

# Newsletter

## St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council

Take Pride in your Parish

September 2013

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER:

Having Chaired the Council from 2005 to 2007, it is a great honour to have been elected in May to Chair it again for this year.

At last it seems that we are on track to provide allotments in the Parish, thanks to a local businessman who has offered us a suitable location on generous terms. The Council will be working to progress this project as quickly as possible within a budget that we can afford.

Committee Chairs for this year are Jenny House (Planning), Bob Warman (Finance) and Barry Goringe (Amenities).

My thanks go to Peter Walker and Ken Brookes, both of whom generously give their time for the benefit of the Parish Council and its residents.

Please keep an eye on our notice boards (listed at the end of this Newsletter). We would welcome seeing you at one of our monthly meetings should there be an item which is of particular interest to you.

Special gratitude goes to Ann Jacobs, our Parish Clerk. Ann's foot was in plaster for several weeks after a home accident. She should have taken sick leave, but in no time at all, found people to give lifts into work and re-arranged her hours to fit. Well done.

Cllr Mike Dyer  
Chairman

### Parish Warding 2015

Although District Council warding will change in 2015, there are no current proposals to change Parish Council wards.

The Boundary Commission will make their final recommendations in October.

When the details are known, the Parish Council will note them, but unless the Parish asks the Boundary Commission for a review, our warding will remain as it is currently.

The Parish has 13 Councillors, allowing a good spread of representation and input from the various communities that comprise St Leonards and St Ives, so it is unlikely that there will be any request for a change.

Cllr Mike Dyer

### Yes it's official you live in one of the best parts of the Country!

Recent media reports show that people live longest in East Dorset. As someone who emigrated here as a child from the industrial North I know what they are talking about. The verdant landscape and large areas of heathland particularly here in this Parish gives a sense of peace which belies the fact that you are close to the conurbation of Poole and Bournemouth; the coast and New Forest. It needs taking care of though and should not be taken for granted.

Your Parish Council is made up of thirteen people dedicated to trying to look after this area, listening to your views and representing your interests. They do their best for you by attending monthly meetings reading the deluge of paper which comes from other bodies and giving up their precious family time for little if any reward. Why? Because they want to protect what they have, their quality of life, the environment for the generations to come. They accept that the world revolves around change but there is good and bad change. They hope that they can influence more of the good. They have taken the opportunity to put their heads above the parapet and as such accept that they cannot keep everyone happy but please let's not

shoot at them like flying ducks they are trying their very best.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Every year the Parish Council is required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting. This is the opportunity for you the Elector to come along and have your say. This year it was held in April and was attended by 39 residents and the Members of the Council.

The main topic was the proposal to utilise part of the Horton Road Village Green for an allotment site. One of the main difficulties of the Parish Council is that it often has to discuss ideas in the open public arena before it has been able to ensure the feasibility of a project. Most companies would ensure that a project was kept in confidence until a feasibility study had been carried out at the very least. The Parish Council cannot do this.

A number of other issues were raised at the meeting such as:-

- Improving communication, better use of website
- Burial costs
- Speed checks for Horton Road
- Reduction in speed limit to 30 along Horton Road
- Signage on roundabouts to direct visitors
- Doing more for Youth

These issues will be given further consideration by the Council.

### Allotments

The Council continues to pursue the search for an appropriate site for allotments to meet its duty to residents. After further investigations the proposal for Horton Road was dismissed after objections were received from a number of residents and the Open Spaces Society in respect of the Village Green status on this site. It was established that the proposal

would not be compliant with the Village Green regulations.

The Council is currently looking at another possible site which is in private ownership on the edge of the Parish. A lot more information is still needed before the Council will be able to decide whether it is feasible.

