

Gringley on the Hill Parish Council

Newsletter - Winter, 2006-07

People

Peter Baines is taking over from David Wright as Clerk to the Council on 1st February. Peter is also Clerk to Mattersey Parish Council, so he is quite experienced in parish government. We wish him well in his new career at Gringley, and we also express our appreciation to David for his excellent service. David has been Clerk to the Parish Council for the past five years. In that time, largely through his efforts, we have obtained a multi-court, published a Parish Plan, won our section of the Best Kept Village Competition, and, of most importance, achieved Quality Status for the Parish Council. To mark our appreciation, David was presented with a picture of his favourite racecourse, Market Rasen, at our last meeting from the residents of the village.

Detention Centre Site

As we write there are currently three things happening.

Firstly, the Home Office has appealed against refusal of planning permission for residential development and new access. We've told the Planning Inspectorate that our grounds for objection still stand.

Secondly, the Home Office has submitted an identical planning application to the one refused, but with the addition of a commuted sum of £46,000 towards the provision of 'community facilities' off site. We've objected on the grounds that £46,000 is only a tenth of the cost of providing a community building, but have stressed that we favour redevelopment of the site for several reasons, particularly as the Primary School would benefit substantially from the additional children this development would bring to the village.

Thirdly, the Home Office has submitted a pre-application document for consideration by the District Council. The new proposal is based on a larger footprint (approximately 2.52 hectares), and includes the sports and recreation field to the west of the detention centre buildings – in effect the whole of the land in the ownership of the Home Office. The proposal includes:

- 20% affordable housing to include a mixture of house types, sizes and tenures, to be provided on or off site.
- 6% public open space provision (potentially could

be used for on site provision of a community centre if required).

- £30,000 Integrated Transport Contribution
- £450,000 commuted sum towards the cost of a community centre either on the open space within the site, or off site.

We've told the District Council that we fully support this proposal.

Councillors Daniels, Dunkley, Foreman, Hargreaves, Hilton and Taylor voted in favour of the abovementioned decisions. However, Councillor Foster had concerns generally about the manner in which the Home Office was dealing with the three matters discretely, and was also worried about the possibility of the site reverting to its former use. She voted against, together with Councillor Hargrave who was concerned that, whilst he considered the Parish Council was acting in the best interests of the village, there was a lack of understanding amongst residents of the Westwells Lane area as to precisely what the Parish Council was hoping to achieve. Councillor Chambers abstained.

Village Beacon

Residents are aware that we've decided not to relocate the beacon to the top of Beacon Hill because of cost implications. However, we intend to see if we can raise enough money to provide a second beacon.

CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

This year we're hoping to wrest our Category C (population 300 to 700) title back from Everton who took it from us last year. There are several elements which the judges will be looking at:

- Domestic
- Homes, gardens, outbuildings, hedges, verges, etc.
- Community Facilities
- Bus shelters, bus stops, litter bins, public seats, telephone kiosks, playing fields, green spaces, natural features, village halls, churches and churchyards, notice boards and advertisements, public footpaths, roads, etc.
- Commercial
- Shops, public houses, farm buildings, farmyards, etc.

There are also bonus marks for Special Community Effort.

The main thing the judges will be looking for is a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, weed-infested pavements, untidy gardens, etc. We're hoping that individuals and organisations will help us to do well and win prizes.

Why bother? Your council tax has contributed to the Parish Council's efforts to make Gringley an attractive parish, but the Parish Council can only do so much. Pride in our village helps to foster community spirit, reduce crime and vandalism, improve health, and gives a sense of wellbeing - and improves the value of properties. The Parish Council will be doing its bit and will highlight any 'hot spots' in the village. We'll also keep you informed of progress through Beacon, the website and notice boards.

Spending Plans

At our January meeting we agreed to donate £300 towards the £35,000 Misterton Primary School swimming pool improvement project. As a result of monies raised, the project is now underway and the future of the pool secured.

As for 2007/08, we've been able to peg the precept at the current level - £20,963. Picking out one or two items for mention, we've put a further £1,000 into the Chapel of Rest window replacement fund, and £500 to be earmarked for new allotments. Also, for the first time, we're giving £250 to the new Gringley Toddler Group and £200 to the Good Neighbour Scheme. We began supporting Beacon magazine this financial year, and are continuing in 2007/08 with a donation of £200.

Gringley Wharf

The second archaeological excavations took place on 13th January, 2007, and were most successful in locating the expected floor to a former building, which was found to be constructed from brick and quarry tiles. Other finds included a beautifully engraved clay pipe bowl and an intact earthenware pot.

As regards the main project, we've been assured that there's no possibility of the moorings being constructed, and so the main thrust of the project will be to construct a picnic area with information board, whilst preserving intact the excavated building floor. The remainder of the village green will be retained as a wildlife habitat.

The County Council is now preparing a concept plan, with a view to public consultation and early commencement of the project.

PTO

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the spring, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details in this newsletter, and we have a 15 minute public discussion period during Parish Council meetings. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon magazine. You can also read minutes of meetings, etc. on our web site:

www.gringleyvillage.org.uk

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