

BICKERSTAFFE BOUNDARY SIGN

At their November meeting the Parish Council resolved to replace the boundary sign along Long Lane at the Bickerstaffe/Aughton boundary. The clerk will now liaise with the Lancashire County Council's Engineering Department for the manufacture and erection of a replacement sign.

BICKERSTAFFE STOCKS

Following an approach from the West Lancashire Civic Trust the Parish Council agreed in principle to fund or part fund an information notice or plaque. The Council have asked the Civic Trust to provide a more detailed costing of the their proposal.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR FOR BARROW NOOK

The Parish Council are very please to report that Mr Graham Clarke has agreed to assume the responsibilities of co-ordinator. The Parish Clerk has informed the Police Authority and they will liaise with Mr Clarke.

STOCKLEY CRESCENT BUS SHELTER

Whilst there is an existing bus shelter in the vicinity of Stockley Crescent it is on the 'St Helens bound' side of Church Road. Reports have been received that some of the residents would like a bus Shelter on the 'Ormskirk bound' side of Church Road. The Parish Council would very much like to hear from residents in the vicinity of Stockley Crescent what they would like in terms of structure and location of an additional bus shelter. Any comments or thoughts can be submitted to the Parish Clerk (contact details on the front page).

CYCLING CLUBS

The Parish Clerk wrote to the cycling clubs which use the roads around Bickerstaffe during the Spring and Summer months on a matter which has been reported on a number of occasions to Parish Cllrs.

Concerns have been expressed about threatening behaviour and abusive language to people using footpaths from cyclists and groups of cyclist. Whilst the reports did not give specific details with regard to which cycling club the respective cyclist or cyclists belonged the Parish Clerk asked for the support of the Cycling Club Officials in making the problems known to their members. The three Cycling Clubs concerned have responded positively and agreed to remind their members about behaviour and the importance of a polite interface with members of the public.

PARISH FIELD CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

An inspection of the children's play area within the parish field was undertaken on 27th August 2007. The inspection was undertaken by an inspector from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

The overall assessment by the inspector was that the play area was in good condition and is well maintained. From a Parish Council perspective the inspection report is very encouraging and reassuring in that the health and safety dimension of the children's play area is given a high priority. However, there was some minor remedial work which was identified by the inspector in relation to :-

- the Cradle swings – protective surface slightly lifting and needs re-gluing and filling of gaps in joints.
- Slide – topping up of eroded soil at the base of the slide to encourage grass re-growth.
- Pyramid Climber – weeds need to be removed at the joints.
- Adventure Trial – the beams could become slippery and the surface needs to be monitored.

The Parish Council has 'signed off' the inspection report and will include the remedial work in the on-going programme of maintenance.

QUALITY STATUS

At their November meeting the Parish Councillors considered a progress report from the Parish Clerk towards meeting the requirements of the 'Quality Parish Council'scheme.

A mandatory and key element of achieving quality status is that Arthur Gore the Parish Clerk must achieve the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).The Parish Council is please to report that Arthur has successfully completed the course of study and has also been awarded a distinction by Gloucestershire University. The Parish Council and Clerk are now focussing on meeting the range of discretionary elements within the quality scheme framework. A number have already been met:-

- the production of an Annual Report
- the production of a quarterly Newsletter
- the establishment of surgeries
- the establishment of a Parish Council Website in conjunction with Holy Trinity Church.

The website can be accessed by www.bickerstaffe.info/parishcouncil and is updated on a regular basis.

The Parish Clerk is now focussing on the following further discretionary elements:-

- developing information and access points
- developing links with voluntary organisations
- publication of parish council activities in the local press.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND SURGERIES

The Parish Council Meetings for 2008 are as follows:-

14th January, 10th March, 12 May, 14th July, 8th September, and 10th November.
The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 12th May immediately prior to the Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Council Meetings and Assembly will be held in the Four Lane Ends Mission. The Parish Council Meetings commence at 7.45pm with the exception being the May Meeting which will start at 8.15pm preceded by the Parish Assembly commencing at 7.30pm.

The arrangements for Parish Council Surgeries are as follows :-

- 11th February 2008 commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm in the Stockley Crescent Meeting Room.
- 14th April 2008 commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm in the Four Lane Ends Mission.
- 9th June 2008 commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm. Venue to be announced.
- 11th August 2007 commencing at 7.00 until 8.00pm. Venue to be announced.
- 13th October 2008 commencing at 7.00pm until 8.00pm. Venue to be announced.