

BLUNTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 1991 NEWS LETTER

Welcome to all residents who have moved into the Parish since our last news letter.

The annual Parish meeting will this year be on **22** April at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall of St Helens School in Colne Road. We hope you can attend this meeting to listen to the annual reports of the various charities and Parish activities, also to raise any points or questions on these or any other matters.

During the past year the Parish Council have been active in a number of areas, these are:-

Street Lighting

Lighting columns have been erected in Station Road and Rectory Road, extending as far as the old railway bridge in the West to bottom of church hill to the East. Both these extensions have been carried out on safety grounds. By the time you receive this news letter the columns should be lit.

This completes our programme of bringing street lighting in the Parish up to county standards.

Funding of this major project has been achieved by careful budgeting, total cost of the project will be in excess of £30,000.

Footpaths

We continue to carry out maintenance to our footpaths, this includes grass and hedge cutting.

During the winter the bushes overgrowing the footpath between the church and Earith were cut back, cleared and burnt by **Tom** Barnett. Our thanks go to the church causeway charity who paid for this work.

The County Council have been asked to re-erect the footpath signs as they are either laying at an angle or turn in the ground.

The Cambs Water Company are to lay a further main to the water tower close to the No.4 footpath, hopefully they will not encroach on this recently reinstated footpath.

Progress of the Ouse Valley footpath running from the staunch to Earith is making slow progress, hopefully we will see this path in official use within 12 months.

It is pleasing to report that none of our footpaths have been cultivated during the past year, which we thank the farming community for. In return we should continue to obey the country code.

Waymarkers and posts are now available, hopefully we can get these erected this spring.

The £100 grant is still provided by the District Council toward the upkeep of footpaths in the village.

Planning

The structure plan appears to be making progress, meeting will be held over the next few months to hear objections to the plan. The Parish Council is objecting to three areas which have been included in the village plan contrary to Parish Council policy. It is unlikely we will know the outcome until the end of this year.

Bottle Bank

Hopefully you are all aware that the bottle banks are now in place at the Heath Road waste disposal site, since their installation in November last year they have proved to be very popular, having to be emptied every two weeks - Keep up the Good Work!

Can Bank

A can bank has been a recent addition to the Heath Road site, all food and drink cans including pet food cans are acceptable, please make full use of it.

The Parish Council are responsible for ensuring that the area around the bottle and can banks are kept tidy, please help by taking home any empty boxes etc used to transport bottles and cans to the banks when the site is not open.

We are fortunate in having a volunteer to keep an eye on the bottle and can banks. We are also very fortunate to have a conscientious person in charge of the Heath Road site who keeps it clean and tidy, always has a smile and a pleasant word, even during the Sunday morning rush!

Recycling

For those of you who are not aware or new to the village the Heath Road Waste disposal site has separate areas for the disposal of scrap metals, oil and batteries. Two organisations in the village collect waste paper.

Housing Development

Work on the bungalows in St Mary's Close is nearing completion, most have already been allocated to their new residents. This, of course, always disappoints those not on the list.

Once the landscaping and tree planting are complete the area should look rather attractive.

No other house building took place during the year, we do however expect to see a start at the Sycamores in the next few months now that the roads and services are in place.

Dog Fouling

Fouling of footpaths and maintained grass areas by dogs has not improved. A few dog owners still persist in allowing their dogs to foul the recreation field, action will have to be taken against these thoughtless owners.

New bylaws are in force which require dog owners to keep dogs on a lead when walking along roadsides.

Best Kept Village Competition

We were unsuccessful in the competition last year, way down the list. We tried harder, there was less litter, the notice board was in better order. It seems other villages tried harder than us or was it the whim of the judges?

Community Association

Members of this association have worked very hard during the year, the hall is now in far better shape, having recently had a new outer cladding and new internal lining to walls and ceiling, making it both warmer and more presentable for hire.

Access for the disabled is now easier and a wider pathway runs from the car park to the hall.

More money is still required to complete the work, fund-raising continues and the Parish Council have budgeted to make a reasonable donation during 1991/1992.

The final payment on the changing rooms and car park will be made this year, which will enable the Parish Council to carry out other urgent projects.

General

The County Council have completed a number of outstanding tasks, they also carried out resurfacing of various footpaths, although the path between Presses Close and Short Lane was missed.

The pretty 'new' waterway bubbling beside Short Lane will I am afraid soon disappear back down the drain from whence it came. Cause of the problem is a collapsed drain which has to be dug up and re-laid.

One hundred yards of hedging consisting of Dogwood, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Wild Rose and Privet, and seventy-five young trees will have been planted in various sites around the village in the past few weeks. These should improve the visual aspects of the village in years to come.

M J Allum
Chairman

03/91