

News from Watlington Parish Council



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Below are some notes from the Parish Council about issues that members of the public have been asking us about recently.

New bollards opposite the Town Hall

Parking on the double yellow lines on the bend of the road from Couching Street into the High Street has long been a problem. Parking on the pavement there is a greater problem! Over the years the Parish Council has had complaints from people using pushchairs and wheelchairs over the fact that they cannot get past the cars parked on the pavement. We have also received complaints from the County Council over the fact that when vehicles park on the road there the buses cannot get round. This causes delays and also adds to the congestion and air pollution in the centre of the town. As regular reminders failed to solve the problem we were advised that the County Council would install bollards to prevent the problem. Amazingly people are now parking on the even narrower parts of the pavement making it more dangerous for pedestrians. The car park remains free of charge and with the introduction of the spaces limited to 2 hours parking it is usually possible to park in the car park. The limited waiting spaces are also among the nearest to the shops. The Parish Council hopes that if drivers understand the problems we are seeking to resolve they will be more willing to observe the regulations. The local police are aware of the situation and sadly it may be that enforcement is the only way forward.

Grant Applications - If a local organisation wishes to apply for a grant the form is available on our website or by contacting the Parish Clerk. The deadline for receiving these applications is the **7th October 2008**.

New Play Equipment

Please come and support the 'Fun Day at the Recreation Ground' on **Sunday 21st September 12 noon - 5pm**. Stalls, Bar, Food, Games etc. We still need to raise £40,000 towards this scheme!

Britwell Road Traffic Calming

Oxfordshire County Council have confirmed that work on this scheme will start on **August 18th**.

Lorries in the Town

Many people perceive that there are many illegal lorries going through Watlington, however the police and trading standards have been checking lorries on a regular basis and have found that there are very few that actually enter Watlington illegally!

On the last trading standard visit it was found that all lorries stopped were legal.

Below is a map showing the weight restriction area, which is much larger than most people think. On and within the thick black lines show where lorries can deliver to legally.

PC Ian Kent, from Thames Valley Police stated "Our most recent operation was on 08/07/08 over a two hour period (around 5 pm) in which no HGV's were sighted and therefore stopped, but several car motorists were given fixed penalty tickets for speeding and mobile phone offences on the Shirburn Road B4009 into Watlington".

Richard Wightman from Trading Standards had the following comments to make "Joint Trading Standards / Police checks in Watlington on heavy goods vehicles breaching the 7.5t weight limit through the town do appear to have had a benefit in reducing the number of vehicles reported to Trading Standards. On a recent check the majority of vehicles stopped were only delivering to premises within the restricted area and therefore allowed to do so. This has been backed up by further regular Trading Standards checks using high visibility vehicles - fewer breaches are being seen from vehicles using the road as a short cut to other destinations. However officers will

continue to be vigilant and regular checks will be carried out in order to determine if the reduction in numbers is a permanent one."

If you log onto www.oxfordshire.gov.uk in the left hand menu under Business is Trading Standards information click on Business Advice then Vehicles and Traffic it has all the details of the Neighbourhood Weight Watch Scheme. Trading Standards also have an answer phone 01865 810839 in case anyone would prefer to leave a message.

They would like witnesses to let them know the time, date, registration number and any markings on the vehicle also the road number, name or what direction the vehicle was heading and if you witnessed it through the entire weight restriction. Also let them know if you would be willing to attend court and write a formal statement if necessary. Another option for residents of Watlington is that they can phone or email details of lorries that they think are illegal to the Parish Office, who will pass onto the police for checking.



Dates of forthcoming meetings

Planning Committee: Tuesday 2nd September

Full Council: Tuesday 9th September

Strategy Committee: Tuesday 16th September

Operations Committee: Wednesday 24th September

Residents are welcome to attend any of these meetings as observers. If people wish to speak on a particular issue please discuss with the Parish Clerk during office hours in advance of 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 open:

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

10-12.30pm on Thurs when the Citizens Advice Bureau is also open.

Collated by Angie Paterson, Chairman and Kristina Tynan, Clerk to the Parish Council.