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### **Grass cutting issues**

You may notice a lack of consistency in respect of grass cutting of the verges. This is because some are the responsibility of the County Council and some the District Council's. The District Council has a greater frequency of cuts within its budget but the County Council has decided that the cutting of verges is of a lower priority than some of its other tasks and has seriously cut its grass maintenance budget. They will instruct grass cutting though where it is a safety issue. If you spot that grass is obstructing the sightlines at a junction you can report this direct on Dorset For you or leave a message with the Parish Clerk who will forward the message to the appropriate person.

Dorset County Council have recognised that there is a problem and hope to address it in next year's budget.

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### **Dropped kerbs Along the A31**

The Council persists with pursuing the reinstalling of the dropped kerbs along the A31 close to the Hospital and Oak Tree Park. We have the written promise that the work is required from Highways Agency however they will not commit any timeframe for completion of the work. We have sought the assistance of the MP who has raised Parliamentary questions and the assistance of the County Council who have given an independent report in support. It is a health and safety issue yet even with all the recent work along this section Highways Agency continue to prevaricate. The Parish Council is committed to see this project completed for the safety of our Parishioners.

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**STOP PRESS:** We have just received a letter from Highways Agency informing us that they have given permission to the County Council to carry out the work on their behalf.

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### **Memorial Garden**

The Parish Council were extremely pleased this year to be able to help support the Ex Services Club by means of a grant of £250 towards the costs of constructing a Memorial Garden. The Club held a formal opening ceremony on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. The President of the Club gave an initial address and said that the garden is not only to commemorate all those who have given their lives in service to this Country, but may also offer tranquillity to any in the community who have lost loved ones or are experiencing traumatic times.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mike Dyer performed the opening ceremony and the Reverend Jude Morton said a prayer and performed a Blessing in the Garden. The Ferndown Air Cadets and Parkstone Sea Cadets took part in the ceremony.

The Club was founded in 1949 by ex servicemen for ex servicemen, but now members are accepted from the wider community. Readers are invited to visit their website

[2saintsclub.wordpress.com](http://2saintsclub.wordpress.com) and their Facebook page St Leonards & St Ives Club.

*Congratulations to the Club on the successful completion of this project.*

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### **Car parking at the Village Hall**

The complex at Braeside Road has grown considerably since its inception. The buildings and facilities have been extended and added to adhoc, unfortunately additional parking provision has not been provided as part of these improvements. This has led to Braeside Road becoming an overspill car park. This makes life difficult for nearby residents and anyone driving along Braeside Road.

The Bowls and Tennis Clubs have concentrated their efforts on informing their Members to car share and arrive by bike or on foot. Unfortunately though this is not always possible as for the Clubs to survive the geographical area that their Members come from has also widened resulting in more Members having to travel by car.

Following liaison with other site users the Council is looking at ways of improving the situation. Improved signage; appeals for more considerate parking and user co-operation will involve little cost and hopefully bring some minor improvement.

The continued commercial viability of the main village hall is essential to the Parish. If the hall fails then the facility will revert back to the Parish Council and the costs will then have to be met by the Taxpayer. But it would not just be the hall that fails it would have a knock on effect to all the other site users.

If you regularly use the hall please try and car share or better still walk or cycle. Please do not assume that you can leave your car in the car park and disappear off site in doing so you are partly responsible for jeopardising a booking for the hall.

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### **Looking After Our Parish**

Please can we ask that you ensure you keep any hedge on your property trimmed back from adjacent pavements or roads. This is particularly important if you are on a corner as an overgrown hedge will often obscure sightlines for vehicles. It is also a hazard if you have any sight impairment; are in a wheelchair or have a pushchair.

Don't leave litter and encourage your children to put it in the bin or take it home.

The Parish Council has bought in additional hours of the Dog Warden to patrol the Parish sites. In previous years we have bought into the Ferndown Lengthsman Service. In March of this year this ceased and we have now agreed with our regular Contractor

Terrafirma Maintenance to carry out this function. This is currently on a trial basis but it was felt we would have a greater flexibility of service and better value for money.

