



Headbourne Worthy Village News

Summer 2015

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council - open letter from Chairman Harry Whorwood



Dear Fellow Resident,

This is my personal invitation to you.

It's that time of year again. Spring - life comes back from dormancy, and the democratic year begins, not only in Parliament this year, but also in your local Parish Council.

As part of that process, the Parish Council (PC) holds an Annual Meeting which is part "meet the council", part "tell us what you want from us", and part "we have a few bottles of wine that need emptying". This is my personal invitation to come along to an informal meeting which I see as a vital element of village life. So, what have we achieved, what do we want to achieve and who are we?

**Parish
Meeting
Monday 1st June
From 7pm
In the Church
Rooms, St Mary's
Church,
London Road**

To contact your Parish Council, visit www.theworthys.org.uk

or contact the Parish Clerk, Adrian Reeves. clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk

Edited and Produced by Cllr Jane Rutter, tel: 01962 884981

Footpath Success

Beginning with the success we had in working with our City and County councillors and officers to make the previous virtual footpath at Bedford Lane/London Road into a real one. Work has started and should take three weeks or so. On the flooding front, work is scheduled to alleviate standing water flooding on Springvale Road/Down Farm Lane. You will also recall that the new bus shelter on London Road was commissioned and it is proving a hit with travellers into the City. Much of the day to day maintenance in the village is now carried out by our Lengthsman - Craig. He is a hard worker and gets through quite a bit of work clearing gullies, sweeping leaves, cutting back hedges, cleaning the shelter and many other tasks. If you can identify work that would enhance the village do let us know.



Down Farm Bridge

The replacement of the Down Farm Lane railway bridge was a real challenge. The Victorian edifice was to be demolished and replaced with a pre-cast concrete standard design box. We thought it would spoil an entrance to the village and increase traffic speed and density as well as vehicle size. Network Rail were very intransigent and high handed, but again after a tense dialogue with the land owner, and the local councillors, and residents they modified the

design and will clad the exterior with a brick facade to replicate the original.

Not all of our wish lists were completed, or completed to the extent we wanted, and we are very aware of the potential shortcomings of not having many levers to pull to make everything work. By some persistence and doggedness, and by working with our city and county councillors, and residents, we have been able to achieve quite a bit.

What are we hoping to achieve this year? The bridge will give us work to do in reducing traffic speed and density still further along this stretch

of road. We have a war memorial that needs cleaning and caring for, and this will be a financial challenge to the Parish, and perhaps there is some fund raising to be done. If you are interested in lending a hand, again let us know.

We are also planning to have a village design statement which seeks to find out what sort of village you want, what amenities we are lacking or need, what a development policy might look like, how we can integrate with Barton Farm but not at the expense of what you consider the essence of the village. We need your help in this and a sub group of residents working on behalf of and with the PC might be the answer; there will be questionnaires to air, paperwork to un-muddle, visions to be encapsulated, frustrations to be frustrated with all with the idea of

giving the village a framework which will guide us, and on which we can all work together for the village. Interested?

Parish Councillors with lethal set of skills!

As a PC, we have a mixed and potentially lethal skill set of which I am proud. We have Tom and Claire W who both have young children approaching, and of, school age, and you will probably know that Claire is a local School Governor. Jane is also well known to you through the Worthys Festival and her other activities as a City Councillor, and Claire D is putting her redoubtable energy into the Council and still follows her distinguished legal career. The much travelled, multi-lingual Chris



has brought up two children whilst pursuing her schooling career and living abroad with her husband's EU involvement. David from Down Farm Lane is a new volunteer who wanted to contribute to the village he has long lived in and who is managing commuting with Council work. Me? I am the crusty old ex Civil Servant village curmudgeon, and retailer who just can't let it go.

Parish Clerk Vacancy

However, it is time for me, as one of the last of the last generation PC members to consider my future. Stuff happens, and events occur which

make it vital to have a pool of talent who can take an interest and to be ready to fill vacancies as they arise. One such vacancy is Adrian our Parish Clerk who for family reasons has had to resign. His will be hard boots to fill but it is more than possible that amongst the village we have someone with those skills who could usefully use them.

I believe that this village needs a strong sense of identity which is hard to achieve without a pub or similar core, but that the PC can help provide a sense of unity and be a stepping stone to bringing the village identity to a reality. If you would like to be a part of that village life come along on the first of June. We will open the doors at 7.00pm but turn up when you like and stay for as long or as short a time as you are able. Meet us, talk to us, listen to us and above all if there are any burning issues, or just a smell of smoke, let us know. It's informal, inviting and if it satisfies your curiosity or fires your interest it can only be good for all of us.

I hope to see you there.

Harry Whorwood"

Worthy House
Headbourne Worthy
Winchester SO23 7LD
T: 01962-885577
M: 07768-322321

