

Tarporley Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2005

www.tarporley.org.uk



Tarporley Primary School - Relocation

Since the publication of the November Newsletter a Tarporley Parish Council working group has had a meeting with the consultants engaged by Cheshire County Council and subsequently a meeting with officers of the County Council and Vale Royal Borough Council. At these meetings it was pointed out that, in the opinion of Parish Councillors, the consultants had been given an incorrect brief. The problem facing the County was not the relocation of the Primary School but what best community use could be obtained from the site of the old Brook Farm School closed by the County in 2001. Any proposal put forward by the County should, in the opinion of the Parish Council, take account of Parish Council policy resolved at its meeting of 14 February 2005.

Parish Council Resolution

If the Brook Farm School had not been closed the question of a new site for the Tarporley Church of England Primary School would not have arisen.

If, for educational reasons, it is necessary to relocate the Primary School to the Brook Farm site, Tarporley Parish Council would not object provided funding for this purpose was out of the education budget and the current site of the Primary School was released to provide facilities for the community.

Any development which requires that land within the village be sold for the construction of high cost housing will be absolutely unacceptable to Tarporley Parish Council.

Tarporley Parish Council is of the opinion that any development which may take place on the site of Brook Farm School, other than a primary school, should be such as to provide benefit for the local community as a whole.

Tarporley Parish Council is of the opinion that Cheshire County Council should consult with Vale Royal Borough Council, Chester City Council and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council with regard to the development of this site. The purpose being to provide a facility serving the wider community of parishes situated within the boundaries of these Boroughs adjacent to Tarporley. It is estimated that approximately ten thousand residents of these parishes currently make use of the economic, social and medical services available in Tarporley.

If necessary, and subject to planning considerations, Tarporley Parish Council are of the opinion that Cheshire County Council should engage with the private sector for the provision of community facilities at the Brook Farm School site.

Can you grow the tallest sunflower in Tarporley ?

This summer the Parish Council is organising a competition, open to all Tarporley children to see who can grow the tallest sunflower.

The competition will be divided into three age groups — under 7, 7 to 11 and 11 to 16 years. In September a prize in the form of a book token will be awarded for the tallest sunflower in each group. Details of the judging will be in the next Newsletter and on the Parish Council notice board.

So children, plant your sunflower seeds and see if YOU can grow the tallest sunflower in Tarporley

MRS HELEN WATSON 1940—2005

It is with deep regret that the Parish Council has to announce that Helen passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday 2nd April.

Helen has lived most of her life in and around Tarporley, served on the Parish Council for over twenty years and was currently in her second term of office as Chairman. She has represented the Parish Council on Tarporley Primary School as both a governor and Chair of Governors. She was also President of the W.I., on the parents' executive of the local Scout Group and Secretary of the Allotment Society.

She was an active campaigner for the by-pass and always involved in causes which might affect her much loved Tarporley. Helen instigated our Village Design Statement and led our bid for Quality Parish Council status and endeavours for affordable housing, switching on the Christmas lights celebrations, Best Kept Village and Vibrant Village awards.

Helen was an excellent cook, often in demand to judge at local produce shows. As a part time assistant at Tarporley library and in her life around the village Helen was always available to residents of all ages. She was very persuasive and possessed the capacity for getting people involved.

Although undergoing harsh medical treatment she continued to be an active councillor working for the good of the Parish. She will be sorely missed by family, fellow councillors and many friends and villagers.

Our thoughts are with her husband Brian and other family members at this sad time.

YOUR PARISH—YOUR SAY

The Parish Council intends to facilitate the production of a Parish Plan. Parish Plans set out a vision as to how a community wants to develop and will include many issues such as housing, local authority services, facilities for the young and the old, community buildings, sports facilities, health services, employment, transport, indeed all aspects of community life.

