

Gunthorpe Newsletter

August 2008

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Latest on Road Safety for A6097

Local County Councillor Andy Stewart wrote to the Police with regard to some of the concerns from residents following the fatal road accident on Lowdham Road on 15th April.

Chief Inspector Andy Charlton of the Notts Police, Roads Policing Department replied and informed Councillor Stewart that an automatic review of safety at the location was taking place and one area of consideration is the use of safety speed cameras but he went on to say that this was a matter for the County Council and that the decision was dependant upon the history of the site. He asked Councillor Stewart to, re-assure the residents in the area that all aspects of safety at the location would be considered whilst the final police report was being prepared for the coroner.

Cam Pearson, being one of the collectors of names for the petition following the accident asked for information from the Police using the Freedom of Information Act. He received a reply on 10th July.

Cam asked for details of convictions for speeding on the A6097 and how that compared with some other local areas however the police were unable to provide this information saying that this information was only available from the courts.

He asked what specific action had been taken over the past 3 years to enforce the speed restriction but was told that the area was not subject to Camera Safety Partnership activity.

He also asked what plans there were to enforce the speed limit in future. The Police said that the County Council's accident investigation unit was responsible for making these plans based upon certain criteria and at present the road did not meet the criteria for fixed or mobile camera enforcement.

On 19th June the County Council held a meeting to discuss its response to a number of petitions placed before the council. One of which was that from the residents of Gunthorpe regarding road safety along A6097 between Lowdham roundabout and Gunthorpe

Bridge. The petition was formally presented by Councillor Stewart to the County Council at their meeting on 15th May.

The Council responded to the petition by stating that a detailed accident study was already being conducted into the A6097 between Lowdham roundabout and Gunthorpe Bridge. Once the Police investigation into the fatal accident had been concluded the study would be reviewed in the light of the findings.

The Council went into some detail about how the Council used statistical information to establish what sites were to be chosen for accident prevention work to be conducted. At present the A6097 at this location did not meet that criteria. They also pointed out that it had been agreed to extend the study to include the A6097 from Oxton to Bingham roundabout.

The Council also stated that the A6097 is due to be assessed under the speed limit review in 2009/10 and that in light of the concerns raised by residents this road will be brought forward into the 2008/9 review.

The consideration for the use of fixed speed cameras and mobile enforcement cameras was explained in great detail and the location did not meet the criteria for these to be used. This was mainly due to the council's obligation to use three years worth of data. They recommended however that the Police Local Area Commander (LAC) be asked to consider

local enforcement. They explained that the LAC had been provided with hand held speed equipment and that as there were community concerns about the A6097 that did not meet the normal criteria for speed enforcement this would be a matter for them to consider locally.

Sports Field - Pavilion Plans

Gunthorpe Village Hall Committee held a special meeting on 16th July to discuss changing facilities on the Sports Field.

On the agenda was the acquisition of a replacement Portacabin for use by the sports teams.

John Simpson and Mike Coney had been offered a Portacabin larger and much better equipped than the existing unit.

The Portacabin, measuring 32 feet by 20 feet is fitted out with toilets and a small kitchen as well as three rooms suitable for changing rooms. One of the rooms could be fitted out with showers.

It was agreed at the meeting to proceed with the offer of the Portacabin and arrange for it's delivery to site.

It was agreed to site the new Portacabin on the site of the old Portacabin i.e. using the base from the old pavilion which burnt down. This would still leave room for a new play park to be sited close to this location

and allow for the woodland area and all the surrounds to be planted up and provided with seats and possibly picnic tables.

The feeling of the meeting was that this new building could be made good for several years.

Portacabin for Sale

If there is anyone interested in buying the old Portacabin on the Village Hall Field, the asking price is £250.

For further details contact John Simpson on 0115 9664139 or Mike Coney on 0115 9663568.

Social Group

Are you retired? Are you looking for a bit of company and entertainment? On Thursday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm, the Village Hall is the place to be.

Gunthorpe's Social Group is a group of retired people who enjoy the chance to play of few hands of cards, have a chat with a cuppa and enjoy the afternoon together.

They are always keen to have new faces and would welcome anyone to join them. Interested?

Contact Roger Heathcoat for details on 0115 9664396

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 23rd August 2008, Village Field, Family Fun Day.

