



## **NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009**

### **Website**

If you want to keep up-to-date with what we're doing then go to our new website: [www.aberfordonline.com](http://www.aberfordonline.com). Minutes are always put on the Notice Board near the Arabian Horse.

### **Planning**

Just a reminder – we are asked to comment on plans submitted within our area but Planners do not always act on the views we give. We have no direct powers – we have a consultation role. Site visits are often made and residents' views sought.

### **Street Lights**

Leeds City Council's upgrading of street lights seems to have gone reasonably well in the side streets, but the Parish Council is in discussion with LCC and the Contractors about the designs for the Main Street. Some issues have already been raised and resolved in regard to Cattle Lane and Lotherton Lane. We think the extra cost to the Parish Council for 'heritage' lamps, at around £1000 each, cannot be justified. However, discussions are ongoing and the new lights will be painted black along Main Street so as to blend in better. The PC favour the taller lamp standards so that there will be fewer and have also expressed concern that we do not have too many in the wide verges between the village and Hook Moor and that they be staggered each side. Existing hanging basket brackets will be replaced and it is hoped we can fund additional ones, as well as considering the possibility of fittings to certain lamps for future Christmas lights.

### **Aberford In Bloom**

Our thanks go to the group of volunteers who planted the bulbs, which have made the village a Spring picture. Aberford being a fairly unique linear village is at a disadvantage in the 'pretty stakes'. We're one of the few villages in the Leeds City area which hasn't taken part in this initiative. We'd like to have a go and we're eager to support a local group. Two of our Councillors – Paul Hancock and Ian Forster – are involved in this effort. A meeting was held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February and several people came forward to offer help. Perhaps you could spare just a few hours – to plant a few things or trim a few bushes close to your own home. It needn't be an onerous commitment, so if you can just give a little of your time perhaps once or twice during the year, then please contact either Paul Hancock on 2813518 or Ian Forster on 2864068. There are plenty of corners which could be bursting with colour with just a little effort.

## **Old Council Records**

For history buffs out there – our old Minute Books and a few other records up to about 1980, including those of the amalgamated Lotherton cum Aberford and Parlington Councils, have been deposited with Leeds City Archive Service. Records date from the very beginning of the Parish Councils c1869. They are at Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar and anyone can have a look. You will see a long line of local folk who served on the Council and very different matters discussed.

## **Climate Change**

It's happening and there may be things we can all do to prepare for our children's future. One of our Councillors – David Gluck – and Janet Thornton of East Keswick P.C. are involved in setting up an Action Group for the Wetherby and Harewood Ward and are asking anyone interested to contact them. You can contact David via [David.Gluck@ecotec.com](mailto:David.Gluck@ecotec.com) and Janet through [janet.thornton@btopenworld.com](mailto:janet.thornton@btopenworld.com) or 01937 572837 for more information. David will be reporting back to us and we hope the villages within our Ward can become more resilient to the future adverse effects of climate change. This brings us to the next Parish Plan

## **Parish Plan**

The first Parish Plan was published in 2003 – many will remember the "Planning for Real" exercise which contributed towards its production, with the building of a model of the village which was exhibited in the Village Hall. The Parish Council has agreed that the time has come to both review the original Plan and to consult on a new Plan for 2009 onwards. To this end, the 2003 Parish Plan has been reviewed and will be presented at the start of the next Council meeting – 7.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April at the School. This presentation will also include children from Year 3 at the School, who have been doing their own project on what is needed in Aberford. All are very welcome to attend. The consultation on the new Plan will follow on from this. For more information contact Cllr David Gluck - [david.gluck@ecotec.com](mailto:david.gluck@ecotec.com)

## **Parking Main Street/School Lane**

This subject comes up regularly – maybe people get a bit 'cavalier' from time to time about parking and/or stopping in this area. It's so tempting just to stop and drop off children quickly but, if everyone did this, it would be horrendously dangerous! We've had the zigzag markings extended as far as the main steps to the Churchyard which will mean absolutely no stopping/parking on that side. Our friendly Neighbourhood Policeman will be keeping an eye on this so please don't risk his eye falling on you! Great job being done by our Crossing Man, John, of course.

