West Itchenor Parish Council **Newsletter** Spring 2010

EMERGENCY PLAN IN ACTION!

Tuesday morning, 6th January 2010, brought the first crisis event calling for the implementation of the Parish Council's Emergency Plan.

"We have not seen anything in Itchenor quite like this since the 1960s!"…….

…….a typical comment from a long-term resident about the heavy snowfall during the night of 5th January, that resulted in a picturesque scenario but one with implications of challenges and problems. Long before 9.00am on this Tuesday morning, Cllr Peter Bratton, the Coordinator of the village's Emergency Plan, had made 'phone calls to ensure that the other members of the Emergency team were placed on "standby", particularly ensuring that the needs of the elderly and vulnerable residents were being met. In this connection, Revd. Jim Mould was able to give his assurance that in all the cases he knew about the needs of these residents were mostly being met by helpful and supportive neighbours and that to his knowledge no-one was going to be in dire need of assistance. *(This situation was confirmed throughout the ensuing days of*



the snowfall emergency.)

Following discussion with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Louise Goldsmith, Peter then turned his attention to the road through the village. He spoke to the Assistant Manager of Messrs Travis Perkins (an ex-pupil of Peter's headmastering days!) who immediately offered to help with the supply of salt/grit. By this time Cllr Ric Dukoff-Gordon, the deputy coordinator of the Emergency Plan, was working closely with Peter to ensure the Parish Council would meet its obligations and arrangements were made to spread the rocksalt at specific points on the main road in the village. The "triangle" at the junction of Shipton Green Lane and the Itchenor Road and the slopes by the pond and church and the approach to The Street were identified as potentially hazardous.



So, on consecutive (very cold) afternoons during the first few days the rocksalt was spread in these areas. Peter and Ric were most ably helped in their labours by Mr Christopher Mead-Briggs who readily offered his 4x4 to transport the bags of grit and to help with the spreading. Several residents have said that it was as a result of this initiative that it was possible (just about) to keep the road open throughout the worst period of the snowfall challenge.

Clearly, there are many unsung heroes who helped neighbours and residents during this very extraordinary situation….

….residents who helped collect shopping etc for others or use their 4x4s to get other cars out of trouble…and so on. Our collective thanks and appreciation go to all of these people – it is very reassuring to know that in a crisis the residents of Itchenor will help each other out, whether or not they are on the Parish Council's formal list of emergency volunteers!

Travis Perkins

Members of the Parish Council have now met with the Manager of Travis Perkins, Andy Harris, on a number of occasions.

Our issues have been lorries waiting to access the site and damage to the verges of the Common.

Lorries waiting to access the site have parked in the road in such a way as to require passing vehicles to move out into the oncoming lane before a blind corner. This is exacerbated by the enormous size of many delivery vehicles these days and is needless to say extremely dangerous. The risks can be alleviated if lorries park after the bend, where a passing vehicle has a clear view of the road ahead.

Another issue has been lorries parking at unsociable hours, usually early in the morning before the site opens, with engines running and reversing warnings beeping. Mr Harris has shown due concern and taken action. He is in the hands of suppliers whose lorries they are, but has instructed them that deliveries may arrive at the site only during opening hours. In addition his staff are to be seen marshalling waiting vehicles to park more safely. There has been some improvement. The incidence of parking at unsociable hours has reduced and waiting lorries do now park more safely. But there are lapses and a constant watch is called for. Another precaution will be for portable cones to be put out and removed every day in the areas where parking is most dangerous.

Yet further improvement will come from the new layout of the Travis Perkins site, when the weather allows it to be completed. Up to three lorries at a time will be able to park on site, compared to one at the moment, which should

/ continued on Page 2

West Itchenor Parish Council **Newsletter** Spring 2010

Keeping Itchenor Clean and Litter Free - What do you think?

There is little doubt that all of us, who are fortunate enough to live in the very attractive village of Itchenor, wish it to be kept as clean and litter free as possible. But when it comes to how this might be achieved, opinions diverge.



Some would like there to be waste bins strategically placed about the village to discourage visitors and residents from dropping litter and despoiling the locality.

Others think that waste bins will not be used and the amount of litter will be no less. Yet we shall have moved a step closer to suburbia with litter bins cluttering our village. And then they have to be emptied regularly, which costs quite a lot of money.

And there are yet others who feel the problem is not so bad and that a bit more effort by residents to pick up the inevitable debris would be a preferable solution. Perhaps a slightly greater feeling of ownership is what is called for.