Parish Plans are produced with the substantial involvement of a broad range of local people and organisations. Plan production involves public meetings, information gathering, reviews and surveys of residents views. Once produced a Parish Plan becomes a formal statement by the community on the way it should develop over the next 5 to 10 years. As such the Parish Plan provides a framework for Parish Council activity and must be considered by the Borough and County Council in relation to developments in the village.

The production of a Parish Plan is a substantial undertaking and the Parish Council have successfully applied through the Cheshire Community Council for a government grant. Input from members of the community and local organisations is essential. If you or your organisation are willing to commit time to help formulate the plan please contact the Parish Clerk or any parish councillor. Further information will follow in Newsletters and meetings, but if you wish to find out more about Parish Plans then visit the Countryside Agency web site at... www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages/activecommunities/parishplans.asp

Borough Councillors Notes

The role of the Borough Councillor continues to be multifarious, working with Vale Royal officers and a number of other organisations to represent the views of the residents. In recent months there have been a number of issues of general interest and importance including the new waste recycling and collection service. In respect of planning, some major applications have required detailed input, including the development of the Aderne Estate House (refused), the amended Portal Golf Club hotel complex (approved, subject to legally binding conditions) and the Flaxyard Farm Buildings redevelopment currently subject to VRBC consideration. Work has been ongoing to expedite the redevelopment of the filling station. It is hoped to see a commencement of the construction of the Spar store in the near future.

Borough councillors will continue to be active in the consultation process leading to a planning application to site a wind farm at Oxhey's Farm, Eaton.

Pressure will continue to be applied to Cheshire County Council to secure some relief for those who wish to visit Tarporley to shop or use its many services, in particular a two hour waiting restriction in the High Street, some amendments to the yellow lines and the resiting of the bus stop.

We Need Help

Tarporley Scout Troop needs to fill two important vacancies.

Since Robin Ford retired last July we have not had a Group Scout Leader (GSL).

A GSL is the person who links the Leaders, Parents Executive and Chester District Scouts. Ideally the GSL should have such attributes as dedication, diplomacy and enthusiasm. Scouting experience is preferable but by no means essential. Anyone with good administration skills would cope admirably.

The second vacancy is for a Scout Leader to run a second Scout Group. Currently we have twelve boys on our waiting list, with more to add to this at Easter when Cubs leave both packs. Ideally, Cubs should move on to Scouts when they are 10½, but with the current waiting list some boys are 11½, or even 12 before they get in.

If you are, or know of anyone else who is interested in helping us fill these two vacancies, please contact Andrew Wallace (Parent Executive Chairman) on 01829 732467 or Alison Leith (Parent Executive Secretary) on 01829 730743

Guiding in Tarporley

Guiding in Tarporley goes from strength to strength

All units are full of enthusiastic girls still keen to follow the Guiding traditions. In the last few years uniforms and programmes have had a complete review to bring them into the twenty first century. The girls are now enjoying all the new ideas and gaining lots of colourful new badges.

We have a problem in that there are not enough Leaders.

In July 05 the Leaders from the Rainbows (ages 5-7) will be leaving and this group will close unless someone comes forward to become leader. Both brownie units are full and have long waiting lists but manage to run with the help of parents. The Guide unit also has a long waiting list due to both Brownie packs feeding into it but at present cannot take any more girls due again to the shortage of Leaders.

If you (or you know of anyone) who could help in any of the units please contact Barbara Hayes on 01606 852543 or call at the Done Room on Mondays, 6.00-7.30 pm, Wednesdays, 6.00-7.30 pm or Thursdays 4.30-5.30 pm or 7.30- 0.00 pm. We look forward to meeting you

Ann Wright

Village Centre Footpath—Access to the Sandstone Trail

Re-opened

An ancient footpath link, formally Footpath No. 3, that was closed to public use in 1961 has been reopened due to the efforts of local enthusiast Mr. Maurice Hunt. The path provides a direct route from the centre of the village in a westerly direction towards the Sandstone Trail. Local historian, Maurice Hunt, has been researching the village footpaths and in conjunction with Cheshire County Council has arranged for many stiles and signs to be refurbished. In undertaking this work Maurice became aware that the most obvious direct link to the centre of the village and the hub of the local footpath system had been closed so he decided to campaign for its re-opening.