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## Grants

In the last financial year 2012/2013 the Parish Council awarded grants to the following bodies who directly assist those in our community:-

Age Concern – day centre

Friday Friends & Brightside Club  
Village Hall

Greyfriars Minibus

Memorial Garden

CAB – East Dorset

CAB – Ringwood

Royal British Legion

For the current financial year 2013/2014, we have made budgetary provision to increase the grant to the Citizen Advice Bureaux as they strive to assist the growing number of people in our Parish hit by the recession.

Youth has also not been forgotten. The Scouts and Guides HQ is in desperate need of considerable repairs. The Council was approached by them and have agreed to replace the hall floor and gift this to them at a cost of £6,800. The Parish Council was very pleased to be able to assist them in this way and took the number of children helped over the years and the work of the dedicated volunteer helpers into account when making their decision.

The Scouts have also secured further grants from other bodies. We wish them every success with their endeavours.

The Parish Council supports the Youth Club by covering the building insurance and is currently pursuing the County Council who's role is to provide trained Leaders and reopen the Club as soon as possible.

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## Dogs

As a parent and dog owner, I find myself very disappointed to report that a couple of months ago I

found two lots of dog fouling in the children's play area at Braeside Road. There is no excuse for taking your dog into this area which is clearly fenced off and marked. A maximum £1,000 fine awaits if taken to court or £75 if an on the spot fine is accepted. So if someone else is walking your dog or perhaps you are letting your children take it out make it clear to them that part of that responsibility means not taking it into that area.

If you know who is taking their dog into the play area please put a note through the Parish Office door with any information you have so that we can try and identify them.

If your dog fouls the pavement or on the recreation ground you must clear it up. We have five dog bins at Braeside Road recreation ground, they are bright red and placed at all the entrances, honestly you cannot miss them. I have just returned from the recreation ground and picked up three lots, it is not part of my job description!

The Parish pays for extra hours for the Dog Warden to patrol and with this and self-policing by responsible owners there appears to be a genuine intention to try and keep things as clean as possible for all site users but as usual the lack of action by a few spoil it for the many. Help us to catch them by giving us information.

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## The Planning Conundrum

There is often a mistaken belief that your Parish Council has a definitive say in granting or rejecting planning applications, the truth is we are only consultative. The final decision is made by East Dorset, who may from time to time also be overridden if the applicant launches an appeal. We have only 21 days to respond.

We are in very challenging times with ever changing planning policies being put forward.

In our Parish we are already, seeing the two or three for one, back garden developments, trees being cut down to make room and the design of some properties not always pleasing to the eye. Of

course, it is not all bad; we see many acceptable plans and often some that represent great improvement.

The members of the Parish Council Planning Committee take pride in looking at all the plans put before them, considering each on an individual basis and we greatly appreciate attendance at our meetings so that we can hear your views, both in support and rejection and respond to questions.

If we have sufficient reason to believe a particular plan, or plans are not beneficial to this Parish, we will give our written reasons and request it goes before the Planning Committee at East Dorset. Where this is the case, a representative from the Planning Committee is required to attend and put forward its objections, within a three-minute slot.

You may think, good enough, but you would be wrong, East Dorset initially needs to receive correspondence from you and should the matter go to Committee representation from a member or members of the public in person is extremely valuable.

If you want the Parish Council to take your views into account when making their consultation comments it is vital that you send them a copy of your letter or attend a Parish Council meeting.

May I say a big thank you to all those who have recently and in the past-attended meetings, copied us in on any correspondence and especially those who have taken the time to make verbal representation at an East Dorset Planning Committee or Appeals hearing.

Cllr. Jenny House – Chairman of Planning

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## Support your local shops

There can be little doubt that these are some of the most difficult economic times that many have ever experienced. The continual decline of our High Streets cannot be ignored and as a matter of urgency measures must be put in

place aimed at keeping our high streets alive.

One such measure should be that small retailers do not have to pay the first £10,000 of their aggregated business rates. That would mean the large chains of supermarkets would only get £10,000 taken off their business rates bill for the whole country but a small independent retailer with only one shop would probably not pay any business rates at all.

