

Dogmersfield Newsletter

Edition 15

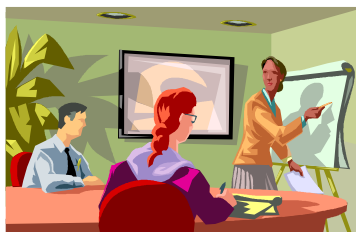
December 2006

WELCOME



Welcome to the December edition of the Dogmersfield Parish newsletter. As the festivities approach we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you to all our contributors over the past year who have helped make our newsletter informative and interesting. As always we welcome any article for inclusion.

PARISH PLAN CONSULTATION EVENING



Thank you to all those residents who came to the Parish Plan consultation evening in September. Approximately 60 people listened to a short presentation from Jo Dixon, (Hampshire's Community Liaison Officer) and Jonathan Glenn (our County Councillor). An excellent supper was followed by an animated discussion about the contents of the Plan. Stephen Gorys and Ken Crookes (our District Councillors) were able to answer questions and provide additional information.

A number of issues were raised during the course of the evening and the Parish Plan is currently being revised and rewritten to incorporate the changes suggested.

These include:

- A new section on Traffic which will encourage ongoing consultations to address the widespread concern over the traffic chaos in Chatter Alley and speeding on Chalky Lane.

- A revised section on the environment to emphasise the importance of the canal, the SSSI's and the general flora and fauna.
- Action to be taken to address the issue of 'signage blight'.
- Reference to be made in the Plan to the opposition, by the majority of residents, to any sort of affordable housing or any large or small scale development. It was accepted, however, that 'starter homes' might not be discouraged if a suitable site became available.

Once these changes have been incorporated, it was unanimously agreed to put forward the Plan for adoption by the Parish Council.

A grant of £750 has been provided by Hart District Council to help with the printing costs of the final version. The Parish Plan Group hopes to be able to deliver a copy to each resident in the New Year.

DOGMERSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL



Revised plans for a slightly smaller hall have recently been sent to Hart District Council because of difficulty with funding from the diocese.

If approval is given, work is expected to start early in the New Year. Builders will be using the Fisk field and parents will be urged to either walk their children to school or to park in the Queens Head car park

to keep congestion on Chatter Alley to a minimum.

When work on the hall is complete, there will be a gate linking the Fisk field to the school playground, which should encourage parents to use the field for drop off and pick up.

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL RECYCLING



A reminder that the Alternate Bin Collection scheme started in October.

Your non-recyclable household waste is collected one week and your recyclable waste the following week. You can order a larger blue recycling bin (free) by ringing 01252 774477 before January 2007. After this date, new bins will have to be paid for.

If you have a small blue bin which needs collecting, call the above number or email abc@hart.gov.uk. In addition each household should receive a glass crate, the contents being collected on the 'blue' recycling day.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS



The Parish Council would like to remind you that Hart District Council has requested that all prospective planning applications (including garages, conservatories, extensions and alterations to listed buildings) be submitted and discussed informally

with the Parish Council's planning working party, prior to an official submission.

A list of current applications received from Hart will be displayed on the Parish notice boards.

To view current local applications please visit: www.hart.gov.uk .

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



The Parish Council considered this revised application by the Four Seasons Hotel to allow Clay Pigeon shooting for six hours per day for six days a week for a trial period of two years.

We accepted that the Hotel had made improvements by reducing the number of butts and moving the location of the shooting down into a natural hollow nearer to the hotel so as to reduce the disturbance caused by the noise.

Prior to the submission of our objection we were encouraged to see that two other Parish Councils, some twenty residents and, more importantly, the Planning Officers at Hart District Council were all recommending refusal of the application.

We made it very clear in our submission that noise was the main concern of all parties and that the proposed, almost continuous, shooting for six days a week was excessive.

We suggested that a proper, well publicised trial shoot should be arranged so that residents could listen to the noise and make their comments. We also asked that, should the Council be minded to approve the application, the permitted trial period be reduced from two years to six months.

The application was considered by the District Council's planning committee on the 15th of November. The committee decided to go against the recommendations of the Planning Officer and grant permission for a reduced period of one year.

The Parish Council has asked Stephen Gorys, the District

Councillor present at the Planning Meeting who introduced and supported the application, to provide us with an explanation as to why this decision was taken forward and what the Parish Council would have to do in the future to ensure that the views of the residents are given due consideration in the decision making process.