Another issue is dog fouling of our footpaths. We have installed three bins for owners to properly dispose of excrement, but to what extent are these used? The contractors empty them every week, yet the visual evidence is there to show that many owners make no attempt to make use of the facility.
The bins are expensive to buy and the clearance is also expensive. Are they worth it? Do they reduce the amount of dog mess on our paths or is it just more street furniture that makes no contribution to our wellbeing?

Please let us know what you think, so that the Parish Council might be better informed about the opinions of residents. Contact the Clerk by email parishclerk@westitchenorparishcouncil.org.uk

Travis Perkins contd.

substantially reduce the time lorries need to wait outside.
The other issue is the damage being done to the grass verges by enormous lorries which cannot navigate the entrance without over- running the kerbs. It seems that the only answer to this will be for the mouth of the entrance to be widened so as to have a greater splay. This will be the responsibility of Travis Perkins to carry out, having obtained the necessary permissions to carry out engineering work on Common land. Mr Harris has agreed to discuss this with his company and to produce a plan for consultation with the Parish Council before proceeding. Meanwhile there will be some experimentation by moving the bollards either side of the entrance to see if this improves the situation.
As a postscript it is mentioned elsewhere that Travis Perkins retained enough supplies of salt for the Emergency Team to disperse around the most dangerous parts of Itchenor Road in the recent snow fall .

SASKIA HEASMAN



The Parish Council was very saddened by the sudden death in September 2009 of Saskia Heasman former Parish Clerk. A post mortem revealed she had died as a result of heart failure.

Saskia Heasman was Birdham parish clerk for nine years and served as a councillor with her husband Chris for Donnington Parish Council. She also served as the parish clerk to Apuldram Parish Meeting.

She was a member of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, vice-chairman of the Chichester District Association of Local Councils and a representative on the Sussex Association.

Very sadly just a couple of weeks after Saskia's untimely death her husband Chris Heasman, also passed away. Chris worked closely with Saskia as he was also a member of Donnington Parish Council.

All residents are invited to the

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Monday 19th April 2010
Itchenor Memorial Hall
6.30pm

Speakers from

Sussex Police
Chichester Harbour Conservancy

and a presentation on Coastal protection

West Itchenor Parish Council **Newsletter** Spring 2010

Civil Parking Enforcement in Itchenor

As some residents may be aware, West Sussex County Council has decided to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) *. Under CPE parking regulations are enforced by the County Council rather than the police. Since the Council will be receiving the revenue from parking fines, in the future we can perhaps expect parking restrictions to be more actively enforced in Itchenor. CPE is already operational in other parts of the County. We understand the County plans that Itchenor will convert to CPE in late Spring 2010.

However, West Sussex County Council can only apply for CPE if all parking regulations in the relevant area are correctly marked and signed. Residents will have noticed new and more frequent no parking signs between the Church and Club Lane. The parking restrictions are still the same – No Parking 8am to 6pm 1st April to 31st Oct – we just have the mandatory number of posts and signs.



Members of the Itchenor Society and the Parish Council worked with the Council to try and minimise the number of new signs and select the most unobtrusive locations. We were perhaps not 100% successful, but the result is considerably better than had the contractor simply placed the signs at 60m intervals on both sides of the road.

If the parking restrictions from the Church to Club Lane were changed to 'No Parking at Any Time' no signs would be required, just double yellow lines. The Parish Council agreed at its meeting in December to request West Sussex County Council to change the parking restrictions. The Parish Council considers parking on this section of the road causes an obstruction and is potentially dangerous. We are also keen to reduce the number of signs in the Village. However, residents should not expect any change in the parking restrictions in the short term. In the current economic climate we have been advised that it may take several years to receive the necessary funding to implement the change.

* For more information on Civil Parking Enforcement in West Sussex, please see: http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/mis/060509spt29.pdf

CASPER comes to Itchenor

One of the issues of concern most frequently raised by residents at our public meetings is that of vehicles speeding in the village.

In the past the Parish Council has investigated several ways of tackling the problem, including traffic calming measures, speed humps, street lighting and lowering the speed limit to 20mph. We are now looking into the use of a CASPER unit at a suitable site in the village.

CASPER (Crawley Automatic Speed Processor and Electronic Recorder – the unit was first trialled in Crawley, West Sussex) is a semi-permanent speed indicating device which can either record a vehicle's speed, display that speed, or both.

