

# TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

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



## PARKING! PARKING! PARKING! DOES TARPORLEY *REALLY* HAVE A PROBLEM

Tarporley parish councillors are frequently informed by residents that parking in Tarporley is dreadful. Some shopkeepers advise that because customers find difficulty in parking they will shop elsewhere.

Firstly let us look at the parking situation as shown in the Tarporley Transport Survey carried out on behalf of Cheshire County Council in April 2005. ([www.tarporley.org.uk](http://www.tarporley.org.uk))

**Section 6** of the report is devoted to parking. Its survey revealed ;

Rising Sun car park 77 spaces plus about 8 unmarked	spaces...85
Royal British Legion	31
Community Centre car park	43
Park Road	20
High Street legal parking (approx.)	<u>30</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

Pattern of parking

### **Rising Sun**

50% under two hours, 23% seven to ten hours. Average stay 3.5 hours

Car park sometimes full around midday. Close to capacity, 60 vehicles, 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

### **Royal British Legion**

50% under two hours, 4% between 7 and 9 hours, never full

**Community Centre**, little used.

### **Tarporley would appear to have a sufficient number of parking spaces but they need to be better managed**

What is the answer to a perceived problem? Purchase land adjacent to the Rising Sun car park? In the unlikely event that the owners would be prepared to sell, the cost of purchase or lease would likely be an horrendous figure. Would Tarporley council tax payers welcome the inevitable increase in the precept to provide parking for those who do not live in the parish?

Surely the answer is to better manage the existing facilities. Consider time restricted parking, perhaps 30 minutes, in the High Street between say 8.00 am and 6.00 pm and 2 hours in Park Road. Plenty of time to "pop into a shop". Also consider a time restriction in the Rising Sun car park, say 3 hours, but allow unlimited parking in the Royal British Legion and the Community Centre. There would be no charges for car parking but the time limits and penalties for illegal parking would be strictly enforced.

### **Police Community Support Officer**

At its regular November meeting Tarporley Parish Council indicated its intention to consider a contract with the Cheshire Constabulary for the provision of a Police Community Support Officer for Tarporley. Trainee PCSO Emily Benson, in the company of PC McCourt, will spend some time in Tarporley as part of her training during December. She will be introduced to the Parish Council at its meeting of 11 December. PCSO Benson is keen to get out and about in the parish, to meet people and to get to know the locality. It is anticipated that, provided a contract is agreed, she will commence full duties in April.

## PARISH COUNCILLOR RETIRES

The Parish Council regrets that after more than fifteen years service Councillor Mrs, Joan Foden has decided to retire. Joan has always done her level best for the people of the village and, on a number of occasions has helped to preserve its heritage when developers have threatened to overwhelm us. Her resolute stand against inappropriate development has ensured that the Portal parkland has been preserved for prosperity. Her interest in the care of the village and her role in encouraging the community to present itself in the most favourable way possible has contributed in no small measure to our repeated success in the best Kept Village Competition. Joan will be greatly missed on the Council.

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Tarporley Parish Council are pleased to announce that Mrs. Dawn Joyce has been co-opted to the Parish Council. In 2000 Mrs Joyce moved to Tarporley from Bristol, where, as a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce she had been responsible, both as an individual and as part of a team, for organising both local and international events, fund raising and generally raising the profile of Bristol. In her current profession Mrs Joyce has experience in liaising with health authorities, local councils and private institutions. Since February of this year Mrs. Joyce has been a member of the Vale Royal Citizens Panel.

## THE TARPORLEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed primarily to promote Tarporley as a visitor destination and to keep the profile of the village high in the media.

Richard Thomas of Tarporley Health Foods Ltd had the idea of resurrecting the Chamber of Commerce which was disbanded some years ago. There were discussions with Charles Harding of the Old Fire station Chocolate Shop and Cathie Broster of the Chestnut Pavilion. It was agreed that the idea was good and it was anticipated that there were plenty of business owners in the village who would be willing to contribute. There were thirty seven in attendance at the first meeting which implied that there was a demand for something along these lines. The meeting itself was positive and productive.

It was decided that the name of the organisation would be the Tarporley Business Association so that it might be less formal and remain independent.

The Association is not restricted to retailers. Any business or interested party in Tarporley and the surrounding area who is willing to actively promote Tarporley and encourage more visitors to the village will be welcome to take part.

The first initiative, which has the support of VRBC, is to have Late Night Christmas Shopping until 8.00 pm on December Thursdays 7th, 14th and 21st. During 2007 the Association intends to meet at the beginning of each month in the Swan Hotel and plans to have three main events during the year including an Easter Event, a Summer Event probably in August and a French Week. Next Christmas there will be a fantastic Dickensian Weekend.

The association will adopt a positive and pro-active approach to raising the profile of Tarporley as village attractive to visitors .