The Parish Council will be writing to Hart to make proposals on how the shooting should be monitored, and complaints recorded, during the trial year. We will advise you about this in due course

HITCHES LANE

The development of houses on this side of Hitches Lane took a step nearer to becoming reality when Hart District Council debated the subject last month.

The possibility of breaching the natural boundary formed by Hitches Lane, and allowing development, was first proposed by the Conservative administration at Hart District Council when the site was put into the Local Plan some years ago.

Having publicly stated that the Council might allow this site to be used for housing, even if only as a reserve site, it was a clear message to developers that they should perhaps proceed with a planning application and see what happens.

The rest is now history. Applications were submitted and refused. The developers appealed and were successful, but the office of the Deputy Prime Minister rejected the appeal on a technicality. The developers then appealed against the ODPM and the decision was reversed!

Finally Hart District Council submitted a High Court challenge to the reasons surrounding the decision made by the Deputy Prime Minister. They were told that they had a slim chance of succeeding but even if they did the only outcome would be for the DPM to reconsider his decision,

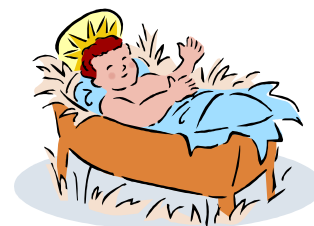
The developers submitted more arguments as to why they should be allowed to proceed with development of the site. Hart District Council took further legal advice and was told in no uncertain terms that the chance of success was very low and that the ensuing

costs could be very high.

Council Officers then had the unenviable task of deciding whether, against serious legal advice, to continue with the challenge and possibly incur high costs that would have to be born by the tax payers of the District or withdraw gracefully. In all honesty they had little choice.

One good thing may come out of this long running saga. Perhaps all the District Councillors, irrespective of political persuasion, will now work together for the people of Hart to make sure that this never happens again.

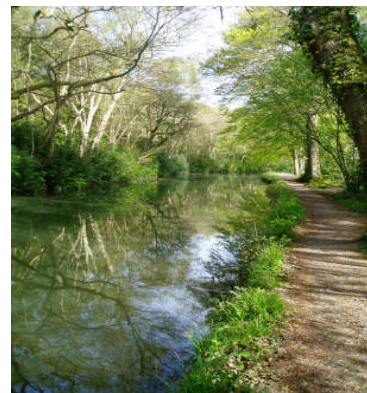
DOGMERSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



The school Christmas fair is on Saturday 9th December 11.00 – 2.00pm. All residents are very welcome. There will be gift and craft stalls, refreshments, and carol singing by the children.

The school Christmas productions will be at All Saints church on 19th December.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL AT RISK



Ken Crookes, one of Hart DC's two members of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee, writes:

The Basingstoke canal is an important part of the rural environment of Dogmersfield. It bisects the village and links a number of the footpaths. The canal and its towpaths are used extensively by bird watchers, dog walkers, cyclists and canoeists. For most of its length it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its variety of wildlife and fauna.

The future of the canal once again hangs in the balance. The canal would not survive without the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society, a charity run by enthusiastic and able volunteers who raise money and give their time to do works such as rebuilding of locks and providing water pumping systems through the locks. The barge John Pinkerton, a familiar site to walkers on the towpath, is operated by the Society and helps to raise about £20,000 per annum towards funds.

The canal is jointly owned by Hampshire and Surrey County Councils and is funded by them and the District Councils, including Hart District Council. Day to day management, operation and maintenance are the responsibility of the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) from its headquarters in Mychett, Surrey at a total cost of £625,000 (in 2006/7).

In recent years the condition of the canal has declined and the local authorities simply cannot afford to maintain it in good condition. Following meetings with British Waterways, the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust it is clear that none of these organisations are in a position to take over the canal, but other options are still being pursued and complete closure has thankfully been ruled out. Until a better solution is agreed, the local authorities are being asked to continue to fund the canal's operating expenses.

If you feel you would like to support the work of the Canal Society in maintaining this invaluable rural amenity, please contact them on the numbers below.

If you would like a full copy of the report received by the Joint

Management Committee, please contact Nicola Morris at Surrey County Council on 020 8541 7198, or nicola.morris@surreycc.gov.uk or visit the BCA web site at www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Senior Co-ordinator, Brian Leversha, writes:

The Dogmersfield NHW comes under the Fleet and District NHW scheme. Our NHW consists of five local coordinators:

Brian Leversha, Church Lane and the out lying areas.

Alan Barton, Church Lane and the Queens Head area.

