



# WINCHAM WORD

Volume 1 Issue 2

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## BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

It has been decided that the village will be entered for the 'Community Pride' otherwise known as the 'Best Kept Village' competition this year.

Preliminary judging will take place from early April to the end of June, intermediate judging from 20 July to 21 August followed immediately by final judging in late August/early September.

So there is a long time period during which the village will need to look at its best if we are to avoid the ignominy of coming last once again!

It would be great if all members of the community could help to give a little TLC where needed throughout the judging period and at other times.

The judges will be looking at commercial premises, public areas ie telephone kiosks, noticeboards, the playing fields, grass verges and hedges. They will take into consideration absence of litter, graffiti, weeds, dog fouling and adequacy/condition of litter bins in all the sections that they judge.

Currently the Parish Council pays for the grass on the playing fields to be cut by Vale Royal Borough Council and also for the Borough Council to do a cleansing service throughout the village. Currently the latter have their work cut out!

The police are being vigilant with regard to littering and offenders will be identified and dealt with.

If everyone looks after their own little area of the village, who knows maybe Wincham will rise off the bottom spot in 2009!

## PARISH PLAN — PROGRESS REPORT

By Paul Psaila

The Parish Plan Steering Group have been busy putting together the Grant Funding application that will hopefully secure a further £2750 to go towards creating and producing a Parish Plan. The application will be formally considered in the next few weeks and once awarded working groups will be formed from the volunteers who offered their support during the initial public meeting.

There will be two phases to

this work – the first will be to develop a questionnaire covering all aspects of community life that will go out to all households and businesses in the parish. It will cover the following sections that were identified by you at the initial public meeting as being important to us as a community:- Policing and Safety, Highways and Transport, Youth and Leisure, Housing and Planning, the Environment.

It will be essential that each

household completes this questionnaire to give the PPSG their views on the important aspects of village life. All questionnaires will be delivered and collected by members of the Parish Plan Working Groups and volunteers. The completed questionnaires will form the basis of our planning going forward – and with the whole community behind the plan this opens up lots of funding opportunity and action from government bodies to help improve our parish.

More information will follow. If you're interested in supporting the process please email [wincham.ppg@googlemail.com](mailto:wincham.ppg@googlemail.com) or call Paul Psaila on 01565 734141.

## **BUILDING A STRONG AND AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY**

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Kevin Davies



Welcome to this edition of Wincham Word. I know it is a little late in the day, but nevertheless I would like to wish you a belated Happy New Year and trust you had a good Christmas. I thought that in this and future editions that we would keep you updated with some of the actions either taken or being taken by the Parish Council on matters of concern. Please note the Planning Update.

There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council, and anyone wishing to join our merry team and take an active part in their community can do so by contacting either myself or the clerk (details on page 4). The Council meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every

month, excluding August and December, and discussions cover all aspects of community life including upkeep of the village and the play areas; planning and policing to name a few. The position is open to all residents and employers or employees of businesses in Wincham irrespective of age and experience. So why not give it a go, you will be made very welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate RoJac and the Cygnet Group who have designed and landscaped their new builds with sympathy for the village environment. Whilst it is understood that Lower

Wincham has a considerable area dedicated to industry, it is encouraging to see that these new builds have been completed to a high standard with much emphasis on the buildings' surroundings which enhance the village amenity. I hope any new and or existing companies have been encouraged by this to move in the same direction.

## CAN YOU HELP SCORE A GOAL?

By Christine Paterson

The Linnards Lane Playing Field has undergone a spring clean ready for 2009: drainage issues have been resolved, shrubs removed and new turf laid.

Unfortunately the old goal posts failed their fitness test, have been condemned as unsafe and after years of great service have gone into retirement.

Can anyone in the village help to advise on/acquire a new set of goal posts. The intention is to make a smaller five a side grass pitch but we

require two metal goal posts (no net).

If you can help in anyway please contact Chris Paterson on 734450.