## NEW LISTED BUILDINGS IN TARPORLEY

With the addition of three more this year there are now thirty eight listed buildings in the parish. They range in size from the milestone in the High Street to St. Helen's Church and the house at Portal. Many of the prominent buildings in the village centre are listed although there are several notable exceptions, such as the old Perth Hotel and Churton's. There are several less obvious candidates such as the cottages approaching Forest Road and the K6 telephone kiosk by the old Post Office. In many instance a single listing applies to a row of similar buildings, hence much of the High Street is covered by very few entries, Away from the centre of the village most of the entries are the older and more substantial properties.

The three new entries, listed in the summer, are the original Fire Station, now the Fire Brigade Museum, the adjoining Hearse House and the old Police Station. The Fire Station was erected in 1865 to house the equipment of one of the first volunteer fire brigades in the country and is therefore of national significance. The

Hearse House, though of very different appearance , was built very soon afterwards in 1869 to house the hearse which had been displaced by new building works at St. Helen's. Both were latterly used by the fire brigade until the present station was opened. The Police Station dates from 1909 and, since it is virtually unaltered, is a prime example of a rural police station of its time. Viewed together the three buildings represent a rare survival of village infrastructure. Details and photographs of many of our listed buildings are now available on a dedicated website [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk). This was set up by English Heritage as part of a millennium project to record all 370,000 or so listed buildings as they are at the start of the millennium. The project, which is lottery funded and uses photographs taken by an army of volunteers, is now approaching completion, although it will be some time yet before all entries are on the website. **Dr. Richard Brierly**

### **Lamp Column Flower Baskets.**

The flower baskets came down this autumn and because of health and safety concerns it seemed as though this may be the end of the magnificent contribution to summer colour from the hanging flower basket displays. Public outcry and a petition raised by Hannah Gregory resulted in the Parish Council working with both Cheshire County Council and Vale Royal Borough Council to resolve this situation. Currently the County Council is undertaking a detailed technical assessment including on site testing of the lamp columns. It is hoped that this assessment will confirm that the columns can support flower containers.

## The Arthur Meredith Memorial Charity

The Arthur Meredith Memorial Charity. Registered Charity No 517353 has given notice of the following grants for 2006. 1<sup>st</sup> Tarporley Rainbows £175.00, 1<sup>st</sup> Tarporley Brownies £175.00, 1<sup>st</sup> Tarporley Scouts £600.00, Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Toddlers £175.00, Tarporley Done Room Pre-school £175.00, Tarporley and District Autumn Club £450.00, Tarporley War Memorial Hospital £800.00, Tarporley Wanderers F. C. £400.00, Tarporley Community High School Karting £250.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tarporley Brownies £175.00, Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church Youth Club £275.00, Tarporley CE Primary School £400.00, Tarporley Royal British Legion allotments £150.00, Tarporley Health Centre £200.00. Giving a total disbursement of £4,400.00. John Macdonald, Administrator to the Trustees, November 2006

## BEESTON STATION

Tarporley residents may like to be appraised of the situation regarding the attempts to get the station reopened.

In the early 1990s the Friends of Beeston Station made overtures to the then rail authorities to consider the reopening, but the project dropped into abeyance, possibly due to the magnitude of the task. But in 2001 following Bunbury Parish Council's request to maintain or improve bus services to their village, it was agreed to set up a local area transport needs assessment, involving the villages around the focal point of the Beeston railway station site. The Cheshire Community Council was asked to conduct a survey under the auspices of the Cheshire Rural Transport Partnership. Accordingly a questionnaire was prepared and circulated throughout the district and its findings made known in 2003.

As far as the station was concerned the results of the survey suggested that although there was a considerable interest in the station, the projected patronage would not give sufficient revenue to make the rebuilding and reopening viable. The Committee of the Beeston Area Transport Needs Assessment group of local Parish Councils found that the results of the survey were flawed in so far as they did not include possible movements into the area by train such as: 55,000 people visit Beeston Castle every year, they all have to travel by road. 1,000,000 people travel to Chester by train and stay for more than one night, they cannot travel to Beeston Castle except by hire car or visit the Peckforton Hills, but they can go by train to Shrewsbury, the North Wales Coast and Manchester and Liverpool. It was not suggested that all of these people should travel by train to the castle or do journeys from Chester by train to visit the area, but some indeed would do so.

We asked the County Council to check our estimates of potential rail travellers, but in spite of a number of reminders they did not do so, but continued to request that we produce a robust business case to include the project in the County Transport Plan, which we could not do without the confirmation of our estimates.

In 2005 we submitted our case for inclusion in the County Plan without our "robust Business case" but included our estimated figures including our view that the catchment area for the station should be extended beyond the immediate area of the station to include the population living within a 15 minutes drive time of the station. This would include the villages of Tattenhall

and Kelsall and would produce a population of 19,491 (2001 census). We had support from the Chester City Council and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

The County felt that we had not submitted enough to include the station project within the Transport Plan. We in reply asked them to at least conduct a professional survey, which they did earlier this year. That survey showed large support for the project but because the Department for Transport and Network Rail will only look at reopening projects with a catchment area within 5+ kilometres there are insufficient people living in the area.

