

NEWS

from Ashington Parish Council



Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4

Keeping you informed of the work of the Parish Council and the community of Ashington

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ASHINGTON SCHOOL

Ashington Parish Council met recently with representatives from WSCC Capital and Asset Management Unit, Ashington CE School Headteacher and the Chair of Governors to discuss the issue of school place planning. This was in response to concerns expressed by some residents about a perceived lack of school places at Ashington School for Ashington children. At the meeting the Parish Council was reassured that WSCC has procedures in place for: identifying pre-school children living within the catchment area; being informed by HDC about potential housing developments in the village and projecting the number of children likely to require a school place. The School, by law, cannot accept more than 30 pupils into its Reception (or any Key Stage 1) class without additional teaching staff except in very exceptional circumstances as prescribed by The School Admission Code. In September 2010 there were 2 Ashington children who could not be accommodated in Reception class and for September 2011 there was 1 Ashington child who will not be able to start in the Reception class but this was due to the late return of forms. In the previous 5 years all Ashington children who expressed an on time preference for the school, gained a place at the school if it was their highest preference that could be met, in fact some children from other villages were accepted by the School. Figures for the next 5 years show falling numbers of young children in the village. It is therefore likely (at this stage) that pupil numbers will not be a problem.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY

COUNCIL (WSCC)

WASTE PLANNING

WSCC has produced a shortlist of potential new waste sites for the County. Neither Laybrook Brickworks (a potential landfill site) nor Broadbridge Farm (a potential compost site) are on the shortlist. WSCC are consulting on the shortlist at present and the Parish Council has written to WSCC to confirm that it is satisfied that neither of these sites is proposed to be developed, at this stage. The consultation period will end in November and sometime later WSCC will produce its finalised list of new waste sites. A Developer could still submit a planning application for the sites and residents would be asked for their comments in the usual way but if the site is not on WSCC finalised list then it is less likely (but not impossible) that WSCC would approve the application.

DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

The Parish Council produced 2 surveys during November asking for residents comments on proposals for a 'Village Street Party' and a commemorative village historic/heraldic sign. Results of the surveys will be available in December and will be posted on the Parish Council website (www.ashingtonpc.org.uk), weekly village email and in the next Newsletter.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of content. Eyelevel Publishing or the Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions or endorse companies, products or services that appear in this magazine. Production of the magazine relies solely on advertising revenue and is at no cost to the Parish Council or its parishioners.

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DRUGS IN THE VILLAGE

The Wardens are aware that there are drugs (including cannabis, cocaine) coming into the village and being used by some of our younger residents. The Wardens and the Police are gathering information and evidence in order to catch dealers and users. We are asking residents to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour to the Wardens and we are asking parents/carers to be alert to any changes in behaviour/attitude of their youngsters. We are aware that children as young as 10/11 have been approached by dealers. The Wardens are organising a Drug Awareness session for parents who may be concerned about, or wish to learn more about, the issue. Help is available for young people who may be using drugs – speak to the Wardens in confidence.

RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The time that the Parish Council and individual residents have to respond to important planning applications is usually limited to just a few weeks, and often applications can be lodged at Christmas, Easter and during the summer, when people are very busy. So as this Newsletter is only published four times a year, we need to rely on the weekly village email newsletter, the parish website and posters on notice boards to communicate with you about important planning applications that could affect the whole village. So please do look out for such notices, and be prepared to respond in days if you want your voice to be heard.