Wednesday, 3rd September 2008, Mobile Police Station,

Saturday 18th October 2008, Gunthorpe Village Hall, Variety Night.

Tuesday 21st October 2008. 6:30pm-9:00pm. Gunthorpe School, Ladies Pamper Evening, £3- per ticket (to include a refreshment.) an opportunity for mini beauty treatments and early Christmas shopping with stalls such as jewellery, Thornton's chocolate, cards, books etc.

Contact: Gill-0115 9665113.

Friday, 9th January 2009, Gunthorpe Village Hall. The return of Opera Dudes

Saturday, 14th February 2009, Gunthorpe Village Hall, Valentine's Barn Dance in support of the Play park Appeal.

200 Club Winners

July

- 1st Margaret Bartlett
- 2nd Jaine Chappel
- 3rd Cam Pearson
- 4th Betty Everington

gunthorpe.org.uk

A quick update on how the website has progressed over the last month or two.

Stats

Numbers of unique visitors April 350, May 456, June 434. Total hits to date 65,632.

We are listed 3rd on Google on a worldwide search on "Gunthorpe"; and 1st on Yahoo

Flickr

The library on Flickr is building up to be quite a nice set of photos. Obviously the riverside is the main feature, and there are some particular thanks due to the contributors, many of which are in my opinion of a professional standard. I'd like people to submit many more, particularly as we start to select photos for the upcoming parish plan glossy document. Don't think they have to be only arty riverside shots

A6097 petition

Having the petition also accessible on-line was a great help in getting the numbers increased. I believe approximately 35 manual signatures were received, boosted by approx 40 on-line. The website has also been used to keep people updated as to subsequent events. The main one being that Notts CC has brought forward the date for review of the appropriateness of the current 50mph

Gunthorpe Village Active Fun Day - Saturday 23rd August

In last month's newsletter we announced the Gunthorpe Village Active Fun Day and Cricket K.O. Competition to help raise funds for a new CHILDRENS PLAY AREA.

Despite extensive advertising, on the Village Web Site and Posters we have to-date had no interest shown or offers of help received whatsoever for this event.

"COME ON" where are all you Cricket Players and future sporting legends?

If you want to take part, but have been on holiday or not got round to organising a team, please contact Andy Robinson, "Cherrytrees", Peck Lane tel. 9669421 to register your team(s) a donation to the Play Park Fund of £5.00 per team is required on registration. (Cheques should be payable to Gunthorpe Village Hall).

Unless we have a minimum of 8 teams registered before 10th August we shall have no alternative but to cancel the event,

The results of the Village Plan Questionnaire showed that more than half of households in Gunthorpe put the "Provision of New or Improved Community Facilities" in the Top 5 priorities for action

We are trying to meet these aspirations but we need YOUR active help, assistance and support to achieve them

speed limit. A link to the response by Notts CC is provided on the website. I think this is important in that the 'official line' from the council is always visible, therefore reducing the risk of rumour/misinformation.

Sponsor

We have an aim of getting two more sponsors to enable the annual 'revenue' from sponsorship to meet projected annual costs. Please have a think if you could help.

Cam Pearson, administrator

Letters

Gunthorpe Festival

Well despite a few fears the festival went off without incident No masses of drunken people marauding around the village! No police called and just one noise complaint when we were setting up and sound checking. The gentleman called The Anchor to complain to a barmaid and threatened to come and cut the cables! Very brave to a young girl and not even leaving a name or number for us to call back and address the situation!

Mark and I have raised almost £8000 towards UNICEF's 'Make Poverty History' campaign and we are very proud of the way everyone enjoyed the day especially as there is not a gala for the kids. The ones who were there had a great time! Hopefully next year we will have better weather and with the reputation a lot more parents will come for "a great day out" something everyone who was there said to me.

Thank you to everyone who supported and I hope the doubters have a little more faith in the youth of today which seem to get such bad press!

Jed Southgate

Affordable Housing

Has anyone ever raised the subject of "Affordable Housing" for Gunthorpe?

Those born and raised in Gunthorpe simply cannot afford to stay in the village once they are ready to "fly the nest". Similarly there are the retiring residents who would wish to remain in the village by downsizing. Though there is some provision for the elderly, the newly married/cohabiting generation have no chance of continued residence in Gunthorpe.