There have been some incidents of young adults being on the field at inappropriate times of night with

alcohol which has resulted in a litter and broken glass problem. If you witness any unacceptable behaviour please report it to our local community support officer, PCSO Jones. The more we highlight this to PCSO Jones, the more he can work towards resolving this problem.

A special mention and thanks need to go to Chris who works in the Spar Shop. Chris has taken the time and trouble on his breaks to clean up the mess left behind by certain individuals, especially broken glass, to keep the area safe for children to use.

## BUS SERVICE..... WHAT BUS SERVICE?

In 2008 Cllr Roberts started to negotiate with local bus companies to establish whether there could be a bus service for Lower Wincham. It seemed ridiculous to think that that these days when we are all being exhorted to reduce our carbon footprints that there is no bus service—not even a stagecoach!

Free bus passes are useless without a bus to use them on. Cllr Roberts started a petition to which only 98 names were added. This could benefit the whole community not just the minority. He has written to our MP George Osborne who has been kind enough to lend his support to the request.

Five letters have been exchanged. Mr J Taylor of Cheshire County Council has recently stated that they are considering re-routing the number 289 bus along Chapel Street.

So watch this space, we could be successful yet!!

## POLICE MATTERS

### **PCSO Jones reports on some of the situations that the police have dealt with recently in Wincham:**

There have been a number of reported burglaries at businesses off Chapel Street. The area has been identified as vulnerable and we have plans in place to hold a meeting with the business owners there. The meeting will be arranged with the idea of improving security in the area. The Crime Prevention Officer will

attend to provide relevant guidance.

Recently we had a few complaints of trespassers on the school grounds causing problems for staff. These individuals were identified and advised about their conduct. Since then no further problems have been reported.

A number of residents have again stated their concerns about HGVs being driven along Chapel Street contravening the weight restriction.

I can assure you that this is being taken seriously and Police are regularly observing traffic in the area.

There are some areas that have been identified as being untidy due to the amount of littering taking place. In conjunction with Vale Royal, the police CCTV van will be deployed in the area to identify people responsible for this offence which is damaging the appearance of the village.

## PLANNING UPDATE

As I mentioned earlier, I feel it is our duty to keep the residents and businesses of Wincham as informed as possible on matters which concern you all.

As you will have seen, we have our first large scale occupants of the New Cheshire Business Park. However, you may not be aware that one of the conditions of the development at the outset was to improve the junction at the Black Greyhound with the addition of traffic lights. You will also be aware that this has not yet happened.

Despite robust objections from the Parish Council and our Borough Councillors this planning condition, like many before it, was overturned.

The Parish Council objected to the delay in the signalisation of the junction because of the impact on the safety of the many parents and children who use this route daily to and from the Primary School, the older children who go out of the village to the various High Schools, local residents and other highway users. The decision by the Planning

Committee at Vale Royal Borough Council was that these traffic lights should be installed by the end of 2009. We shall see!

VRBC had a survey done some time ago to identify potential sites for travellers in the borough; one of which was in Wincham. Vale Royal Councillors have now decided that the report had significant flaws and the Wincham site along with most of the other potential sites have not been put forward for further consideration.

## KIM IS PROUD TO SHOW HER 'BRA'!

By Debs May

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009, the 12<sup>th</sup> London Moonwalk takes place and the organisers hope to make it the biggest, brightest, best and boldest power walk ever. Kim Darwent (mum to 5 year old Ysa who attends Wincham Primary School) and some friends are already training hard for this amazing walk - 26.2 miles – a full marathon – starting at midnight! Kim is determined to complete the walk and in a good time (so competitive) and aims to raise as much money as possible to help the fight against Breast Cancer.

Kim was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2005 and luckily has been in

remission for some time now. Like so many women, Kim is keen to help the charities who spend so much money and time researching this terrible disease. Without this research who knows if she would still be here!!

