

Tarporley Parish Council

Newsletter Spring 2004

Message from the Chairman

Hello, my name is Helen Watson and I am presently Chairman of Tarporley Parish Council. The Parish Council is working to improve its communication with the Parish and this newsletter is the first of what will be a regular publication. I hope you will find it interesting and informative.

Council Tax Increases

You will receive your copy of the newsletter at about the same as your Council Tax demand from Vale Royal Borough Council. You will see that the Parish Council has not requested an increase in tax but maintained it at last years level. Although we have some large expenditure scheduled the timing and management of these costs has enabled us to proceed with these initiatives without increasing taxes.

St Helen's Churchyard

St Helen's Churchyard is running out of space and it is the Local Authority's duty to provide burial space. We are currently arranging to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the churchyard to provide an additional burial ground for the village. This is a significant expenditure for the Parish Council but if not undertaken then those residents wishing to be buried locally would instead be interred in municipal cemeteries at distant locations in Vale Royal Borough.

Christmas Lights

I'm sure you'll agree that our Christmas lights are very impressive, but of course they cost us a large amount of money for installation and electricity. Some of the cost is covered by a small grant from Vale Royal Borough Council and we are very grateful to those local residents who have been able to assist by providing lights and electricity. Do you have any suggestions for changes or improvements?

Staff and Contractors

Tarporley Parish Council employs the Clerk, John Macdonald who has the job of ensuring the decisions of the Parish Council are carried out. Contractors John Phillips and Geoff Fowles between them maintain all village footpaths and decorative areas. Geoff also helps to keep the village clear of litter and graffiti. This is somewhat a thankless task!

Village Pride Award

Last year we were disappointed to finish 5th out of 9 villages in our group, in the Village Pride awards. We usually do much better than this, as you will see from the plaques around St Helen's Church entrance. This year we hope to try again and would like to enlist everyone's help in ensuring that the village looks its' best. Neat and colourful gardens and hanging baskets really help to give a good impression. Judging takes place from April until September at random intervals. A new award called "Vibrant Villages" has recently been introduced and we are considering entering this year. This competition depends not on looks, but on the community activities that take place. Tarporley has so many thriving groups that I'm sure we would make a good impression. Should any organisation, business or individual be willing to support the work needed for the award then please contact Councillors Jean Wall, Joan Foden or Helen Watson.

Village Security

By now I hope many of you will have met our Community Support Officer Claire Hulse. Tarporley is very fortunate in having Claire on a free 6-month trial. If we agree that her constant presence has made a difference to our lives we shall be able to pay for an officer to patrol our streets. The cost will be about £20,000 per annum, or about £17 per household. This amount would be added to you Council Tax. We may be able to share the cost with another parish. The Parish Council would not commit to this expense without very good feedback that this is what you want and evidence that her presence has contributed to the well being of the village. So please let us know your views.

Housing Planning

Thank you to those who took time to fill in the questionnaire about affordable housing. This is a project that arose from comments made to us during the production of the Village Design Statement and is a joint initiative with V.R.B.C. The results are currently being analysed and more information will be available shortly.

Quality Council Status

Parish councils are being encouraged to play a more significant role in local government through a scheme that sets standards for parish councils and seeks to establish a formal relationship for service provision with the principal local authorities. Your Parish Council is working towards "Quality Status".

Broadband Internet for Tarporley

As this newsletter is being prepared the number of people in Tarporley registering an interest in having broadband has reached the critical 500 necessary for the exchange to be put forward for upgrading to broadband. This is excellent news for residents especially those who use the Internet for work or educational purposes. It is likely to be at least three months before the upgrade is carried out. BT checks the registrations for errors to ensure the number is correct before upgrading so if you have not registered please do so to help us be certain that we have reached the trigger level.

Parking Problems

Parking can be difficult when the village is busy and a reoccurring difficulty for residents is inconsiderate parking across driveways. Parking at the lower end of Forest Road, at the entrance to Market Court by The Swan and at the junction of Nantwich Road and Eaton Road is currently causing great difficulty for residents trying to access their homes. The Parish Council seeks your support in reducing this problem and CSO Claire Hulse will be asked to monitor these and other areas of difficulty when she takes up her duties.

Future Newsletters

We intend to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis in spring, summer, autumn and winter. We would welcome your views on what you would like to see included in future newsletters and welcome approaches for local organisations that may like to sponsor articles in the newsletter. The Parish Council also publishes information via the notice board in the High Street and via it's newly established web site at www.tarporley.org.uk

The Council

Tarporley Parish Councillors give freely of their time to serve the village. If you'd like to tell us something or ask us a question, every Parish Council meetings begins with an open forum from 7:00 to 7:30 pm. You are very welcome to remain for the rest of the meeting. Council meetings every 2nd Monday of the month and surgeries are held every 1st Tuesday of the month. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council notice board (opposite Swetenham's).

Contacting Us

You can contact councillors or the Clerk on the telephone numbers below (STD code 01829).

<u>PARISH COUNCILLORS</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>PARISH COUNCILLORS</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>
Mr Ernest Boynes	733127	Mr Hugh Melliush	732252
Dr Richard Brierley	732539	Mr Ken Parker	732188
Mr Roy Craven	732869	Mr Tom Spark	732763
Mrs Joan Foden	732681	Mrs Caroline Topping	732960
Mrs Janet Greenwood	730032	Mrs Jean Wall	733155
Mr Tim Hill (VRBC)	732804	Mrs Helen Watson (Chairman)	732542

If you or someone you know would benefit form a large print or talking book version of this newsletter then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Produced by Tarporley Parish Council: Parish Clerk, John Macdonald (phone 733496),
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