



The Parish Pen



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

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Pen, the independent newsletter of your Parish Council. As we approach the end of another Council year our thoughts have to turn to the share of the rates which we will need from you, to continue to provide, in a cost effective way, the services and facilities you require and deserve.

Roy Denney, Chairman

Councillor Vacancy

Following a resignation, we had a vacancy for a councillor to serve Stone Ward. The vacancy was advertised and, as an election was not called, we were able to co-opt from three applicants, all of whom had provided details about what they felt they could bring to the council. At our January meeting Nick Cox was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Parish Precept

The Parish Council is comprised of 21 members and provides a range of social and recreational facilities. Many of the Council's functions and responsibilities are delegated to two committees and a number of working parties. At present there is a Property Committee, responsible to Council for everything that Council owns or manages, and a Community Committee, which considers most other matters concerning the residents of the village.

Unlike the District and County Council the Parish Council receives no funding from Central Government or Business Rates, so the net cost of our services is funded entirely from the council taxpayers of Glenfield. We trust you feel you get value for money. In broad terms we receive about 84p per household per week.

The Parish Council promotes the interests of Glenfield in its representations to other bodies and works in partnership with the District and County Council to provide and supplement local government services within Glenfield. The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications made in Glenfield and, where appropriate, makes written representations.

Included within the services provided by the Parish Council are allotments, the multi-sport facilities at Ellis Park, Ellis Park itself, Station Park, subsidised sports facilities at the Glenfield Sports Grounds. We provide for community use the facilities at Park House and also support numerous local organisations including activity schemes for local children, Glenfield Youth Services, St. Peter's Churchyard, Glenwatch and the local schools.

During the current financial year:

- £42,500 has been spent on security cameras to cut the cost of vandalism around Ellis Park, with £22,500 being provided by Blaby District Council.
- £3,000 has been used in the provision of additional street cleaning.
- Over £6,000 was required for the cost of major work to hedges and trees around the village.
- £1,700 was spent on a defibrillator to be used for the benefit of the residents of Glenfield.

The precept we have agreed for 2006/7 is £197,000 being an increase of 2.34%, which is a standstill in real terms when inflation is born in mind. Given more people are coming to live in Glenfield as additional homes are built that actual rise to individual householders should be even less.

Prudent financial planning over a number of years has enabled us to keep costs down, despite making full provision for the depreciation of our assets and putting monies into reserve to fund a possible and exciting project which we are working on (see Green Wedge Protection below).

The Glenfield Society

The Parish Council was disappointed to hear that, despite a very promising start, the Glenfield Society had decided to disband due to the lack of attendance by those who had said that they were interested in promoting and protecting the heritage, wildlife, etc. of the village. The Parish Council wrote to those who had originally shown an interest and of the replies received only one felt that there was no future for the society. The vast majority stated that they had found difficulty with the dates of the meetings. The issue will, therefore, be raised again at this year's Parish Meeting (24 April 2006) to see whether it can be continued, possibly meeting on a different night. It would be a shame if it could not continue as both the Parish Council and the other tiers of local authority, working through Stepping Stones, are working on projects trying to enhance the wildlife and environmental potential of Glenfield.

Green Wedge Protection

As previously reported in earlier editions of the Parish Pen, the Parish Council would like to develop the sports and leisure facilities within Glenfield. These plans

include our land on the A50 but this land has been blighted by the prospect of a 'park and ride' scheme. Following meetings with the County, City and District Councils we are able to report that the immediate prospect of developing this land for park and ride no longer exists. The County Council's latest Transport Plan, covering the five years 2006 to 2011, makes no mention of 'park and ride' at Glenfield. One can never say 'never' but this means that any further threat from a park and ride is probably at least five years away. Even then there is no decision that a 'park and ride' on the A50 corridor needs to be within Glenfield. The County and City Councils current proposals to develop a site at Fosse Park follows the failure of support from Central Government for the three site major scheme bid that included the Glenfield 'park and ride'. The 'park and ride' scheme at Birstall continues with a green light.

In pursuit of additional sports and leisure facilities and to protect the green wedge we have approached two landowners with a view to acquiring land along Rothley Brook to use as public amenity land and to preserve this wildlife corridor between ourselves and neighbouring communities. At the end of the day, however, we are dependent upon the landowners being prepared to either sell land or lease it to us for a period of time sufficient to justify any expense incurred.

It is still early days but our plans involve the provision of additional sports pitches, to take some pressure of our present provision, and, possibly, to provide further facilities for the young and ladies. The plans also include wildlife enclaves, with walking routes and other pathways for dog walking. We hope to create wildflower meadows and woodland glades, the ambition being to provide something for everyone.

Key to our plans is the desire to see that the land under consideration remains an open and green area, and that it does not come under pressure for 'park and ride' schemes or traveller encampments.

We expect to have more idea about the possibilities by the time of our Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April 2006 and will mount a display and present more detail at that meeting. Residents will be able to ask questions and express their views before the Council makes any binding decisions.

Parking in Glenfield

Parking, in general, is a difficult issue and in particular with those who park regardless of signage or the difficulty caused to others, just because they need to be somewhere. This is no different in Glenfield! There has been considerable press coverage of the police targeting specific areas to try to alleviate the problems caused. The Parish Council is able to advise residents that the police will be targeting



Glenfield from the beginning of March. You may have noticed posters that have been placed around the village.

Many residents will already know the hotspots and so do the police, so illegal parkers beware.

Defibrillator Goes Live.

Glenfield Parish Council has led the way amongst parish councils by purchasing a defibrillator for the benefit of the residents of Glenfield. St John Ambulance has trained four volunteers within Glenfield to provide 24 hour cover for the village. The volunteers, who can be paged following 999 emergency calls, will be available to administer life-saving first aid to anyone who has a heart attack. The Parish Council officially received the defibrillator at its February 2006 council meeting and thanked those who had been involved in setting up the scheme and the volunteers who will man the service.

Bus Survey

The Parish Council is now analysing the results of its bus survey, together with the statistics obtained during a period of observation of the current usage of the services within Glenfield. Results should be available within the next issue of the Parish Pen.

A Hidden Jewel in Glenfield

Hidden away behind imposing fencing to the rear of



Park House there is a little gem in the form of a very friendly bowls club. Being tucked away, however, can also be a disadvantage. We feel that 'out of sight, out of mind' might be why we

don't see more of Glenfield's residents at the club, so we remind you of its existence.

The club was started in 1950, which makes it fairly long standing. In the County the club is known for its friendliness and for having one of the finest greens. The season is from 1 April to 31 September. Each Monday afternoon sees a few hours of informal bowling, which is an excellent opportunity for popping in to see how enjoyable bowling can be.

In a recent television programme Julian Clary described a Bowls Club as a "Youth Club for the Mature". The maturity is the attitude to playing bowls, which is a game for all ages. Interested? Call in and see how engrossing and enjoyable bowling is, after all Sir Francis Drake kept the Armada waiting until he had finished his game. Further information can be obtained from Vice President, Phil, on 2877191.

Garden Competition

Full details of this year's garden competition, open to all households and businesses in the village, will be published in the June edition of the Parish Pen.