



The Parish Pen

The official newsletter of Glenfield Parish Council
Park House, Stamford Street, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8DL
www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org
Tel: 0116 231 2498



Issue – 7 Dec 2004

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Pen. We have seen progress on several projects over recent weeks and have more ideas in the pipeline. We take this opportunity to wish you all a good time over the festivities and a healthy and successful New Year. Our New Year's resolution is to get local government to work closer together and to keep you informed. To this end, for those of you who like to use the Internet, we have a website, which we are expanding and hope to be able to keep current. It can be found by visiting the above address and following the on screen instructions.

Roy Denney, Chairman

Town or Village and the impact on services

For some time now there has been a debate going on as to whether there would be a case for changing our status from that of a village to a town. Many feel that this is the only way to get others to take us seriously and get the recognition and support we deserve from our rates. Others would choose to retain the title of village, which paints a nice cosy picture. We would still welcome more views on this difficult subject.

We have written a comprehensive letter to Blaby District Council and pointed out the disappointing levels of service and the lack of support villagers feel they receive and we await a detailed response with great interest. We have also copied the letter, with additional comments, to the County Council and the Chief Constable in respect of those items in which they have an involvement.

The letter refers to the lack of joined up government, handling of complaints about council services, youth provision, open spaces and sports/leisure provision, conservation and the green wedge, policing and security, secondary schooling and/or a community college, a fair return for the rates paid, maintenance of hedges, roads and paving, grass and hedge cutting, street cleaning, transport, pollution, housing and burial facilities.

Blaby District Council is the cause of many complaints coming our way. Every year we pay for additional street cleaning, as we do not feel their normal standards are adequate. The opinion is that we should be properly serviced from our already high rates.

Unlike some other parishes, where Blaby DC has given away land for nominal sums, Glenfield has been paying a rent of £540 per year for Gynsill Meadows and is now faced with a quadrupling of this sum (£2050), which we are challenging.

We are pressing them to either drop this rent charge, under which circumstances we would continue to maintain it, or to take the land back and look after it themselves. Our existing lease has another 10 years to run.

The Parish Council feels that it is Blaby DC's responsibility to provide open spaces and have for years been arguing

against this rent charge. We now face this ridiculous leap in cost, which alone will require a 1% increase in next year's element of the rates that we charge you. For the last three years we have managed to hold the precept level by careful management but we cannot absorb imposed increases such as this.

It is our view that we should only be increasing our precept when we have a specific need for funds to cover projects we believe the majority of the residents of Glenfield wish to see.

Our letter to Blaby DC has been acknowledged and we trust that by our next edition we will have more to report.

The County Council is developing one-stop advice centres, which provide information about all levels of local government. We are currently in discussion with the County Council about establishing one of these centres in Glenfield.

As part of our project to bring local government closer to the residents we have been making overtures about our own ward structure. The Boundary Commission have adopted Glenfield Parish Council's proposals and are recommending the changes for adoption. We will, if it is formally approved, have 6 parish wards with the total number of councillors as at present (21) but residents would be more directly represented by 3 or 4 councillors, rather than up to 10 as at present.

In order to allow our staff to be more efficient and more responsive we have purchased a small blue van, which you will now see about the village.

Youth Club

We have been pressing the County Council to use the site of our old library as a more appropriate home for the youth club and whilst there are no decisions as yet we feel the door is open and we keep pushing. Previous decisions have been put on hold and a fresh debate is ongoing and hopefully by our next edition we will have some progress to report.

Roads and Traffic

The promised decision on the proposed Park and Ride scheme has been put back to December, by Central Government.

We cannot move on our own plans until we know the outcome.

The government is proposing a widening of the M1 near Glenfield, with all the associated increase in noise and pollution. Despite overwhelming public support for more enlightened measures to combat congestion on the M1, the government is proposing to spend 2 billion pounds of taxpayers' money on widening the M1 between junctions 21 and 30. While the widening scheme is seen by many as a *fait accompli*, Glenfield Parish Council has written letters of objection and the Parish Council has appointed two members to work with a group of local parishes, the District Council and the County Council to argue whether there is any such need and if there is to minimise any negative impact on our community.



