



Citizens Awake

The pleasant area in which we live is increasingly under threat of over development as central government continues to demand more houses be built. More decision making will be taken away from local authorities and given to remote regional bodies. This is happening as the unelected South West and South East Regional Assemblies assume greater powers.

These moves are supposed to bring greater efficiency to the administration of local government, but at what cost? We are bound to have less influence in the decisions affecting our lives and the environment in which we live. Nonetheless it is important that we make our views known where it matters.

Some recent proposals for development have evoked protests by local action groups but there is no real evidence of concern in the wider community. Parish councillors work hard to protect your interests but cannot do it all alone. What we need are more volunteers to come forward to work for the good of the parish as a whole, there is plenty to be done. The opportunity to serve on working committees and groups is always there and your help could make a difference. If you would like to help contact the Parish Clerk with details about yourself and what you have to offer.

If we are to develop the facilities required for a parish of our size and cope with an increasing population we must ensure we get our fair share of available resources and one way of doing that would be to establish a community action group. We need volunteers prepared to give their time and expertise.

We have a predominantly elderly population but also some children and young people. It is important that we develop a community and infrastructure to accommodate the needs of all age groups.

Each year the Parish Council considers a plan for the next two to three years and action required over the next twelve months. We are shortly to undertake this exercise and any thoughts or ideas are welcome. Write to me at the Parish Office if you have any.

Cllr. Paul Thackray, Chairman

Avon Castle main drainage scheme

Other than some tidying up the scheme is now finished. However, Wessex Water are disappointed that the take up for connection is so low. It is of course not too late and I hope that more of the residents do connect.

Gypsy and traveller news

The County Council is still trying to identify sites within the whole East Dorset area, but many areas are protected by SSSI.

At Blandford The North Dorset District Council rented a field from a farmer just outside Stourpaine, so that they could direct gypsies and travellers there during the Steam Fair. Working in conjunction with County Council and the Dorset Police, who used the special powers they now have, the entire exercise was very successful. They were able to move people on within hours and general complaints were minimal and crime figures drastically reduced. This pilot scheme was considered very successful.

Pegasus Crossing Horton Road

The above crossing has been given the go ahead by the Cabinet at County Council and I am advised that work is likely to start on the 3rd January. As well as being a safe crossing for all pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use the Castlemaine Trailway, it is my view that it will be an extremely efficient traffic calming measure.

Right of Way Horton Road Recreation Ground

This has now been confirmed and will appear on the definitive map. It is for pedestrians only.

Cllr. Ann Warman

Flytipping

The Environment Agency in partnership with East Dorset District Council has selected our Parish to test out a new pilot scheme against flytippers. Warning notices will be put up at known flytipping hotspots in the pilot areas. Posters will also be distributed in the parishes. The aim is to prompt people to report anyone seen or suspected of flytipping to the Agency so that offenders can be caught and prosecuted.

If you see or suspect anyone of fly-tipping ring the free 24 hour Environment Agency emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60. In the East Dorset area they can also call 01202 886201 ext. 2006. Give them as much information as possible.

Keep this number handy and help us to keep St Leonards & St Ives a nice place to live.

Skateboard and BMX Facility

Sometime ago, a number of local youngsters met with the Council and requested that consideration be given to providing additional recreation facilities within the Parish. As a result, the Parish Council has since funded the installation of a small basketball practice area at Braeside and arranged the purchase of goal-nets for the 5 A-side football area, also at Braeside.

In addition, the council agreed to consider an associated request for a Skateboard /BMX facility, subject to the following conditions:

- *A Project Group, comprised of parents / youngsters / willing helpers be set up to plan and organise the scheme.*
- *The Project Group raise the funding required through sponsored activities, donations and grants.*
- *A suitable venue be identified within the Parish, -which could be made available as a Skate-park and not cause a nuisance to local residents*

These conditions, along with other information, formed the basis of a letter / survey which the Parish Council sent to residents living adjacent to Braeside Recreation Ground. Regrettably, the Council was unable to acknowledge individual replies but, through this newsletter, can assure all who responded that their comments and suggestions were appreciated.

Usage of Braeside has been considered. However, early discussions suggest that the park has insufficient space available and that associated noise could be socially intrusive. Nevertheless, the Parish Council remains willing to assist in the search for an alternative / suitable venue but must stress that it is not in a position to manage or fund the project.

Three volunteers have already offered help but more are needed if the project is to **'get off the ground'**. If you are keen to assist with the Project Group, please telephone or write to *Skateboard Project Group* , C/o The Parish Office, Braeside Village Hall, St Leonards, BH24 2PJ Tel. 01425 482727. *Act now - and get the Skatepark off the ground!*

Sewerage capacity problems might put infill development on hold.

