



November '13

### Parish Council Meeting

“Planning in the Borough is in chaos” claims the Suffolk Preservation Society (Suffolk View Autumn 2013). “Without adequate staffing and the resignation of the chief planner, Nicola Baker, hopes for a consistent interpretation of policy guidelines have been dashed.”

### Proposed development of Playing Field

Alas, this view appears to be confirmed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday. There was dismay, and not a little puzzlement, over what we hear only second-hand, about surprise changes to the proposed development of the playing field.

Over the last three years, there have been many meetings regarding the proposed development with Ian Gallin, the Chief Executive of St. Edmundsbury Borough, and his planning officers. The opinion gained from these conversations on Borough policy was, that as an infill village, Troston could expect no more than five dwellings on the site. The Borough, however, have now told Greene King that they would like to see eight properties plus two houses for social housing on the same site.

This will undoubtedly put more pressure on the available playing field space and nature of the properties to be built. Calls to find out more have not been returned.

### Borough Councillor's Report

The Borough has been re-evaluating commitments to meet the cuts made to the budget by central government. Over the next four years the revenue support grant made to rural parish councils will be reduced by 25% a year. For Troston, this means a loss of about £500 a year to our budget.

There is a fear that some non-statutory functions of Borough and County Councils (but not the

funds to finance them) could be off-loaded onto Parishes.

*From Councillor Christopher Spicer*

### Questions from Villagers

“What does the Parish Council actually do?” The law gives Parish Councils a wide range of powers to contribute to the well being of their community, but as Councillors work for free, freedom to choose which activities they wish to undertake. Councils may choose, for example, to contribute to village halls, playing fields, litter bins, play equipment, traffic calming measures, and grants to local charities and voluntary groups. They can provide, subject to the consent of the Borough or County Council, bus shelters, signposts, and maintenance of roadside verges. Troston currently receives £9,000 for these activities from a share of the local Council Tax.

Being involved in the planning system is chosen, as for most Parish Councils, to be our single most important activity. While the Parish has the right to ask for copies of planning applications affecting Troston and to express a view, the Planning Authority doesn't have to agree – as we can see!

Surprisingly, however, there are very few duties we must carry out. Exceptions are that we must:

- “Provide allotments if there is sufficient demand and it is reasonable to do so.
- Comply with Employment Law, and the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts.
- Consider the impact of our decisions on reducing crime and disorder.
- Have regard to the protection of biodiversity and hedgerows.
- Decide whether to adopt a churchyard if it is closed by the Church.

- Make regular checks of playgrounds, assess risks and pay for the appropriate insurance.
- Ensure good administration by appointing a chairperson, qualified clerk, and independent internal auditor. Hold at least four open meetings a year.”

### **Pot Holes**

At long last some of the major pot holes in Heath Road have been filled in on the highway part.

Alas, others have not been touched and the unmade section continues to be destroyed by the two tankers which are parked on the Honington RAF sewage works. The matter will be raised at the next Liaison meeting with the Base.

### **New Village Sign**

Can we have a more interesting village sign-post than a pole with a tacky crown on it?

If you have some good ideas, or even amusing suggestions, please submit drawings or models for a more imaginative sign for consideration at the next Parish meeting. Some light relief would be welcome.

### **Handy Man or Woman Required**

Although people in the village have been kind enough to tackle the occasional odd job to keep the village tidy, it was felt the Parish Council should appoint a “handyman”. The part-time job would involve erecting the new noticeboard, putting up signposts etc. The rate is £10 per hour. If you are interested, please contact the Village Clerk.

### **Police Report**

Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents to park safely and, of course, legally when dropping off and picking up their children. We constantly get complaints during term time of parents parking irresponsible and causing hazards to

pedestrians and other road users. Be warned - we will be cracking down on those who are causing disruptions by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices resulting in a £30 fine.

Please save us from being “an enemy” and leave enough time for the journey to school and to find a suitable parking space.

At our priority setting meeting with the local community, it was agreed our efforts should continue to focus on preventing/prosecuting

- 1) Traffic offences, in particular speeding.
- 2) Burglary - proactive patrolling, and crime reduction advice.
- 3) Harecoursing – preemptive patrols and appeals to the public for information.

We do need your help to keep crime on the decrease. However small you may think the issue, we would appreciate you reporting it to us so we can respond quickly and effectively.

The St Edmundsbury Rural North team now have a twitter account follow us @StEdsPolice

Concern has been expressed that some young people in Troston have been seen smoking drugs. While experimenting with drugs doesn't automatically lead to drug abuse, early use is a risk factor for developing more serious drug addiction. We know risk of drug abuse also increases greatly during times of transition, such as changing schools, exams, moving, or divorce, and try to be sympathetic. The challenge, of course, is to distinguish between the normal, often volatile, ups and downs of the teen years and the red flags of substance abuse.

If you're worried about your own or a friend or family member's drug use, it's important to know that confidential help is available from the doctors at Ixworth Surgery. Don't go it alone.

*From PCSO Claire Teakle, Ixworth Police Station*

## Keep Warm

Don't be cold this winter! If you need help with fuel payments or making your home warmer, as well as more energy efficient please call the County Council "warm homes" service 08456 037 686. They can help with emergency boiler or heating repairs and loan of temporary heaters in an emergency.

*From Councillor Becky Hopfensperger*

## Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk (01284 763 098) with any issues you would like raised at the Meeting so they can be put on the Agenda.