I know of shared ownership schemes which are made available to former village residents only which may suit this cause. These developments often gain favourable consideration by the local planning authority, though only if a need is identified.

Just a thought and I know location would be a major concern/factor.

Grant Mason

Anti-social Behaviour

Well finally, the time has come to put pen to paper and I firmly believe, that on this occasion, I speak for many of the residents of Gunthorpe. (If not all)

Over the years, once holiday time comes along and parents plus younger siblings are waved off, teenagers everywhere, who are left at home, put final touches to their party plans. Nothing wrong with this, I hear you all say - heavens - weren't we all teenagers once?

Did we dare to defy the words of our parents though? Do not burn the house down. Do not forget to feed the dog and let it in at night. To defy these rules meant instant and major reprisal. NOT SO NOW. We have to put up with loud music, fit for Glastonbury, screaming inebriated young women, foul abusive language, when everyone should wish for a little peace and tranquillity at 2am in the morning, as many residents have long busy working days ahead of them.

All parents, without exception, have at some point to decide, when to leave their offspring, home alone, to be able to trust in their maturity and common sense.

During recent times, it is more than apparent, that some of our teenagers do not possess these qualities, so parents, why do you leave them to wreak havoc noisily through the night?

Our patience has been extremely tested of late and I feel mine has grown thinner by the day.

My wish is that these thoughtless, disrespectful teenagers accompany their families on vacation, until they are and can be responsible, not only to themselves but others around them.

I sincerely feel that recently Gunthorpe has had more than its fair share of anti-social behaviour, a thing that a decade ago we wouldn't have known what that meant and for me enough is enough.

Desiree Nettleship

Sid's Seasonal Snippets

In the flower garden

Having enjoyed your early summer break your flowers will now be in need of tidying up. Dead heading, weeding and watering are the main jobs.

It's time to collect seed from those plants you want to propagate or to bin the seed heads of those you don't want to spread.

It is also a good time to take cuttings of most shrubs, and fuchsias, penstemons, pelargoniums and verbena.

Prune back to 15cm all of those wispy side shoots from your Wisteria. Trim Lavenders which have finished flowering or pick those newly flowering for drying - if you get a warm dry afternoon - and other suitable candidates e.g. Achillea, Poppies or Grasses. Cut back flowered climbing roses and hardy Geraniums too.

Flowering plants in pots, tubs and baskets will need fed and watered with tomato fertiliser, and don't let your Camellia dry out or it will lose next years flower buds.

Time too to plan for autumn seed sowing, (e.g. for early sweet peas next summer) and bulb planting; so get those catalogues out and orders placed.

In the fruit and vegetable garden

Its peak harvest time for most crops. Potatoes, onions and garlic will be at their best but watch out for potato and tomato blight if we have another wet season.

Sow a green manure of mustard now into next years planned potato patch and dig it in during the autumn to reduce eelworm attacks.

Now is the time to sow seed of Japanese onions or get some sets going and order next season's garlic bulbs. Keep sowing salad crops too. Rocket will keep growing during a mild winter.

Summer fruiting raspberries will already be coming to an end so cut out all the fruited stems and reduce the rest to about 5 per plant then feed with potassium sulphate and mulch.

Net the autumn fruiting varieties to keep off the birds. Cut back the foliage and surplus runners of fruited strawberries and replace 3 or 4 year old plants with new stock.

Summer prune side shoots on apples (but NOT Bramleys) to 3 leaves; and on gooseberries to 5 leaves, to improve air circulation and exposure to sunlight. Also plums and damsons should have all their pruning done

immediately after fruiting to reduce risk of disease. Take out all dead and damaged wood.

The tips of tomato plants should be removed now as any new fruits will not ripen. Enjoy the fruits of your labours!

Sid

Variety Night

Arrangements are well under way for the Variety Night to be held at Gunthorpe Village Hall on Saturday 18th October 2008.

Jazz, Skiffle, Barbershop, Rock and Pop music will be featured plus a little comedy and perhaps a little poetry. There is still a chance to perform if you would like to have a go. Contact 0115 9664193 for details.

The event is a 'bring your own drinks and nibbles' night.

Tickets are £7.50 and can be ordered from Paul Jeffery on 0115 9664193.

(One discounted ticket of £6.75 can be claimed by 200 club members. The ticket would not be transferable at that price but could be used by another if the extra 75p was paid on the night.)