## **Playing Field/Tennis Courts**

For several years now, the Parish Council have been frustrated in trying to convert the landlocked area behind Parlington Villas (on the opposite side of School Lane from the School) to create a recreation facility for older children, to complement our

Play Area facility at Beckside for younger children. It would seem that we may be getting some movement at last, with talks taking place regarding access, and Leeds City Council being at long last close to establishing ownership and willing to negotiate for the Parish Council to be granted a lease – so watch this space.

### **Village Safety**

Please be on your guard in your homes and as you walk around the village for any out of place people and vehicles. We've had increasing thefts – particularly in the countryside around – with farmers having all sorts taken. Wood, game and old stone walling have been stolen and the 'Farmwatch' network is kept very active. If an alarm goes off please try to have a look and see whose house it is – you might save someone a lot of grief and it could be you. Let's all be good neighbours. From time to time we encourage anti-speeding exercises in the village and the children from school will be getting involved in early April.

### **Grants**

During last year we gave over £4000 to the school to be used for furniture for the new classrooms and for fencing to make the area more secure. We have a good relationship with Mrs Heggie and regular contact via Cllr Alderson who is a School Governor and keeps us informed of ways in which we can help. Our Clerk has recently produced a history of the school in the form of two small Volumes with any profits for the school. Left over copies will be given to school for their future use. Our school dates from 1716 on the same site, using the same foundation building! The Provost of Oriel College has promised to come and visit when he is next in Yorkshire – great stuff!

### **Bits and Pieces**

We tried to get the footpath between the village and Lotherton Hall upgraded so that folk in wheelchairs could enjoy the run over there, perhaps with their families walking with them. Unfortunately the City Council said the cost of £30,000 was too great for them to do this. However we're asking for the path to be at least widened sufficiently for pushchairs – it is narrow for pedestrians at the moment!

When the long summer holidays come please keep an eye on older children. It's wonderful for them to play out and about but they need to be taught to respect the hard-working farmers and woodsmen. Crops and animals need to be left alone, dogs need to be supervised, woodland and the creatures which live there need to be left undisturbed. Trees are not for random cutting down and fires kill. Our expensive Play Area is for younger ones only. Let's all teach our youngsters to use the natural resources properly – leaving no litter being important. There will be a de-littering exercise around the village in early April and we ask for one from time to time. It is pleasing to see that the gas pipeline depot is being removed and the land reverting back to its previous format, restoring the rural approach to the North of the village.

## **For 'Garforthendians' within the Parish**

We're pleased to report an improvement to the vegetation on the path between the two estates and we are attempting to have the hedge cut. The road to Garforth Town football ground has recently been cleaned and the glass removed from both the road and path. A litter pick has been arranged for the path and it would help if everyone took their litter home. The new parking facilities hopefully will be completed during the summer.

The regular litter pick on the A642 has been extended to Junction 47. The road between Cedar Ridge and the motorway will change shortly with the development of North Newhold which will include a new roundabout, a small stretch of dual carriageway and hopefully a reduction in the speed limit.

We mentioned Aberford in Bloom earlier but don't forget that Garforth has its own In Bloom Group which covers your area and they need help. Just think of the entrance to Cedar Ridge which went from an overgrown wilderness to a series of stumps which will soon start to grow again. The "Welcome" stone now has colourful flowers around it thanks to that group.

The saga of Makins caravans and poly tunnels is now at an end following the granting of the necessary planning permission. There were very many conditions attached to the granting of this permission.

Although the Boundary Commission left us with the old parish boundary, the City Council did alter the political boundary and now the Church of England have begun discussions to rectify the anomaly which will not only alter the parish boundary but also the diocesan boundary too.

If you have anything you feel should be brought to the notice of the Parish Council your local Councillor is Ian Forster Tel 2864068 or better still come to a Council meeting. We meet at Aberford School on the third Tuesday monthly at 7.30pm during term time and at the Methodist Chapel in Aberford when school is closed.

## **Bus Service**

A new fast service is shortly to be introduced by First Bus to travel between Leeds and York via Tadcaster. A good meeting has been held between our Chairman and a resident with the First Bus Managing Director to see if this service could benefit Aberford by diverting through – maybe together with Barwick and Scholes. This is a longer term matter as the current arrangements need to be seen to be profitable before any changes could be made. One we will be keeping in mind. If you want to support the idea and would make use of a service please let a Councillor or the Clerk know.