Malcolm Woolley – Parish Council Chairman

ASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE TRUST

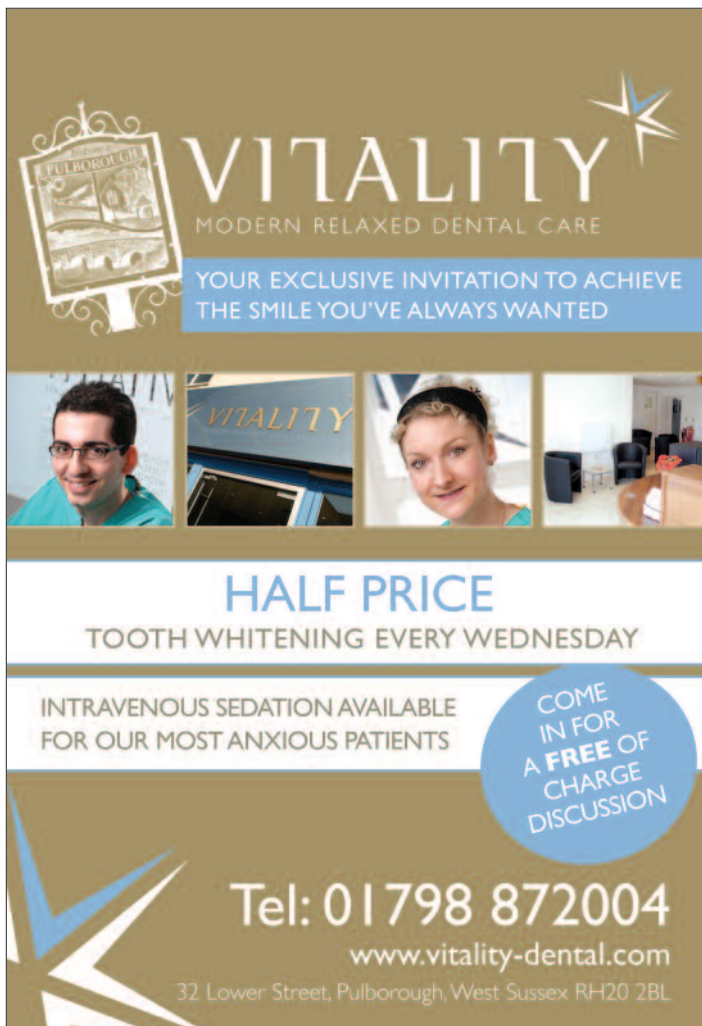
The Trust's Management Committee have recently set up a sub-committee to examine the possibility of building "phase 2" of the Community Centre, which would provide additional rooms and more community facilities. This proposal was originally investigated when the centre was first built and has been on the "backburner" since then. These concepts

are still in their early stages and until the issues of costing, planning and funding have been investigated, nothing further can be reported. The ultimate aim is to upgrade the Community Centre and hence provide more facilities for the expanding village. Further updates will be reported as and when the Trust has more information.

ASHINGTON WARDENS

Come and meet the Wardens – in Ashington Youth Club, Church Lane. This is an ideal chance for residents to come and meet the wardens and talk about any issues or get advice on anything that's on their mind.

December dates: 1st: 6pm-7pm, 8th: 2pm-3pm, 15th: 6pm-7pm, 22nd: 2pm-3pm



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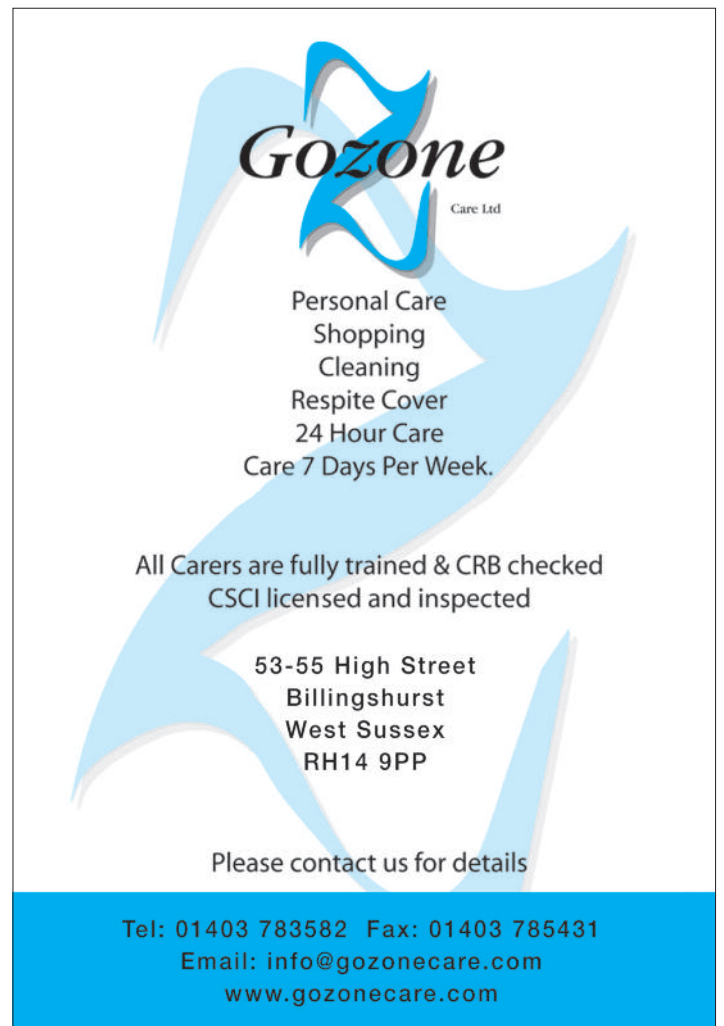
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New Rented and Shared Ownership Properties available to local people at Blakiston Close, Ashington (Meiros Farm, Rectory Lane). Mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom houses and flats built by David Wilson Homes, managed by English Rural Housing Association and allocated in association with Horsham DC and Ashington Parish Council.