It cannot be right that independent outlets on our high streets are paying billions of pounds in business rates each year while at the same time online branches do not contribute anything towards the health of Britain's high streets.

If action is not taken soon what remains of our high street will be evermore dominated by the same big chains leaving very little diversity or pluralism.

Support your local retailers before it is too late.

Councillor Noel R. Hindmarch

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### Village Hall Report

The hall has undergone some urgent repairs and an estimate has been sought and awarded to a local tradesman for the replacement of lights in the corridor, committee rooms, main kitchen and front main lobby. These have not conformed to E. U. legislation and will hopefully provide far better light than at present.

We have a number of events during the year such as our very popular all you can eat Chinese Buffet at Chef da China amongst others. Please watch out for leaflets at the Village hall and on noticeboards for forthcoming events. All proceeds from these go to the Village Hall to enable us to maintain the hall at the present standard. It is now 38 years old and always needing some work on it.

Later this year we are having our very popular **Community Day on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am – 2.00pm.** If you are interested in a table, on sale for

£10 please ring our administrator Clementine on either 01425 472499 or 07847 430815. Father Christmas has promised to be there so the children will get sweets. Come along to have your lunch where there will be lots of the lovely sausage rolls that people found so irresistible and I have already been asked to order more as we ran out last year.

Hope to see you there!

Ann Warman  
01425 476319

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### Reporting Road Defects

Did you know you can now report road defects on line?

To report an issue go to [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) – select roads and “report a defect option” make sure you give specific location details. The enquiry number comes up after you have filled in the online submission form; make a note of it so that you can find out how things are progressing at a later date.

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### Finding Out About Your Parish Council

#### Your Parish Councillors are:

##### Chairman

Cllr M R DYER (South Ward)

##### Vice Chairman

Cllr R ADKINS (East Ward)

##### East Ward

Cllr R BRYAN

Cllr B P GORINGE

Cllr C HOUSE

Cllr Mrs J HOUSE

Cllr Mrs A WARMAN

##### South Ward

Cllr J CROW

Cllr N R HINDMARCH

##### West Ward

Cllr R C DUDMAN

Cllr M J HOCKLEY

Cllr R WARMAN

Cllr G J WILLETTS

Alternatively look for your nearest Parish Council noticeboard at:-

The Village Hall

Post Office

Doctors Surgery

One Stop (near the crossing)

Hurn Road layby

A31/Boundary Lane

Oak Tree Caravan Park

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public and an

agenda must be published three clear days prior to any meeting detailing the matters to be discussed. The Council cannot make a legal decision unless the matter is on the published agenda. The full Council meets on the last Wednesday of every month in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards. Meetings start at 7pm.

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### Contacting Your County Councillor

If residents wish to contact Dorset County Councillor Peter Richardson this can be done either by posting a letter through the Parish Office letterbox at the rear of the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ.

Alternatively contact:

Tel: 01202 829 778

e-mail:

[richardson372@btinternet.com](mailto:richardson372@btinternet.com)

Cllr Richardson provides a report for the Parish at each Parish Council Meeting. His latest report is available from him direct or the Clerk to the Parish Council, on request and can be sent by e-mail correspondence to any parishioner.

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### New Bus Service 132 from Ringwood to Wimborne via Ferndown starts 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

The new bus is the green Guardbus which will be running a 2 hourly service coming from Ringwood off the Ashley Heath Roundabout down Horton Road to Woolsbridge Road and from there along and back on the A31 towards Ferndown. Enquiries please contact 01425 480232. The service is on Mondays to Fridays only and not on bank holidays.

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Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, St Leonards, Ringwood, BH24 2PJ Telephone: 01425 482727 Office hours Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am to 12.30pm Email: <a href="mailto:office@stleonardspc.org.uk">office@stleonardspc.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stleonardspc.org.uk">www.stleonardspc.org.uk</a>
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