

## **MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER**

### **PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

The following parishioners have agreed to continue their important representation/ liaison roles:-

Owen Taylor	Pond Warden
Bryan Marshall	Public Rights of Way Co-ordinator
John Mercer	Liaison with Bickerstaffe School
Paul Andrews	Liaison with Bickerstaffe Association Football Club

In addition Parish Councillors have agreed to undertake the following representative roles:-

- (i) Jeni Currie and Margaret Sumner are to be the representatives attending the Lancashire Association of Local Council's Area Committee for West Lancashire.
- (ii) Hilary Rosbotham and Albert Webster are to be the representatives attending the Lancashire Local Committee for West Lancashire.

### **PARISH FIELD ACTIVITIES**

The Parish Field will be the venue for the following events over the next three months:-

- Annual Treat Day 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- Summer Fair 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- Bickerstaffe Football Club's Five- a – side Competition 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- Bickerstock Music Festival 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008

### **QUALITY STATUS**

The Parish Council are now at an advanced stage of providing the necessary evidence to meet the mandatory and discretionary elements of the Quality Parish Council Scheme. Over the past twelve months there have a number of key quality related developments. These include :-

- the introduction of a Parish Council Newsletter
- the introduction of an Annual Report
- the establishment of Surgeries
- the establishment of a Parish Council Website

Arthur Gore, the Parish Clerk is taking forward the evidence gathering into a comprehensive portfolio. Arthur expects to have the portfolio ready for submission to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The Association will undertake an appraisal of the portfolio before it is referred to a National Panel responsible for the award of Quality Status.

### **WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT**

The Parish Council was very pleased to hear from West Lancashire District Council concerning the award of £1375 from their Capital Grant Scheme. The total now raised is £4750 with other donations/contributions from Lord Derby, Holy Trinity Church and Bickerstaffe Parish Council.

At their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the Parish Council approved Stone Central (NW) Ltd as the designated contractor. Because the War Memorial is listed the scheme of work now needs to have the approval of the Heritage Officer from West Lancashire District Council. The Parish Council, pending the approval being given, will then progress the project with the objective for completion by late Summer/early Autumn.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

Over the past two years the Parish Council have secured funding for two major capital projects. Firstly, the drainage project on the parish field and secondly the cleaning and refurbishment of the war memorial.

The Parish Council are now looking to take forward a range of other community related capital projects and at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the following potential projects were discussed :-

- extension to the parish field car park;
- provision of an additional bus shelter along Church Road in the vicinity of Stockley Crescent;
- the provision of car parking in the vicinity of the green at Heyescroft;
- the provision of a 'community garden facility' at Heyescroft;
- the provision of speed deterrent indicators;
- an enhancement of the childrens' s play area equipment

Before formulating a forward plan, which would prioritise a project for each year, the Parish Council would like to ask parishioners what their thoughts are with regard to community related capital projects. On that basis the Parish Council would like parishioners to respond to the following questions:-

- what are your thoughts on the list of community related projects outlined above?
- are there additional projects that parishioners would like to see included in a forward plan?
- how would parishioners prioritise the community related projects listed above?
- if as a parishioner you would like to put forward a proposal for an additional project what priority would you give to that project?

Any comments from parishioners should be submitted to Arthur Gore, the Parish Clerk. Arthur can be contacted by telephone (01695 – 575643), by e-mail ([arthurgore@btinternet.com](mailto:arthurgore@btinternet.com)) or by writing to him (at 7 Hilltop Walk, Ormskirk L39 4<sup>TH</sup>)

The Parish Council very much looks forward to hearing your views. The deadline for responses is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

### **PARISH COUNCILS ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2006/2007**

The internal audit of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 has been completed in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006 and the Audit Commission Act 1998.

The income for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 totalled £12,598. The main income strands were the Parish Precept, Parish Field Maintenance Grant, a grant from the West Lancs District Councils Capital Grant Scheme and a contribution towards the Parish Field Drainage Project from Bickerstaffe Football Club.

The expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 totalled £11,619. The main aspects of expenditure were the Parish Field Maintenance and Drainage Project, Children's Play Area Maintenance, Provision of a new Boundary Sign, Parish Clerks Salary and Expenses, Election Costs and Internal and External Audit Fee's and Printing costs.

A full analysis of the income and expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 will be featured in the 2007/2008 Annual Report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008**

The Chairman presented her Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The report focussed on ;

- the cllrs attendance at meetings and the establishment of surgeries;
- the main business elements of the Parish Council including the consideration of planning applications, dealing with environmental issues and the focus on road and transport matters;
- the maintenance of the Parish Field including a major drainage project;
- developments in relation to enhancing the Parish Councils links with the electorate;
- the progress made towards achieving Quality Parish Council Status.

A more comprehensive coverage of the Chairmans's Annual Report will be featured in the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2007/2008.