In response, Tarporley Parish Council, supported by Cheshire County Council and Vale Royal Borough Council, arranged with the landowners, Frederic Robinson Ltd. for the connecting path to be reconnected. It is now possible to park in the Rising Sun public car park and walk directly west to enter the footpath system via the new gate and access constructed by Vale Royal Borough and then, returning via the same route, have immediate access to the welcoming facilities available in the village.

Looking forward to the next footpath initiative, it is planned to provide maps of the local path system to encourage local walkers and visitors to enjoy the paths around the village.

Tarporley's Fire Brigade

Tarporley's Fire Brigade is possibly the oldest in the country. The first engine arrived in 1866 and was based in the Park Road Fire Station which is now a Fire Brigade museum. In 1957, in order to accommodate the larger type F8 fire engine the station was moved to what is now the Old Fire Station Chocolate Shop in the High Street. In 1997 it moved to its present position in Birch Heath Road.

The Brigade has a complement of sixteen fire fighters, all local men who, for a small retainer, undertake the same training as full time fire fighters in order to attend fires, road traffic accidents and any other emergency which requires their services.

As a result of demographic changes in Tarporley, coupled with the high cost of housing in the Parish there is a shortage of volunteers, without whom we run the risk of losing our local Fire Brigade.

So if you believe you have the courage to provide this service why not visit the Fire Station and find out more about it.

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

SUMMER GARDEN FETE

Stalls—Find a Bargain Games—Have fun
The Rectory Lawn
2 pm Saturday 28 May
See you there See you there

**READERS WHO WOULD LIKE A LARGE
PRINT VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER
PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK
01829 733496**

Tarporley War Memorial Hospital

Tarporley Hospital, originally a large private house in substantial grounds, was purchased with money collected in Tarporley and the surrounding villages as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the First World War. It was opened in 1919 by Mrs Marshall Brookes of Portal

Between 1919 and 1948, when the NHS assumed responsibility, the hospital was financed by voluntary donations and bequests which enabled a number of extensions and improvements to be carried out. In 1970 it became the policy of the NHS to close small hospitals and Tarporley's was no exception. The people of Tarporley and surrounding villages began a "Save Our Hospital" campaign and in 1978 the League of Friends was formed to lead the resistance to the closure. In 1987 a compromise was reached. The NHS sold off adjacent land, handed the hospital over to a new Trust and made a grant of £55,000. The League of Friends, together with other organizations, raised sufficient funds to match this grant, enabling considerable re-building, extensions and refurbishment, together with the provision of additional medical equipment.

The Trust's policy of improvements continue, including the updating of the operating theatre, the provision of rooms for specialist consultants, physiotherapy, storage space, mortuary and many other features of a modern hospital.

Tarporley is very fortunate to have such a valuable medical facility in the community together with the organisations and individuals who are prepared to offer their time and effort to ensure that we continue to enjoy its benefits.

Getting Moving on Highways & Traffic

Things have started moving for the Tarporley Parish Council Traffic & Highways Working Group (TPCHWG). In February Cheshire County Council (CCC) appointed specialist transport and traffic consultants firm MVA to carry out a full highway and traffic audit.

This is the first stage of the CCC Local Transport Plan which has budgeted £55,000 to be spent on improving the highways and traffic situation in Tarporley in the coming financial year. The consultants are working closely with the Parish Council and have received the information and reports prepared by the TPCHWG, with recommendations for the improvements they feel will most benefit the residents and businesses of Tarporley. In addition all residents were canvassed by CCC for their views on the traffic and highways situation in Tarporley. CCC reported a good response to their request for comments and suggestions which have also been passed to the consultants.