Jane Glossop, Ormersfield Lane.

Kaz Pakula, Chatter Alley.

Sue Smith, Chalky Lane.

We ask the members of the scheme to report any unusual or suspicious behaviour to their co-ordinators which is then passed on to the police.

Travellers have also been a problem so if anyone asks to use your phone, or appears to be looking for possible encampment sites, please report this immediately.

A newsletter is distributed every three months. This gives general advice on security systems and protection of property, plus crime information from the Fleet area as supplied by the police.

The only cost involved as a member of the NHW is an occasional voluntary donation. A small joining fee is charged. There have been a number of new residents in the village in the last 18 months, so if you wish to become a member please give me a ring (01252 615534) and I will add your name to our list.

We have had very few incidents in the past, but recently a house was broken into while the owner was away and an unsuccessful attempt was also made on the neighbouring property. Newly planted hedging has been stolen and there has been the theft of cars, motor cycles and bicycles over the last year.

FOUR SEASONS, HAMPSHIRE, FIREWORKS SCHEDULE



The hotel has kindly agreed to provide the parish council with a list of dates for projected firework displays that are out of the normal festive seasons. We will publish these dates in future newsletters and display them on the notice boards.

FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT



TAG Aviation is appealing against Rushmoor Borough Council's refusal for additional weekend flying. Dogmersfield Parish Council has already submitted their objections and these will be taken into consideration at the appeal.

The date for the Public Inquiry into the appeal has been set for 23rd January 2007 and is scheduled to last for 4 days. For further information please see www.rushmoor.gov.uk or telephone 01252 398398.

COMMUNITY BEAT POLICE OFFICER



We would like to wish our Community Beat officer, Alex Batten, good luck in his forthcoming retirement and thank him for his regular attendance and support at our parish council meetings.

His successor is yet to be announced and we will keep you informed.

VILLAGE CAROLS



A band of stalwart Carol Singers will go round the village on Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th December. Come and join us if you want to sing and raise money for Dogmersfield Church. Carol sheets will be provided, just bring a torch and wrap up warm!

On Sunday 10th December meet at 6.00 pm at "Gossips", when we will sing along Chatter Alley heading towards the Queen's Head.

On Sunday 17th December meet at 6.00 pm at Floods Farm, when we will sing along Chalky Lane and Church Lane heading towards the Queen's Head.

For details of all the December services please refer to the parish notice boards, however, there are special services on Sunday 17th December at 10.30 am with a Carol Service and on Sunday 24th December at 10.30 am there is the Family Christingle Service for children.

Midnight Holy Communion will be at 11.30 pm on Sunday 24th December and the following Sunday, 31st December at 10.30 am, Sarah Groombridge will lead a New Year's Eve Family Service. (There will be no services at All Saints on Christmas Day.)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH 60s NIGHT DISCO



The Friends of All Saints Dogmersfield held a very successful 60s dance in the Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney early this month.

Some ninety people enjoyed dinner together followed by dancing to "Resurrection". There was a raffle and a quiz and the prize for best fancy dress was won by Mr and Mrs Frank Taylor of Harewarren Farm [see picture below]. The organisers wish to thank all those who came along and supported this village event.



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Your Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:-

Alastair Clark
Chairman and planning group coordinator
Telephone 01252 615498
Alastair@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Mike Ricketts
Vice Chairman and Traffic Management
Telephone 01252 810689
Mike@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

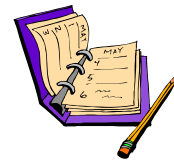
Yvonne Beaven
Community Liaison Officer
Telephone 01252 614045
Yvonne@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Christine Lowe
Environment & Road Safety
Telephone 01252 811218
Christine@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Peter Curnow-Ford
Finance Officer
Telephone 01256 701878
Peter@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Ann Goddard
Clerk to the Council
Telephone 01252 628975
Clerk@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

PROPOSED FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2007



15th January
19th February
19th March
16th April Annual parish assembly
14th May Annual General Meeting
18th June

Hampshire County Council INFORMATION CENTRES

WHATEVER YOUR QUESTION
ABOUT PUBLIC SERVICES
IN HAMPSHIRE
WHY NOT CONTACT US ON OUR
FREE HELPLINE?

0800 028 0888
Email: info.centres@hants.gov.uk

Textphone: 0808 100 24 84
(for customers with hearing or
speech difficulties)

TEXT Messaging: 07797 877 010

www.hants.gov.uk/info