



Issue 18 November 2016

Shipton-under-Wychwood

WELCOME to our Winter Parish Newsletter

In this newsletter, there are a number of issues on which we are very keen to raise awareness amongst Shipton residents. The shape and form of the proposed development in Milton Road will be determined in the coming months. At the same time, your Parish Council is giving consideration to whether a Neighbourhood Plan is a vital part in shaping our village in the years ahead. Public transport links are increasingly under threat at a time when more homes are emerging in the local area. Feedback on all the issues that affect village life as we know it has been sporadic at best. It is important that you let us know what you feel about any of these issues whilst there is time.

Neil Jagger, Chairman

Parish Council, New Beaconsfield Hall, Station Rd, Shipton-u-Wychwood, OX7 6BQ. Contact the parish clerk: clerk@shiptonunderwychood.org

Milton Road

An application has been made to the District Council to build 44 Houses on the land between the School and the business park. For many years the idea of building up to 25 houses on this land was widely accepted and has appeared in many versions of the local plan. It is generally agreed that Shipton should be a vibrant growing village able to house a growing number of younger families as well as older residents wishing to downsize. The Parish Council has therefore no objection to the principle of development but believes that 44 houses are excessive. Our objection is based on the implications for road safety caused by the extra traffic that will be generated in a sensitive location, the strain that will be put on local infrastructure and services and drainage issues on a difficult site. We have put our objection to the District Council along with a claim for over £200,000 for compensatory works if it is approved. The next step is for the Planning Committee to consider it, most likely at its December meeting. The Parish Council will be represented and will maintain our objection.

Sign up for Parish Council email alerts!

As well as this paper edition, residents who have signed up to our mailing list will also receive an electronic version. Once the electronic service is widespread we will review the position. If you would like to join the mailing service please email shiptonalerts1@gmail.com. It will be used sparingly to keep you up to date on time critical issues and will not be shared with others

Christmas Eve carols

The annual Parish Council 'Carols around the Tree' will take place on the village green at 7pm on 24th December. This year the proceeds of our collection will be donated to the Lawrence Home Nursing Team.

Winter Preparations

For the last few years we have experienced mild winters, however our weather is such that we never quite know what the future holds. Now would be a good time to ask whether we are prepared for whatever Mother Nature may throw at us in the way of severe weather.

The Parish Council has an Emergency Plan which details the actions required to hold the fort until the emergency services arrive following any major event. Copies are published on the village website.

A few thoughts on residents' personal preparations:

Do you have back up lighting in the form of torches and lamps if we should experience a power failure? Maybe even back up heating?

Have you turned off and isolated those external taps?

Do you have a suitable snow shovel for clearing drives and pavements?

Are you aware of a sensible route to work /school that will have been cleared and gritted by the council? (Up to date details can be found on the County Council website)

Do you know where the nearest salt/grit bins are? The Parish Council has a small supply of salt for general, but not personal use. Finally, please remember to keep an eye on elderly neighbours who may welcome a little help over the coming months.

Do you have the builders in?

Building work by its very nature can be very disruptive to those undertaking it and to other residents. Please could we ask residents and contractors involved to consider other residents by keeping noise to a minimum, parking considerately and making good any damage to verges and pavements? We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those contractors who are considerate.

Shipton Volunteers

With the support of the Parish Council the Shipton volunteers continue to meet once a month on a Friday & Saturday morning. The precise dates are posted in advance on the Parish website under Our Village – Shipton Volunteers. The work covers a variety of tasks ranging from the annual litter pick, sweeping of fallen leaves, redefining path edges to the weeding of pavements, trimming of vegetation, churchyard tiding and helping in the Wild Garden. The list goes on!

Additional volunteers are always welcome. If you are able to give a little time once a month or even once a year please contact Carole Arnold on 07545 475560 or email carole@caa-accounting.co.uk

Allotments

Thanks to a community grant from Tesco the allotments have a new road which is a big improvement on the track we had before. There is also a new container tucked away in the trees to house the Volunteers' equipment and medical aids. Have you spotted it yet? It was fun getting the lorry in through the gate! There is an area set aside for raised beds for less abled gardeners: the beds are being made by a volunteer from pallets donated by the Rooflight Company. Help was given by a local farmer and the road was put in by a contractor from Ascott who did a very good job. All in all we benefited greatly from local knowledge and help from volunteers – and of course Tesco's!

Transport

The Villager Bus

Shipton Parish Council, along with the other Wychwood parishes, has agreed to provide a grant, to be reviewed annually, to 'The Villager Bus', following withdrawal by OCC of all bus subsidies. The timetable has been amended to ensure maximum take up of services and, despite a few teething problems, the new timetable appears to be working well. Additional buses have been put on routes which were full to capacity. There is a link on the village web site to the timetable. This service is run by volunteer drivers so please consider volunteering if you have the time; training will be given.

Comet Bus Service

There is a new bus service 'for hire' run by Oxfordshire County Council which may be of interest to some residents. More details are available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet or by telephoning 01865 323201 Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm. Details are also posted on the village website. The service is available 10.15am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank holidays, using OCC drivers and vehicles when they are not required for other duties. The buses are 16 seater with full wheelchair accessibility. They can be hired by an individual sharing the service with other users or you can hire the bus for exclusive use by family, friends and clubs. Journeys start from £3.50 for 5 miles shared usage. Bus passes cannot be used.

If you have any observations or suggestions about either of the bus services please send them via the parish clerk. We are keen to hear the experience of users, good or bad.

Neighbourhood Plan

Shipton Parish Council is considering embarking on a Neighbourhood Plan jointly with Milton Parish Council. It will involve the communities coming together to develop a shared vision, identifying where new houses, offices and shops can be built and planning the infrastructure needed to support development. The views of residents will be an essential part of this process. We will update the website with further details in due course but, in the meantime, if anyone is interested in being involved in the initial project team can they please email the parish clerk?

Playground

At the RoSPA inspection in the summer the inspector found black rot in several timbers of the play equipment – apparently this problem is widespread as the weather has been very wet. The treatment is to sit the wooden spars in metal feet which go into the ground, like some of the spars on the playground in Milton. While the work is done it will cause some disruption to the playground but hopefully this will take place during the winter months.