The audit is under way and villagers may well have seen some traffic and parking surveys being carried out in the last few months; the TPCHWG look forward to receiving the draft recommendations prepared by the consultants sometime in March. The Parish Council will be working hard to ensure the village sees some real and meaningful benefits from this project to include: more and improved parking facilities to enable the coming and going of shoppers; traffic and speed restrictions within the village; less congestion from school buses and improved cycle and walking routes.

Visitors from Bohars

Visitors from Tarporley's twin village of Bohars in Brittany will be the guests of Tarporley and District Twinning Association for a weekend in April. They will arrive late on Friday 22 April and leave on Monday 25 April. This means that there is a need for offers of hosting from families happy to make new friends and join in the various activities, which will include a dinner party with entertainment in the Hunt Room at the Swan Hotel. If you wish to help, call the Secretary on 01829 760618. The association is open to all and does not involve a subscription. It has been in being since its Charter in 1984, and continues to be regenerated.

Some of the visitors will be ready to play host to the young people who will be going to Bohars for ten days in August, departing on 22 August. They will travel by coach and ferry and hosts will meet them on arrival - cost about £125. Those who would like to take part in this visit should contact Joan Smeeth on 01829 760618 or Maria Walsh on 01270 524778 as soon as possible.

Next year the comings and goings will reverse. Adults, perhaps with some of their families, will make the trip to Bohars in the Spring and we will welcome the French youngsters in the month of August.

FLAG Playground

After tremendous effort over four years the FLAG Committee look set to start work on the new play area in May. The latest setback to the scheme was failure to secure a £50,000 grant from the Onyx Environmental Trust, owing to lack of funds. However, WREN have stepped in with an increased award of £20,000, which means that FLAG now have sufficient funds to undertake ground preparation and installation of the teen shelter and some of the play equipment. Decisions on a further five grant applications are imminent and these will hopefully provide most of the funding needed for the remainder of the project.

In November the Parish Council agreed to adopt the play equipment and provide on-going funds for maintenance, insurance and inspection.

There is still much to be done to provide

Tarporley with play facilities of which we can be proud. If anyone would like to help, or has any ideas for further fund raising, please contact Graham Lees on 01829 733832 or gdlees@tinyworld.co.uk.

Community Pride Competition – Best Kept Village and Community Vibrancy

Following our poor rating in 2003, fifth out of nine in our category, our position improved to a respectable second place in 2004, only losing out to Willaston in the Wirral. We were marked "very good" in most categories, with just one area marked down to "average".

Last year Tarporley also competed for the Community Vibrancy Award and won our class at the first attempt. Winning the Vibrancy award qualified us to enter the Calor Village of the Year Competition.

Having been briefed in mid-September, an augmented 'Best Kept Village' committee had to work very hard to prepare a written submission by the end of the month, followed by a presentation. The Northern Area judges visited on October 19th. At very short notice some thirty groups produced an exhibition in the Community Centre to impress the judges. This was an excellent opportunity to illustrate the variety of activities and community projects taking place in Tarporley.

The displays had to be dismantled immediately to allow the blood transfusion service in but such was the interest created that it has been suggested that we might stage a similar event for the villagers, possibly on carnival day.

Unfortunately we did not figure in the final winners: the winner of the northern area was the small village of Shelley near Holmfirth in West Yorkshire and the overall winner was St. Neot in Cornwall.

Now we need to work together to make 2005 the year when once again we become the "Best Kept Village" and demonstrate our pride in our beautiful and vibrant Tarporley. This year we will be taking part in the Community Pride competition and also, for the first time, Community Safety and North West in Bloom. A site visit by Vale Royal Borough Council officials, who are supporting our North West in Bloom entry, has highlighted a variety of repairs and improvements, which they hope to undertake this year. These include renovation of bollards and litter bins.

Tarporley & District NSPCC A Concert

MUSIC FOR AN APRIL EVENING

With

The Bunbury Singer
Singers from Bluecoat School
Musical Director Martin Cooke of
Bluecoat School

SATURDAY 23 APRIL

Ticket £6.50

At the door or from Hilary Norton
01829 260504