Once installed the CASPER operates unmanned and is normally set to record, but not display vehicle speeds for two days, then to both record and display for about a week and then to revert to recording only for a couple of days, before being moved on to a new site. In this way it is possible to assess whether the device has had any effect on reducing vehicle speeds and if so how long that effect lasted.



All vehicles passing the device would have their speed, date and time recorded. Vehicle registration numbers are not recorded. The analysed data would indicate if there were particular problems with excessive speed and at what time these generally occurred.

The intention would be:

- To make drivers aware of their speed and slow down if appropriate
- To provide a high profile device that reinforces our concerns about traffic speed
- To provide speed and traffic flow data to highlight any excessive speeding.

The purchase and maintenance of the unit is funded by West Sussex County Council and it is deployed at no cost to the Parish Council.

West Itchenor Parish Council

Newsletter

Spring 2010

What's On……

Monday 8th March 2010
7pm Parish Council Meeting - Itchenor Memorial Hall

Monday 19th April 2010
6.30pm Annual Parish Assembly - Itchenor Memorial Hall

Monday 10th May 2010
7pm Annual Parish Council Meeting - Itchenor Memorial Hall

Planning Meetings

Monday 15 February 2010	Monday 1 March 2010
Monday 15 March 2010	Monday 29 March 2010
Monday 12 April 2010	Monday 26 April 2010
Monday 10 May 2010	Monday 24 May 2010

Planning meetings are held fortnightly, starting at 10am in the Itchenor Memorial Hall. If there are no current applications to consider, the meeting will not be held. To confirm whether there will be a meeting, please check the notice boards or contact the Clerk on 05600 793843

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW COUNCILLOR



Graham Colbourne was co-opted onto the West Itchenor Parish Council at the July 2009 meeting, following the retirement of Bob Ferguson. Graham has lived in the Village since 1992, first as a week-ender but since 2007 as a full time resident. Prior to retirement, he worked in the financial service industry primarily in London but also with attachments in Hong Kong and Toronto.

A keen sailor, Graham is a member of Itchenor Sailing Club where he races a Solent Sunbeam, normally crewed by his wife Anne. Graham and Anne recently acquired a golden retriever, Meg, and now he is able to regularly review the goings on in the Village while walking Meg down to the Hard or along the main footpaths.

Graham was born in Chichester (as were both his parents), but spent most of his early life in Canada and the USA before returning to the UK to finish his university education. He is married with one daughter, who is a lawyer in London.

Graham is a member of the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Having your say…

Have you ever wanted to tell the Parish Council what you think of the services that are provided? Wanted to make an enquiry or complaint but didn't know who to write to or where to send a letter? There are many ways that you can contact us: You can telephone **05600 793843** during office hours, or leave a message on the ansaphone after hours. If you prefer you can send an email to **parishclerk@westitchenorparishcouncil.org.uk**

Letters of enquiry, compliment or complaint can be sent to the Parish Clerk:
Mrs Carol Smith,
6 Locksash Close,
West Wittering,
Chichester,
PO20 8QP.

If you are interested in finding out how the Parish Council makes decisions, you are entitled to attend meetings of the Parish Council to observe proceedings.

Meetings of the Parish Council are held on the second Monday of every other month in the Itchenor Memorial Hall from 7pm. The agenda for the meeting (which details what is to be discussed) is placed on the notice boards in the village on the Tuesday before the meeting. If you wish to speak at the meeting, all you need to do is turn up. You would be able to speak at the Public Participation section at the start of the meeting. To find out more, please contact the Clerk.

West Itchenor Parish Council

Chairman	**Louise Goldsmith - Corner Cottage, Shipton Green, PO20 7BZ**	**513118**
Vice Chairman	**Michael Chater - Itchenor Cottage, Shipton Green, PO20 7DA**	**512213**
Councillors	**Peter Bratton - The Studio, Itchenor Road, PO20 7DH**	**514864**
	Graham Colbourne—Mizzen Top, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA	**513963**
	Ric Dukoff-Gordon - Ebenezer, Shipton Green, PO20 7BZ	**513835**
	Diana Jerwood - Ship Cottage, The Street, PO20 7AH	**512253**
	Edward Roose - Rye Cottage, Spinney Lane, PO20 7DJ	**512271**
Parish Clerk :	**Carol Smith - 6 Locksash Close, West Wittering. PO20 8QP**	**05600 793843**