Peruvian Perambulations

Well mission accomplished! 50 miles of trekking, reaching over 3 miles high and Jed nearly falling off there (thanks Joel).

The trek went well and we saw amazing views, Flora and Fauna. Watched Condors and Eagles fight for territory. We had to keep an eye out for Scorpions and Tarantulas (saw both).



Jed and Mark at Machu Picchu in Peru

We met lovely people and saw the work of 'Across the Divide' (trekking company) and UNICEF first hand.

The poverty and conditions the children live in does not seem to deter their spirit and the smiles and laughter we encountered lifted our tired bodies and souls and made us realise we had all supported UNICEF for the right reasons.

To walk at such altitude was extremely draining on us physically and mentally and it was pretty difficult to adjust when we came back as we felt so tired for about a week!

Many thanks for the support we received and we can recommend to

anyone who would like to do something rewarding but feel they need a reason that UNICEF trips are quite an experience.

Jed Southgate & Mark Thornhill

Parish Council Minutes

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4th 2008

Cllrs.

Mrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
Mrs Jennifer Williamson (A)
Roy Thornhill
Mick Bowles
Peter Platten
Tony Everington (A)
Mrs Helen Sutton.
Also present was the Clerk Gordon Oldham

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tony Everington, Andy Stewart, Roger Jackson and Keith Sheppard.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Minutes From Previous Meeting

Held on April 23rd 2008 were signed by the Chairperson, having been agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Highway Matters

With regard to the Road Traffic Accident of April 15th, a comprehensive document written by a

local resident addressed to the Transport Secretary, together with a letter from Gunthorpe Parish Council were read and discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would consolidate the various documents produced and submitted to the Authorities on this subject. It was mentioned that PC Keith Thompson has stated that he is inundated with requests for the mobile speed gun. It was agreed that Highway / Traffic Matters would be a permanent item on the Council Agenda.

The Clerk was asked to write to the highways agency regarding the repair work required on the stanchions and fence adjacent the fisherman's gate.

Environmental Matters

With regard to a letter received from Smith and Partners about the bus shelter on Main Street, the Clerk was asked to respond thanking them but declining their offer. The bus shelter is a valuable civic amenity and in a highly convenient location for bus passengers. Graffiti is an ongoing problem in the parish, as elsewhere, and it was agreed that the subject would be discussed at the next PC meeting. The index mark of a van transporting cross-country motorbikes was reported to the police, who 'moved them on' - this may be considered a temporary solution or, possible, further action could be taken if the van is spotted again. The Clerk was asked to write to Ian Harrison requesting that a gate adjacent to the Unicorn be blocked.

Regarding the Electricity Sub-Station

the Clerk was asked to write to Central Networks (EON) to ascertain progress.

Ditches and Drains - Cllr Bowles reported that Hall and Little Marlock Dykes still awaited clearing.

Clerk's Report

It was reported that the two bridges which required repairs on the path from Gunthorpe to Caythorpe have been renewed or repaired. The hole in the pavement on Main Street had been filled and a new Dog Bin erected.

Correspondence

Although the Clerk was asked at the last PC meeting to copy correspondence to Members prior to meetings, it was felt that to do so would be both time consuming and expensive. It was therefore agreed to copy to Members such correspondence that was urgent or required 'bulky' reading in advance. Correspondence was received as follows:

Fake Festivals - June 21st, NSDC Questionnaire, Riverside Survey - British Waterways, Ransome Grass-Cutter, NSDC Emergency Planning, NSDC - Annual Playground Inspections, NCC / Andy Stewart Re M6.6, Police / Andy Stewart, Drainage Manager NCC, Police - Meeting 16/5, CPRE - Meeting, KINDER, Riverside Survey - British Waterways Helen Edwards, N & S Health & Well Being Alliance Event, Notts Minerals Local Plan M6.6 - MB, Chairmanship Training.

Finance

Chq No.		Net Total	VAT	Total
148	P Palmer - Grass Cutting	42.50		42.50
149	Sid Paver - Dog Bin	348.00	60.90	408.90
150	P Palmer - Grass Cutting	32.00		32.00
152	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	153.28		153.28
153	TG Systems - Clerk's Expenses	79.56		79.56
Total expenditure for meeting		655.34	60.90	716.24
Total expenditure to date		1961.12	60.90	2022.02

Planning

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

08/00630/FUL - Alexander Solecki - Change of Use of Buildings to Vehicle Repair and Restoration Business - objections raised.

