



NEWNHAM PARISH PLAN NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Newnham on Severn Parish Council wishes all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Many of you will be wondering what's been happening about the Parish Plan which was published in April. Well, if you remember, one of the ways the plan identified for achieving some of its key objectives was to form working groups, reporting to the Parish Council, to assist them in particular aspects of the delivery of the Plan.

The good news is that the majority of these working groups have now reported to the Parish Council and their recommendations are being considered. A copy of the reports made so far are available for your perusal at the library. A big thanks is due to the almost 40 people who



Website Group

The Newnham on Severn website went live on 1st December. You can visit it at www.newnhamonsevern.co.uk. It already has a lot of information about the village, its organisations and businesses and importantly a diary of future events but, we need more to ensure it reflects up to date aspects of all parts of village life and activity. So if you are a village organisation or business please get in touch with Tony Pownall - leythemon@googlemail.com who will be happy to help you display the material you want. Each organisation/business will have a password to enable it to keep its material up to date for this is the key to making the website a valuable communication tool for us all. If you don't have access to a computer you can use the one in the library and they will be happy to show how you can access the website.

Christmas Lights



In the light of comments made by parishioners at the Parish Plan open days in January 2009 on the colour, positioning and cost of the Christmas lights in Newnham, a group drawn from across the village was set up. Their favoured recommendation is to have permanently installed up-lighters for the Clock Tower, the trees in the Chains and the High Street. The bulbs in these up-lighters could be changed to create different effects for special events in the village. They also recommend that further lighting be considered on the Green so that the amphitheatre might be used for plays and other open air events and on the trees that form the background to the Beeches grassed area making a truly impressive

Newnham Parish Council: Tony Heeks (Chair), Jackie Baber (Vice Chair), Wendy Anderson, Felix Bihlmeier, Diana Edwards, Colin Harrison, Graham Murray, Steve Samuel and Vicki Roberts (Parish Clerk 01594 822132)

The Parish Council usually meets on the last Monday of every month in the Armoury Hall. Parishioners are welcomed at these meetings and will be invited by the Chairman to participate.

Parking

In the Parish Plan survey lack of parking in the village was seen by very many of you as being a major concern in the village. The parking working group had the difficult task of considering what, if anything, could be done about the current situation. They have examined both on and off street parking and identified some areas for off- street parking that could be enlarged i.e. at the Cliffe and the Beeches. However they see the parking area opposite the Masonic Lodge as being the most logical place for off street parking and urge the Parish Council to continue discussions with the Masons to seek a way forward for its use by the village.

Village Hall working group

Always likely to be the most contentious of the reports is the one from the working party on the options available for the development of a modern village hall for Newnham. The working party carried out a detailed examination of existing facilities and other possible sites. They concluded that in the short to medium term (5-15 years) a suitable site available to purpose build a new village hall, which was accessible, and centrally located, was unlikely to become available. Of the existing facilities the working party's view was that only the Club had significant development potential and as it was once the "Town Hall" has a heritage which is difficult to ignore. The conclusion of the working party was the development of the Club.

Following the presentation of the report to the Parish Plan Steering Group, representatives of the three organisations most affected (the Armoury Hall, the WI and the Club) met to discuss the proposals. Although it was agreed that there was sense in what was being proposed some doubts were expressed about the costings used. It was agreed by the representatives of the three organisations that there was a desperate need for the village to have better facilities. In order to take this matter further it was agreed that the WI, the Armoury Hall and the Club would work together with the Village Hall Working Party. This means that they should discuss how best in the short term the current facilities can be utilised, what improvements need to be made now, and where necessary look to raise joint funds for those improvements. All legal implications need to be considered, the constitutional position of the Club reviewed, required space confirmed and true costs of the working party's recommendations need to be ascertained. Once these issues have been resolved the recommendations of the working party will need to be approved by you, the residents of the parish.

Parish Plan Steering Group: Nick Assirati (516742), Anna Fedden (516526), Trevor Firman (516303), Linda Love (510610), Rob Mann (510621), Sue Pearson (510383), Steve Samuel (517390), Pete



Volunteer drivers needed in Newnham.

There is an ever increasing gap in the availability of reasonably priced convenient transport – especially for the vulnerable and especially in rural areas to places such as the Dilke Hospital. To help fill the gap we have so far recruited six volunteer drivers in Newnham – but we need a lot more before we can launch a service; to ensure we can meet demand without overloading drivers. There are already volunteer car drivers working in other Community schemes in other parts of the Forest and we want to work with them and develop a similar scheme to help people in our area. Volunteer Drivers would use their own cars and are paid 40p per mile. They will be subject to a police CRB check. We have a full information pack on which to make a decision. If you have the time to talk, to see if this is something you could consider taking part in – contact Peter Hood on 01594516007; or email pandmhood@uwclub.net.