*From Nigel Pitcher, Parish Clerk*

## Church News

Our annual Gift Day and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 7 December from 10.00 until noon in the Village Hall, an opportunity to relax with friends over a cup of coffee or tea and some biscuits. We will need helpers on the day, so if you're willing to lend a hand with making tea and coffee or manning a stall, please contact me or Audrey Ringrose.

It seems much too early to be talking about Christmas, but of course the merchants have had Christmas goodies displayed for weeks alongside Halloween treats and other paraphernalia. I hope you will join us at our Christingle and Carol Service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. We will be offering the traditional "Midnight" Mass at 8 pm on Christmas Eve and a short family service at 10 am on Christmas morning. Everyone is welcome!

The monthly Men's Breakfast at Great Livermere Village Hall features Graeme Knowles on 'Being a Bishop'. Join us on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 8.15 to 9.30 am.

Just a reminder that Jeanne and I will be moving down the road (literally) to Great Livermere at the end of the month. It seems like yesterday that we arrived in Troston and settled for a short time in Capel Close before moving down to the Heath for 5 & 1/2 years. After 32 years, we take with us so many wonderful memories—but we ARE only down the road, and I will still be taking services in Troston. As we are still negotiating our telephone service, if you find that our number (269614) is no longer working, we can be reached on my mobile, 07804700956. Along with Jeanne, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## Church Services

Sunday, Nov 10th 10.50 Remembrance Service

17th 11.00 Morning Worship

24th 11.00 Family Communion

Sunday, Dec 1st 9.30 Holy Communion

8th 9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec 15th 11.00 Morning Worship

22nd 11.00 Christingle

Christmas Eve 8.00 Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.00 Family Service

Sunday, Dec 29th 10.00 Team Service, Ixworth Thorpe

*From Rev Doug Neupert, Asst Priest*

## Tuesday Soup Day

Do come along and have a bowl of soup and meet people every Tuesday 12noon - 1:30pm.

There is a choice of soup - £2.50 for soup and bread, £0.50 for hot drink and biscuits. Everyone welcome.

*From Jane Harland*

### **Befriending Service**

People are often lonely and find themselves isolated and in need of companionship. The Voluntary Network operates a free service to residents in Troston who would like to help or feel a bit low themselves.

If you would like to train as a member of the Network, or know someone who may benefit from the scheme and you would like to make a referral, please contact Terri Hardy 01638 608 048.

### **Ixworth Free School**

Last month, the Seckford Foundation ran consultation evenings on setting up Ixworth Free School. The aim is to increase choice in secondary education and to raise the aspirations and achievement of students in our area. The curriculum will be based on traditional subject areas, with a strong element of literacy, numeracy and use of information technology.

The intention is to provide an all-round education beyond academic study through a "life enrichment" programme so that pupils can discover their latent talents. An important factor will be that each pupil will have a personal tutor, as well as class and subject teachers, to guide their education.

A Free School is still a state school and subject to Ofsted inspections. It has more freedom, however, to make decisions about teaching methods, staffing and allocation of resources. It is funded directly by central government as long as there is enough community support. Full details of the plans are available on their website:

[www.ixworthfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.ixworthfreeschool.co.uk) or telephone 01394 386768

### **Women's Institute**

Wednesday 13th November at 19.45 at Troston Village Hall. Come and hear Chris Gowers talk about his "Life as a Pilot". Members husbands are welcome to join us.

Wednesday 11th December - Our Christmas Celebration.

Guest are always welcomed to join us. For further information on the WI please contact Jenny Simmonds on 269219 or Carol Littlewood on 269769.

### **The Village Hall**

"Thank you for letting us use your beautiful hall. We had an amazing day!" So wrote the young couple who recently had their 'vintage' style wedding reception in our hall.

Certainly the setting, facilities and versatility of our pretty hall are exceptional and such a pleasant surprise to visitors. But, finances are difficult these days! A village **Social Club** to bring residents together would be a great idea. **YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU** to use it or lose it!

I'm very happy to show anyone around, just give me a ring on 269467. Ideal for parties, clubs business meetings.....and wedding receptions.

*From Sue Bishop*

### **Mcmillan Cancer Support Fund Raiser**

A big thank you to everyone who helped make "the World's Biggest Coffee Morning" a success – we managed to raise £212.

The charity has made a difference to so many of us and is well worth our support. It was founded by Douglas Mcmillan in 1911, following the death of his father of the disease. It helps local support groups, and provides specialist nurses in advanced pain control who will attend cancer patients in their own homes.

*From Brenda Little*

### **Troston Poors Estate Charity**

Any person over the age of 65, and who has been in the village for over 2 years, is entitled to be considered for an annual payment from the above charity. One payment per household.

If anyone thinks they are entitled to this payment, and is not already receiving it, please contact Vic Simmonds at 7 The Heath or telephone 269219 before the end of November.

The charity is thought to have begun sometime in 1666, with a conveyance in trust of lands in the open fields of Troston by Thomas and Fitznoon Lamb. Income from leasing the land was to be distributed on Christmas Day to the poorer folk of the village.

The governing document is the Enclosure Act of 1806, when land was awarded to the lord of the manor, the rector, and churchwarden, with the intent that rents and profits should be used to purchase fuel and blankets. In recent years a cheque was thought to be more appropriate.

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Thanks to all contributors. Hopefully their articles have been edited in correctly enough. Please send possible material for the next Newsletter to [graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk](mailto:graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk) or by post to Church Cottage, Church Lane, Troston, IP31 1EX or short phone message 01359 268 082.