Tree-mendous Success

Winners of the 2004 Glenfield Young Environmentalist of the Year were Danielle Elliot and Felicity Oldridge. Students at Glenfield's two primary schools had been set the task of producing work on the value of trees. Danielle and Felicity won themselves an engraved plaque as well as family tickets to Conkers. Highly commended in the competition were Rebecca

Godfrey, Daniel Powell, Nouraj Chhokar, Christina Marshall, Rebecca Carr and Ruchir Shah. The 2005 competition is already underway, the subject being "promoting healthy use of the countryside".

Whilst on the subject of trees we are conscious that on winter nights trees can create threatening pockets of darkness and we are pressing the relevant authorities and some private property owners to keep them cut back. In the meantime do exercise some caution in such areas.



Local Policing

Peter Murray, our local 'bobby', has transferred to other duties in Beaumont Leys. Constable Murray put a great deal of effort, often in his own time, working to improve Glenfield and the Council wishes to put on record its gratitude.

A meeting has recently been held to allow the police to consult with residents on areas of concern and the police are now proposing to set up a local working group where they will meet regularly with local volunteers to work together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Five arrests, with more to follow, have recently been made in connection with vandalism and anti-social behaviour within Glenfield.

On the down side, during the early part of October nine Leylandii trees have been stolen from our bowls green. The last of the trees planted as part of the renovation of Station Park was destroyed during the first week in November with some graffiti appearing. The Parish Council considers that, at present, it is unwise to spend more ratepayers' money on further refurbishment at Station Park.

If you have seen a row of trees appear (each 4 to 5ft tall) or have any information regarding these incidents then please call the Parish Council, the police or crime-stoppers. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

How are incidents reported to the Police prioritised?

By Inspector Jay Ball, New Parks Local Policing Unit

When an incident or crime is reported to Leicestershire Constabulary, there is a process in place that determines the urgency of the police response in relation to each particular crime. The following information outlines how incidents are categorised in terms of importance and urgency. A grading system determines the level of response applicable to each respective incident or crime reported and this is as follows:

Grade 1 (999) Emergency response

A grade 1 response is usually appropriate when an incident is happening at the time that the call is made. This would constitute, for example, the 'use of or `threat of immediate violence (perhaps a large fight taking place) or, a crime in progress such as a person being observed breaking into property. Calling 999 will not automatically guarantee an immediate response if the operator does not consider your particular call to be an emergency. There have been instances when members of the public have called 999 with reports of loud music from neighbours or to say that an officer is late for an appointment. Non-urgent incidents such as this should be reported on 0116 222 2222, always use this number rather than 999 unless it is an emergency situation.

Grade 2

A grade 2 response is determined when an officer is required to attend the scene but the situation is not an emergency. This could be such as discovering that you have been burgled when returning home, but there is no immediate threat or danger to you. This could also apply if you were unfortunate to suffer an assault, but were now safely in your home and in no further danger.

Grade 3

A grade 3 response would apply when the situation is non-urgent. This may include problems encountered with neighbours or threatening phone calls. Incidents such as these would be placed in a queue and an officer would deal with them as appropriate and as soon as possible.

Grade 4

Calls classed as grade 4 apply to those that contain information only. This may be for example, that you have called to pass on some information to your beat officer. These messages would be forwarded to a printer within the relevant police station and left in the respective officer's in-tray for when they return to duty. If you make a call in order to pass on information to your local officer, I would request that you use their voicemail. At present the officer responsible for Glenfield is PC 4273 Chris Huss. Voice messages can be left by keying the officer's collar number (above), prefixing zero where a three-digit number applies.