Early this year an application to replace tents and touring caravans at an established site in Boundary Lane with 96 static homes was deferred by East Dorset District Council. The reason was concern over the capacity of the sewerage system. Flooding has been an increasing problem for some years on both sides of the A31.

All of the St Leonards and St Ives catchment area north of the A31 drains or is pumped to a single trunk sewer in Boundary Lane, en route to treatment at Palmersford.

Wessex Water has now responded by saying that additional work is being considered, due to the high level of infill development in St Leonards and St Ives. East Dorset District Council has been asked to provide a range of projected infill development scenarios.

The current trend for sub-division of plots has resulted in about 18 extra dwellings per year for the ten years up to 2003. However future trends are more difficult to predict. Decisions by inspectors hearing appeals show little consistency. If the appeal for flats in Lions Lane is successful, a higher rate of applications might result.

An engineering solution by Wessex Water could take some years to implement.

There is plenty of precedent for development to be put 'on hold' when there is a lack of sewerage capacity. There must now be a question mark over whether this will happen in St Leonards and St Ives.

Structure Plan abandoned

Work on the next Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan has stopped after both the Government Office for the South West and the Regional Assembly objected to its proposals.

The main grounds for the objection are that there is insufficient concentration of development in the principal urban areas of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch.

It is said that this conflicts with the Government advice contained in Regional Planning Guidance note 10. This urges development to be concentrated to localities where there is already infrastructure and access to potential or existing public transport links.

The consequences (if any) of this decision for our Parish are unknown at present.

Cllr. Mike Dyer

Supporting the Jigsaw Appeal

The Jigsaw Appeal is a registered charity set up to raise £2.5 million to enable the purchase of new advanced scanning machines for the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. This equipment is life-saving in many cases and is essential for the effective diagnosis and treatment of a very wide range of health problems.

To raise funds for the appeal Councillor Willetts is taking on an arduous week-long sponsored trek in July 2005. The trek is across an inhospitable and remote mountainous area in the south of Iceland. The weather is often very poor and he will be rough camping after long days on foot with difficult terrain and with some steep climbs. Although the trek is well-organised and supported it will be no picnic for him!

If you would like to sponsor Councillor Willetts please send a cheque to the Council office in Braeside Road, payable to 'The Jigsaw Appeal'. Alternatively call in to see the Clerk with a donation. Sponsorship monies of at least £2000 have to be raised in advance of the trek so he will be grateful for each and every donation.

Freedom Youth Club

Located in its own Braeside club-house, the Freedom Youth Club is one of the Parish's 'hidden assets'.

Situated to the rear of the Braeside Community Centre, the club opens on Monday and Wednesday evenings throughout the year and membership is available to young persons between the ages of 12 and 21.

Youth Leaders, Nadene Aubrey and John Ashlee, warmly welcome new members who, in turn, are able to enjoy a number of club activities and meet a variety of new friends. Pool, table tennis, music and a snack bar are all available, along with regular BBQ evenings and programmed events to 'entertain and occupy' all year round. And, of course, the atmosphere is deliberately informal, enabling members to simply 'chill out' or 'get involved' as the mood takes them.

Interested in joining? Then pop along to the club-house – meet Nadene and John and sample the advantages of the Freedom Youth Club.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling on the Braeside Road and Horton Road recreation grounds continues to be a problem. Allowing dogs to foul areas where others play is very anti-social behaviour which creates a serious health risk to those, including children, who use these areas. Please do all you can to deter these anti-social people who allow their dogs to defecate in public places and do not clear up the mess, by reporting all incidents to the Parish Clerk. If fouling continues, it will be necessary to ask the District Council's dog warden to take action.

Local Organisations

Do you know what local organisations exist? Have a look at the Parish Web Site www.stleonardspc.org.uk which lists them. If you want to add your organisation to the web site, then please contact me at peterdwalker@dsl.pipex.com.

Peter Walker, Webmaster

Alert

The Parish Council has consistently requested that a 50 mph speed limit should operate on the A31 from a point east of the Ashley Heath interchange. The Highway Agency is now proposing a limit to commence from the Woolsbridge Road roundabout. This would exclude an extremely dangerous stretch of road in particular the complex of roads between Ringwood and the Ashley Heath interchange.

If you would like to support the Parish Council's proposal please complete and sign the slip below and return it to the Parish Office, The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ.

We the undersigned support the Parish Council's request for a 50 mph speed limit on the A31 commencing east of the Ashley Heath interchange.

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

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Signature:

Signature: