimmed on a regular basis.

At the January meeting of the Cemetery Working Group the layout, including a consecrated area, charges and rules were agreed.

The layout is conventional, allows for full and cremation interments and includes a garden for the deposit of ashes.

Charges will be based on 65% of Vale Royal Borough Council charges. These charges are intended to cover all running costs and provide for future maintenance.

Cemetery rules will be based on those applying at the Vale Royal cemetery at Wharton.

Subject to the approval of the Parish Council given at a full Parish Council meeting burial will be restricted to Tarporley residents unless, for exceptional circumstances, being otherwise agreed by the Cemetery Committee.

**Cheshire County Councillor  
Eddisbury Division**

**Councillor A. Needham** 01829 732444  
Andrew.Needham@cheshire.gov.uk

**Vale Royal Borough Councillors  
Tarpорley and Oulton Ward**

**Councillor Mrs D. Joyce** 01829 730824  
**Councillor Ms. G. Fairhurst** 01829 760568

Tarpорley has twelve Parish Councillors each of whom sits on one or more of the Parish Council Working Groups.

**Contact details are**

<b><u>Councillor</u></b>	<b><u>Phone (01829)</u></b>
Mr. J. Blackford	732585
Mr. E. Boynes	733127
Dr. R. Brierley	732539
Mrs. L. Burrows	733228
Mrs G. Clough	733545
Mr. R. Craven	732869
Mrs. J. Greenwood	730032
Mr. T. Hill Chairman	732804
Mrs. D. Joyce (VRBC)	730824
Mr. G. Lees	733832
Mr. K. Parker	732188
Mr. T. Spark	732763

**Parish Clerk**

**Mr. J. Macdonald** 01829 733496  
parishclerk@tarporley.org.uk

**Chartwood House  
20 Nantwich Road  
Tarpорley  
CW6 9UW**

**Parish Council Meetings**

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday in the month, except August, in the Committee Room of the Community Centre at 7.00pm. They are open to the public.

A **Parish Council Surgery** is held at 6.30 pm, prior to the meeting when members of the public are welcome to discuss matters of concern to them informally with Parish Councillors

**Parish Council Working Groups** meet as and when the needs of the projects upon which they are engaged require. They report back to the Parish Council at full Parish Council meetings. They also have meetings with officers of Cheshire County Council, Vale Royal Borough Council and a variety of other organisations

**POLICE CONTACTS**

PC 3528 Chris McCourt  
Dragon Hall Police Office

Whitchurch Road, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9DU

TEL. Office (Answerphone) : 0845 4586377

Main Police Number : 01244 350222

Emergencies 999

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

E-mail Christopher.McCourt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Emily.Benson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

**Planning Committee**

Composed of all Parish Councillors and meets as required

**Cemetery Committee**

Councillors E. Boynes (Spokesperson), R. Brierley T. Hill,

**Traffic and Highways Working Group**

Councillors L. Burrows, T. Hill D. Joyce (Spokesperson), T. Spark.

**Quality Parish Council Working Group**

Councillors E. Boynes (Spokesperson), K. Parker.

**Publicity Working Group**

Councillors E. Boynes (Spokesperson), G. Lees.

**Affordable Housing Working Group**

Councillors E. Boynes (spokesperson) R. Craven, K. Parker.

**Community Security Working Group.**

Councillors R. Craven, J. Greenwood (Spokesperson), D. Joyce.

**Best Kept Village Working Group**

Councillors R. Brierley, C. Clough, G. Lees, D. Joyce (Spokesperson) .

**Christmas Lights and Celebrations Working Group**

Councillors J. Blackford J. Greenwood, , T. Spark (Spokesperson).

**Budget and Forward Planning Working Group**

Councillors E. Boynes, K. Parker (Spokesperson), T. Spark, the Clerk.

**Playground Working Group**

Councillors J. Blackford, J. Greenwood, G. Lees (Spokesperson).

**Footpaths and Trees**

Councillor J. Greenwood.

**Monthly Finance**

Councillor T. Spark. G. Lees (Reserve).

**Rowcliffe Homes**

Councillor T. Spark

**Arthur Meredith Memorial Trust**

Councillors R Blackford R. Craven, T. Hill , P.C. Chairman.

**Tarpорley Business Association Representative**

Councillor R Brierley.

**Primary School Governor** Councillor G. Lees.

**High School Governors** Councillors E. Boynes, R Craven.

**Community Centre** Councillor G. Lees.

**Parish Plan** Councillors E. Boynes, R. Brierley, G. Clough G. Lees.

**Helen Watson Commemoration**

Councillors R. Brierley, T. Spark.

**Annual Asset and Accounts Audit.** Councillor K. Parker.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

**Would you like to air your views in the Newsletter?  
E-mail the Clerk on parishclerk@tarporley.org.uk  
or Councillor Ernest Boynes on ernest@boynes.com**

**Chester Chronicle Community Pages**

**To have news of your club, team or group events published in the Chester Chronicle Community page contact Ernest Boynes, 01829 733127 or ernest@boynes.com**