



## News from Watlington Parish Council



December 2008

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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.*

#### **Oxfordshire County Council Traffic Consultation**

The County Council is currently consulting on a number of traffic proposals. The discussions on some of these proposals have been going on for several years, arising from the 'Suggestions for a better Watlington' exercise in 2002 where people particularly asked the Parish Council to work towards particular changes. However some of the proposals suggested by the County Council are not in line with ideas put forward by the Parish Council, and indeed some we are quite concerned about. The Parish Council, like individual residents, is a consultee in the process and will be responding. We urge any residents with concerns to write to the County Council too.

We have already expressed our concern to the County Council informally and they have indicated that once they have responses in from residents they will discuss them with us.

The work recently done on the yellow lines around town is not connected with this. This was routine work to repaint existing lines that were not up to current standards.

#### **The Paper Shop.**

Following our approach to the COOP they have indicated that they do not intend to renew the lease on the Paper Shop when it runs out in

March. The owner of the property have so far declined to discuss future plans with us.

#### **Little Orchard/Masons Wood.**

The Icknield Lodge have indicated that they may be willing to sell this land to the Parish Council to be kept as open space for the community in perpetuity. The possibility is being actively pursued and it is our hope that we shall be able to follow it through. We are, however, at the beginning of the process. The Parish Council may need to seek grant funding to make a purchase possible and if so will need evidence that this is something the community wishes us to do on its behalf. In the New Year we will be seeking an indication from residents as to whether or not this proposal is supported. Please watch out for this is you would like us to proceed.

#### **Prospect Place Flooding**

The flooding at Prospect Place was dealt with Oxfordshire County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The problem was mainly due to leaves blocking the drainage pipes at this location.

#### **Brook Street /Quarrington Place Flooding**

The investigations by the County Council have been delayed due to the subsidence at 1 Cuxham Road. The collapse of the wall and surrounding area into the stream is probably the main cause of the flooding. The residents of No 1 have told OCC that they are waiting for a structural engineer to assess the damage to the building.

The building may have to be underpinned. Following the results of these investigations the owners will attempt to clear the debris from the brook. OCC will then carry out extensive tests on the culvert pipes at Quarrington Place area.

## **Bus Services in Watlington**

We wrote last month about the need for information which can be used to support claims for continued bus subsidies to keep the services that we currently have running when they are reviewed. Thank you to those who have offered to gather information - we would still like to hear from others please.

If you are a regular user of any of our bus services and would be willing to provide us with information on the services please do get in touch with us. We need to gather information on the number of people using particular services and also any suggestions for improvements or problems encountered. This information will be collected by the Parish Transport Representative (PTR) for Watlington, Ian Hill, and will be reported to the OCC Public Transport team.

If you can help, or wish to discuss this further, please contact Kristina at the Parish Office, 01491 613867.

## **Christmas Tree Recycling**

There are lots of ways to get rid of your Christmas tree this year. You can put it in your brown bin if you have one or take it to one of the County Council recycling centres. They are open from Monday - Sunday 8am to 5pm. Some local retailers are open at certain times for customers to return the trees bought from them. For example the Tree Barn will be open for trees to be returned on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January from 9am-5pm and on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January from 9am to 12 noon. This service is only for Christmas trees and at the times listed. Please make sure you remove all decorations before taking your tree for recycling.

## **Refuse collection dates for Christmas and New Year**

Refuse and Recycling will be collected on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December.

There will be no garden waste collection over the Christmas period.

## **Dates of forthcoming meetings**

**Planning Committee** - Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

**Full Council** - Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

**Strategy Committee**- Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

**Operations Committee** Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10am

*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, However if people wish to speak on a particular agenda item please discuss with 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.

## **Police Office Opening at the Community Office**

The Police base within the Community Office was officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> November by Lady Mogg. Our PCSO Diane Greenwood will be based here and residents are encouraged to pay a visit if they have any concerns. Diane is out and about so if anyone wishes to speak with her please contact the Parish Office to check her availability.



## **Office Hours over Christmas and New Year**

The Office will close at 12.30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open at 9.30am on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

The Parish Office is normally open:  
9.30am-12.30pm Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri  
10-12.30pm on Thurs when the Citizens Advice Bureau is also open.

*All Members of the Parish Council wish the residents of Watlington a peaceful Christmas and Seasons Greetings.*

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



