

## Gringley on the Hill Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2005

### Double Taxation

A couple of years ago Bassetlaw District Council started to phase-out Concurrent Grant to parish councils. Concurrent grant was designed to go some way to avoiding double taxation. They're now having a rethink about double taxation, and parish councils have been invited to submit details of all services provided which are doubly-taxed.

A good example of double taxation is maintenance of our playing field, which is funded from the Parish Council element of the Council Tax, i.e. the Parish precept. However, Gringley residents also have to pay the Bassetlaw element of the Council Tax in respect of playing field provision in the non-parished parts of Bassetlaw. Clearly, Gringley residents are paying twice, and it isn't fair.

Talking of Council Tax, the Parish Council's precept has risen this year from £16,000 to £16,700, after remaining at £16,000 for two years. The cost to a band D property is now £62.23 per annum.

### Broadband

Whilst Broadband is now available in Gringley, it suffers from a weak BT signal which fluctuates in strength in different parts of the village. There are other odd things happening as well. We've written to BT and are currently awaiting their response.

### Allotment Provision

We've been petitioned by local residents to provide allotments, and have agreed to do so. Initially we've approached Bassetlaw District Council to see if space can be made available at two possible sites.

### Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

Walkers and horse riders will have noticed the new stiles, etc. which are gradually being installed on public rights of way. This is a big improvement and forms part of our partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council. Installation of all stiles and finger posts should be completed shortly. We're also looking at extending the handrail on Sam's Yard (path 9) near its junction with Little Lane. We have a problem on path 1, where bridges are required, and this is something which the County Council will be looking at as well.

### Highway and Street Lighting Improvements

We've submitted an application to Nottinghamshire County Council to construct additional pavements and provide street lighting along the Beacon Hill Road/Halls Road/Finkell Street route. A decision is awaited.

### Proposed Picnic Area Bites the Dust

Unfortunately, our bid to establish a picnic area at The Wharf, Middlebridge Road (near the canal) has been rejected by Nottinghamshire County Council, although it remains on file and may be successful in the future.

### New Public Seat

We're hoping to locate a new public seat in the West Wells area, but finding a suitable site is difficult. A seat would be appreciated by older residents.

### Parish Plan

We've now begun the process of working through the conclusions reached in the Parish Plan. One thing that we've raised again with Bassetlaw is the need for applications for planning permission to be judged against neighbouring properties, with a requirement of the application process being that adjacent properties are shown drawn to scale on plans submitted.

We've written to the PCC, to ask whether it is satisfied that maintenance of the Closed Churchyard is being carried out in a way that is most relevant to the character and needs of the village. We're not being critical, but the issue was raised in the questionnaire exercise.

We're asking Nottinghamshire County Council to standardise street light provision throughout the village with a uniform style.

Further implementation of the Parish Plan will be an ongoing monthly agenda item.

### Village Spring Clean

Members of the Parish Council will be carrying out a Spring Clean on Sunday 24th April from 10.00 a.m. until noon, starting out at the Blue Bell. Please come along and help. Refuse sacks and gloves will be provided.

### Playing Field

In April we're going to rewire the entire length of the fence running down the north-east boundary of the

playing field. Notices have been displayed drawing attention to the need to keep out of the adjoining field. Malcolm Taylor has kindly offered to carry out tree surgery work.

Bassetlaw has withdrawn the recycling facility because it's been little-used since the new twin bin system was introduced.

### Trees

As well as at the playing field, we're carrying out tree surgery work at the Old Cross Keys site. We're also talking to the Home Office about the need to reduce the height of the poplar trees at the former detention centre on Leys Lane.

### Village Web Site

We're concerned to ensure that the village web site is interesting and up-to-date. We'd also like local businesses to advertise on it at the very-reasonable rate of £25 per annum. Contact the Clerk to the Council at gringleypc@aol.com if you're interested. We're making the web site a standing agenda item for future meetings.

### Councillors' Surgeries

If you've any complaint, suggestion or observation about Gringley or local services, then come along to a surgery at the Village Hall. They're advertised in Beacon and on the notice boards. The next one is on Saturday 14th May at the usual time of 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

### Parish Council Publications

Approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets and quarterly newsletters can be inspected at: Gringley Post Office, Blue Bell, Sherwood Lodge, Misterton, Retford and Worksop Libraries, One Stop Shop at Retford Town Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford and at: [www.gringleyonthehill.org.uk](http://www.gringleyonthehill.org.uk) Copies are also available in the Village Hall.

### Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in July, and before that the Annual Report, but don't forget our bi-monthly surgeries. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon, and a narrative digest of unapproved minutes of Parish Council meetings is now printed in each issue instead of simply publishing excerpts.

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