



News from Watlington Community Office

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February 2010

New Parish Council Chairman - Ian Hill



Following the resignation of Angie Paterson, Ian Hill was elected Chairman at the Full Council Meeting in January. Ian Hill has lived in Watlington for twelve years and in South Oxfordshire for nearly 30 years. His principle reason for serving on the Council is a wish to help keep Watlington the special place that it is. He works full time for a risk management consultancy in Abingdon, involved mainly in transport related safety. As secretary of the Watlington Environment Group he is

a regular member of work parties trying to restore the Chalk Pits to provide an area of chalk grassland with all the wildflowers that includes.

Ian Hill gave formal thanks to Angie Paterson for all her work and stated that she had led the Council well during her time as Chairman and helped to keep it focused on its business.

Quarrington Place

We have reported the flooding problems in the location to the County Council who are investigating this issue. We have sent photographic evidence to the County Council. We have asked for signage to be put up warning people about the flooding and we urge all our residents to be careful around this area. We are in regular contact with the County Council for updates on this issue.

Pot holes

The office has made a list of all potholes in Watlington and has sent it to the County Council. We note that these are getting repaired at last.

Air Quality

The first meeting of the Air Quality Steering Group has been held and below are the main points:

1. The key area of concern is around the Town Hall.
2. DEFRA have a set process that has to be worked through but it was agreed that we are doing much of what would be required.
3. The work on the traffic flows is important. Malcolm Bowler from OCC confirmed that it is a priority and that it is on the list for funding in the new financial year. However being realistic he thought that it likely to be later in the year before we can hope to see anything done. This is partly due to realigning budgets according to urgent issues as they arise. The recent weather conditions are inevitably putting pressure on road surfacing due to the formation of potholes in the icy weather.
4. The school plan involving the walking buses is important so we need to encourage this and support in whatever ways we can.
5. Other areas to look at are, encouraging parking on the edge of town and the staggering of the Icknield buses leaving.

Police Update

PCSO Diane Greenwood C9840 and PC Ian Kent 4555

A speed enforcement Operation was run recently on the B4009 Britwell Rd exiting Watlington as part of our ongoing response to community concerns. The Operation was run with Roads Policing who deployed their Speed Laser Device from 0800 to 1000 Hrs. During this period the highest speed recorded was

32 MPH for two cars with the remainder below 30 MPH (the main bulk in the mid to low 20's).This may have been due in part to the very cold weather as a number of drivers slow down considerably on experiencing the icy conditions.

Due to the above, no Fixed Penalty Notices were given out for speeding. However a van was stopped for no Vehicle Excise Licence which turned out to be uninsured, therefore it was seized and the driver given a £200 Fixed Penalty Notice for driving with no insurance.

With regard to the Speeding issues in the above location and others in and around Watlington the Local Neighbourhood Police team will continue to conduct various Operations on a regular basis.

The next police surgery is with PCSO Diane Greenwood and she will be at the end of **Blenheim Road, Shirburn on Saturday 27th February 11am - 12 noon and then at the Watlington Community Office from 1- 2pm**

If you wish to contact PCSO Diane Greenwood on any issue
Tel. 0845 8 505 505 -to leave a message or report an incident or email at:

Diane.greenwood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively you can always leave a message via the Parish Office.

Discussion Items for February 2010 Meetings

- Finance - Review of Financial Controls
- Finance - Car Park Contribution Review
- Strategy - Rates of Hire for West Room/Community Office
- Strategy - New Fitness Equipment
- Strategy - AGM Procedure
- Strategy - Standing Orders Review
- Finance - New Fitness Equipment
- Planning - Planning Award

Dates of forthcoming meetings

Planning Committee - Tues 2nd March and 6th April

Full Council - Tues 9th March

Operations - Wednesday 17th March at 10am

Strategy - Tuesday 23rd March

Finance - Tuesday 16th February

All meetings start at 8pm and are held in the Community Office unless otherwise stated. We welcome residents attending any of these meetings as observers. If people wish to speak on a particular agenda item it is necessary to contact the Parish Clerk during office hours by noon the day before the meeting. Minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available to members of the public and can be viewed on our website or in the Parish Office during opening hours.

The Parish Office is normally open:

9.30am-12.30pm Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri

9.30am -1pm on Thurs when the Citizens Advice Bureau is also open.

Collated by Kristina Tynan, Clerk and Angie Paterson, Councillor.