08/00685/FUL - John Knight - extension to 5 David's Lane NG14 7EW - supported.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

07/01869/LDC - Graham & Jennifer Williamson - Siting of mobile home for residential use - approved.

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2008

Cllrs.

Mrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
Mrs Jennifer Williamson (A)
Roy Thornhill
Mick Bowles (A)

Peter Platten

Tony Everington

Mrs Helen Sutton.(A)

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham, Notts County Councillor Andy Stewart and Newark and Sherwood District Councillor Roger Jackson.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Jennifer Williamson, Mick Bowles and Mrs Helen Sutton.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Minutes From Previous Meeting

Held on June 4th 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

Highway Matters

Discussion was held regarding the Road Traffic Accident and subsequent attempts to make safer the A6097. Members were informed of an item in the Nottingham Evening Post and that the Parish Plan laid great emphasis on road safety and the need for measures to be implemented. However, a report received from Cllr Smedley, Cabinet Minister, Notts County Council clearly states that on a 'pointing system' Gunthorpe did not qualify for permanent speed cameras, speed indicators or traffic signals. Despite this members and villagers are determined to carry on the 'fight'.

The Clerk was asked to write again to the highways agency regarding the repair work required on the stanchions

and fence adjacent the fisherman's gate.

Environmental Matters

Cllr Thornhill requested that obsolete notices be removed from notice boards.

It was reported that dog bins were not being emptied and litter bins had not been re-erected on new lamp posts. On the matter of graffiti, Cllr Patten is to investigate and report – the names of some vandals are known and it was suggested that these could be published in the village newsletter. It would also be made known that areas particularly prone to vandalism were now under surveillance.

Regarding the Electricity Sub-Station, the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Central Networks to discuss re-siting.

The Clerk reported that a letter from Mike Elliott had been sent to Angus Trimble, NCC, regarding Footpath No 4, objecting to two proposals and supporting a third. The Clerk was asked to send copies to Mr Trimble and Cllr Platten.

Members agreed that the Midsummer Festival had been a bit noisy, but otherwise trouble free and that parking had not been a problem.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on communication with Newark & Sherwood DC regarding Grange Farm and Marlock Cottages and updated Members on the 'ownership' of the A612 lay-by. It was agreed that there would be a meeting

in August this year (27th) and that the Clerk would use a system of notification of meetings for Members.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received as follows:

EA - email - Marlock Cottages, Safer Neighbourhood Groups, Bionic Ear Show, British Waterways, Andy Wallace, Playground Inspections, Housing Forum, Draft Developer Planning Document,

Finance

Chq No.		Net Total	VAT	Total
154	Gunthorpe Village Hall Play Area (PP)	500.00	87.50	587.50
154	Gunthorpe Village Hall Play Area (PP)	100.00		100.00
155	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	153.28		153.28
155	TG Systems - Expenses	28.00		28.00
156	NALC - Clerk's Training	200.00		200.00
Total expenditure for meeting		981.28	87.50	1068.78
Total expenditure to date		2,942.40	148.40	3,090.80

Gravel Extraction & Flooding

Members were notified that discussion of matters relating to the possible restoration of the gravel workings would take place at the Bulcote Parish Council Meeting on 16th July.

Planning

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

08/00583/FUL - Peter Dowling - 1. Erection of Smoking Shelter (Retrospective) 2. Erection of Ground Floor Extension to Skittle Alley - objections raised.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on the 23rd July at 7:30pm

Allotments Update



You may remember that in the April edition of the newsletter, Parish Councillor Tony Everington invited anyone with an interest in having an allotment to contact him.

I understand that he received several replies and a request was made to the District Council to provide the allotments.

A reply was received by the Parish Council pointing out that it was a Parish Council responsibility to provide allotments and that it was for them to buy or lease land. They pointed out that if land was identified the District Council could be asked to compulsory purchase land but the Parish Council would be obliged to pay the compensation to the landowner.

The Parish Council will be discussing this further at their next meeting.

Gunthorpe Newsletter is compiled and edited by Paul Jeffery,

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Letters, contributions, advertisements, and announcements are most welcome

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OR

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