The standards laid down for rural areas are inappropriate to our local circumstances, we do have an existing railway line, trains do run on it for 26 miles without stopping, some of which are one coach "trains". It is probably the longest stretch of line without intermediate stops in the North of England. To get to Crewe Station involves a road journey of at least ¾ hour plus parking time at the car park. The train operators on the other hand state that stopping for 2 ½ minutes at the reopened Beeston Station would cause irritation to passengers on the train because they may miss their connection at Crewe and cause congestion at that station. No account is made that we all have to travel to Crewe to catch a train, or that if the trains are scheduled that critically then passengers must already be missing their connections. Arriva Trains Wales have also stated that "looking at a map of the area, it is difficult to see where the station would obtain its customers..."! So where does Crewe get its passengers from?

We had no alternative but to ask our constituency MP Stephen O'Brien to take up our case with the Transport Minister to endeavour to get the rules changed. Stephen O'Brien has addressed our comments to the Minister and will let us know when he receives a reply. (at the time of going to press).

The County have suggested that we should use the 84 bus route, but unfortunately it only directly serves a part of the area and does not go to Crewe Station!

**Derek Marshall Beeston Area Transport Needs Assessment. November 5 2006.**

### **Extract from Department for Transport's letter to Stephen O'Brien MP re Beeston Station November 14 2006.**

"The current guidance on the subject is contained in "New Stations: A Guide for Promoters", published by the SRA in September 2004. This document does not specify a particular catchment area which must be applied in all cases. On the contrary, it makes it clear that it is for those considering proposals for new stations to ensure that the assumed catchment area reflects the distance that potential passengers might be expected to travel when all local circumstances are taken into account. It will no doubt have been on that basis that Scott Wilson selected 5 km as a reasonable distance in this case..... The Department goes on to say "...The Scott Wilson report does suggest, however, that there is unlikely to be a robust business case for it and I note that Cheshire County Council did not make the proposal a priority in their Local Transport Plan." **Tom Harris, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Transport.**

**Cheshire County Councillor  
Eddisbury Division**

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

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

**Councillor Mr. T. Hill** 01829 732804  
**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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Phone (01829)</u>
Mr. E. Boynes	733127
Dr. R. Brierley	732539
Mr. R. Craven	732869
Mrs. L. Burrows	733228
Mrs. Dawn Joyce	730824
Mrs. J. Greenwood	730032
Mr. T. Hill (VRBC) Chairman	732804
Mrs. H. Nickson	730601
Mr. G. Lees	733832
Mr. K. Parker	732188
Mr. T. Spark	732763
Mrs. J. Wall	733155

Parish Clerk

**Mr. J. Macdonald** 01829 733496  
parishclerk@tarpорley.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 period is set aside prior to the commencement of the meeting during which members of the public can raise parish matters which are of concern to them.

**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 various other organisations.

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

**Planning Committee**

Composed of all Parish Councillors and meets as required

**Traffic and Highways Working Group**

Councillors R. Craven (Spokesperson), T. Hill, H. Nickson, T. Spark, L. Burrows.

**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 R. Craven, K. Parker, J. Wall (Spokesperson).

**Community Security Working Group.**

Councillors R. Craven, Greenwood (Spokesperson), H. Nickson, T. Spark.

**Best Kept Village Working Group**

Councillors G. Lees, H. Nickson, J. Wall.

**Cemetery Working Group**

Councillors T. Hill, J. Wall.

**Christmas Lights and Celebrations Working Group**

Councillors J. Greenwood, H. Nickson, T. Spark (Spokesperson)

**Budget and Forward Planning Working Group**

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

**Playground Working Group**

Councillors J. Greenwood, G. Lees (Spokesperson), H. Nickson.

**Footpaths and Trees**

Councillor J. Greenwood.

**Monthly Finance**

Councillor T. Spark.

**Rowcliffe Homes**

Councillors J. Foden and Mrs. J. Wall

**Arthur Meredith Memorial Trust**

Councillors R. Craven, T. Hill (P.C. Chairman), J. Wall

**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. Lees

**Helen Watson Commemoration**

Councillors T. Spark, J. Wall

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

**Parish Council Surgeries**

Surgeries are held in the Committee Room of the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every month except August at 6.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and discuss matters of concern to them informally with Parish Councillors

**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

**Clerk's Corner**

Many who have moved in to the village did so because of the vibrancy and convenience of the local village centre shops and businesses. Most of these businesses are small traders with the owner entirely dependent on local trade to generate sufficient turnover to provide a living income. Our local traders will only continue to operate provided enough of us use them on a regular basis, not just for a once or twice a month "top up" but also as the regular suppliers of our needs. Many of the shops source their supplies locally so not only would you be indirectly supporting other local firms but supporting the drive to sustainability with short delivery journeys from supplier to shop. If you are able to walk to the shops then this will not only help keep you fit but will avoid the greenhouse gas emissions that your car would produce on the run to the out of town supermarket. So to keep a vibrant and sustainable village please review your shopping habits, support your local traders and shop local.

On another tack I could not help but notice how this hot summer affected nature's bounty; very noticeable was the huge crop of hazelnuts, I am told this was due to the early hot spell. Unfortunately the squirrels seemed to get most of the nuts before they had time to grow and ripen. Did anyone notice any other such unusual effects from the hot spell?