### **So why is Kim proud to show her 'Bra'?**

Wearing a bra to take on a challenge is the Walk the Walk trademark and one of the reasons the organisers have been able to raise so much awareness and money for these vital causes. So if you have any good 'Bra' decorating ideas – Kim would love to

know.



If you have any questions, ideas or would like to donate – then you can either call me, Debs on 01565 733706, call Kim on 01565 733791 or

donate directly on [www.justgiving.com/kimdarwent](http://www.justgiving.com/kimdarwent)

I am sure we all wish Kim and her team good luck and no blisters and hope the moon shines brightly on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk:  
Alison Dunabin  
69 Linnards Lane  
Wincham

Phone: 01565 733751  
Email:  
winchampc@btinternet.com

**Chairman**  
**Kevin Davies**  
**O1606 330651**

## WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Jim Bate	01565 733432
Councillor David Couchy	01606 44048
Councillor Clare Dockney	01606 41680
Councillor Heather Holman	01565 733605
Councillor Joan Keelty	01565 733870
Councillor Roy Mainwaring	01606 41560
Councillor Christine Paterson	01565 734450
Councillor Neville Roberts	01606 331864
Councillor Frank Smith	01565 733663

## ARE YOU?

- ✓ A resident of Wincham
- ✓ Enthusiastic
- ✓ Interested in the village environment
- ✓ Keen to make a difference to the place in which you live

If so, you tick all our boxes!

**You** can make a difference by joining the Parish Council.

Please contact Kevin or Alison to find out how!

### ODE TO CHAPEL STREET

Are you looking for a peaceful place?

To put roots down and retire  
Well don't bother here at Wincham  
It's far from your desire.

Scrapyards grow like mushrooms,  
There's rubbish all piled high.  
I'm sure if someone thought of it  
We'd get mining in the sky.  
Business just keeps moving in  
Without a by your leave

### What once was semi-rural

It's now hard to believe.

Business parks—we've got two  
Where once were lovely fields  
But now it's used by lorries,  
Churning up the land with wheels.  
Big towns have their football clubs  
We know that's nothing new,  
But in our little rural village  
We are blessed with two.  
Lorries speeding through the street,  
Coming night and day  
I think it should now be renamed

### As Vale Royal's motorway!

So if it's peace and quiet you want,  
Just take a tip from me  
Go look at where the nobs all live  
You'll find tranquillity.

By Claire Dockney

Claire is clearly disgruntled with her surroundings!

If anyone would like to write a poem or piece of prose extolling the virtues of our village, and how great it is to live here we'd love to hear from you!

## UPDATE FROM OUR CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCILLORS

It is fast approaching the 1st of April, and countdown has already started.

Budgets were agreed at the next Full Council meeting which was held on the 26th of February. Council Tax rates were also decided at this meeting.

In staffing terms the fourth tier of Management are in place.

News on committees is that it has been decided to have one licensing Committee that will meet at Chester.

Many people have asked us about planning committees. There will be three. ONE Strategic Committee, which will deal with Major

Applications, Mineral and Waste.

Two other Planning Committees, meeting twice per month rotating through three venues mainly Vale Royal, Chester, and Ellesmere Port.

#### Contact details are:

Councillor Malcolm Byram  
malcolm.byram@cheshire.gov.uk

Councillor Keith Wilson  
keithwilsonpost@hotmail.co.uk

Councillor Norman Wright  
nwright@valeroyal.gov.uk

Marbury Ward is a large ward stretching from Barnton to Lostock, taking in Anderton, Little Leigh,

Cogshall, Comberbach, Antrobus, Whitley, Marston and Wincham.

Currently there are three candidates for Marbury Ward but this is currently under review. It would be interesting to know how the Electorate would like it to be run. Visit the website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk) and click on 'about electoral reviews'.

For example one candidate could be responsible for three or four villages

However, each member of the electorate would continue to have the right to contact any other candidate should they wish to do so.