I must stress the importance of you reporting any incidents to us. Do not assume that someone else will have reported the problem. This is particularly important in cases such as those that concern anti-social behaviour, all calls are taken into consideration for crime pattern analysis and these help us to identify 'Hot Spot' areas so that an 'action plan' can be devised in order to effect early resolution.

Please also remember that the more information you can give us, in terms of descriptions, names and or addresses of perpetrators the better. This can be done anonymously if you prefer by calling Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

I trust you have found this information useful and I hope it will help to alleviate some of your concerns as to what action is taken when you make a call to Leicestershire Constabulary.

Inspector Jay Ball

Glorious Glenfield

You will have noticed the work in The Square where we have created beds of colourful shrubs and installed planters and low level fencing to make the area more attractive. A Glenfield sign has now been installed, which reflects our railway heritage. Many thanks go to Gordon Brooks JP, of Glenfield Travel, who kindly donated the sign and its installation. Our thanks also go to Tony Buckmaster who donated the commemorative plaque.

The Glenfield Society

A meeting of residents was held earlier this year and another is now being put together to establish demand for a group to monitor and protect the wildlife, natural environment and surviving archaeological or historical sites within Glenfield. Such a Glenfield Society would be independent of the Council it would enjoy our support.

All our yesterdays

In our last edition we printed an extract from The Leicestershire Directory published 1896. We follow this up with part of the Who's Who of that period and the times

etc. of the Church services. The last article mentioned that Glenfield was in the "Hundred of Sparkenhoe" and following questions from several residents we would advise a "Hundred" is an ancient division of a county, originally meant to represent the land occupied by a hundred households. Leicestershire was divided into 6 such 'Hundreds', Framland, Gartree, East Goscote, West Goscote, Guthlaxton and Sparkenhoe and these names are recognised by having been applied to function rooms at County Hall.

Who's Who - 1896.

ST. PETER's Church.

Services, Sundays 11 and 6-30. H. C. first Sunday morning and third Sunday evening in month.

Rev. Canon Bennie, LLD.

Wardens, Messrs. J. Tebbs and Wm. Garner

Organist, Mr. Wm. Everard;

Clk, Js. Harrison.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

Sunday 2-30 & 6.

Steward, Mr. Ths. Everard

Harmonium, Geo. Kinton, Jun.

Miss L. Heatlie, sub-postmistress.

Letters via Leicester delivered at 7-15 a.m; box cleared 7:30 p.m. on weekdays only..

Money Order and Telegraph Office at Groby (1.5 miles).

Bowlcott Miss Eliza, Infant School.



Dawson Thos., bricklayer & builder.
Everard Mr. John Ellis Joseph & Sons, brick, tile and coal merchants.
Everard Wm, carpenter.
Jackson James, agent Prudential.
Jackson Frederick & Son (Everard), bag hosiers.
Kinton James, bag hosier.
Gladstone William (provision dealer)
Garner Wm, seedsman's manager,.
Gamble John Thos, wharf foreman
Harrison J. & Son (Isaac), joiners, painters & wheelwrights,
Harrison James, of Harrison & Son, and parish clerk
Stark Amos, station master.
Stockley Jacob, boot maker
O'Connor J. E, M.B, surgeon (attends Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
Thompson Richard, blacksmith
Timson Henry, baker
DRESS MAKERS
Clements Mrs. Catherine.

Swift Mrs. Lucy

GRAZIERS.

Collyer Viccars, and nurseryman.

Culyer Christopher, and butcher.

Ludlam Alfred, and miller.

Jackson (Mrs. Mary) & Neal (Edmd. Greasley)

PUBLICANS.

Chamberlain Albt. Ths, Nag's Head.

Richardson Wm, Railway Inn

Toone Albert, cottager & v, Griffin

SHOPKEEPERS.

Co-op Stores, Miss H. Halford, mgrs,

Heatlie Miss Louisa, beer retailer.

CARRIERS (to Leicester).

Cramp Thomas, from Ratby W. S.

Jackson & Neal, W. and S.

Richardson Bros, from Ratby W.S.

Wood John Henry, W. and S.