All flats will have a kitchen, lounge/dining room, bedroom/s and bathroom and all houses will have a kitchen/dining room, lounge, and cloakroom downstairs, with the bedrooms and main bathroom upstairs. Properties also have allocated parking, double glazing and their own gardens.

Rents will vary from £90.00 to £145.00 per week, and shared ownership prices start at £90,100.

A local connection to Ashington or one of the immediately surrounding villages is essential and applicants without this will not be considered. Those interested in rented property should be registered with Horsham DC.

Please contact **Steven Bland** of **English Rural Housing Association** on **020 7820 7930** or steven.bland@englishrural.org.uk for further details.

LOST DOGS – MESSAGE

FROM THE WARDENS

Please can residents ensure that their dog has an ID tag. Tags cost under £10 and this is a lot cheaper than having to recover your lost dog from the kennels. If the Wardens find a stray dog with an ID tag they can give the owner a call right away when a dog is found and need not involve the kennels. Local kennels charge about £120 for the release of a found dog and if the Wardens cannot find the owner this is what will happen. Hammerpond Kennels is where a dog may be taken. If you find a stray dog then call the Wardens or Hammerpond Kennels (01403 891825).

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DOG FOULING – MESSAGE

FROM THE WARDENS

Following numerous complaints about dog fouling in Ashington, especially on the Recreation Ground, we as Wardens wanted to take this opportunity to remind people about the dangers of leaving dog foul behind. The recreation field is used each week by a mixture of people but none more so than by the various sports teams that play football etc. The danger surrounding dog faeces is associated with a particularly nasty disease called Toxocariasis which can result in infections and sometimes blindness. The problem comes from eggs which can remain on the soles of shoes on wheels of toys and in dirt contaminated by dog faeces.

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant it too is dangerous. It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to pick up any faeces left by their dog. The Wardens would like to remind you that should you fail to clean up after your dog you could face a fixed penalty fine of £50 or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1000.

If anybody has any information on particular individuals not cleaning up after their dogs please contact the wardens confidentially on 07764 146367 or 07764 146368

If you are an individual who doesn't pick up after your dog we would like to take this chance to appeal to your better nature and ask that you consider the



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other people who live in Ashington and clean up after your dog from now on.

The Wardens will be running an anti dog fouling campaign within the village over the coming months where new signs will be placed in hot spot areas and regular patrols will be carried out. On those patrols we will not hesitate to issue a fixed penalty to anyone found not cleaning up after their dogs. This is an emotive issue for everyone so please support us and Ashington by simply cleaning up after your dogs.

CAN YOU HELP?

Ashington Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help keep our village tidy. Can you spare up to an hour each week to walk various roads and pick up small amounts of litter? Do you enjoy walks around the village – if so would you be prepared to pick up a few bits of litter on your way? Equipment will be provided and training given. Perhaps you could volunteer to keep your own road or cul-de-sac clear of litter. Please call Karen Dare, Parish Clerk on 01903 892991 if you can help.



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HELP WANTED

Have you any skills in marketing? The Ashington Community Centre is looking for someone who could work voluntary to promote and market the Community Centre. Please remember the Community Centre is owned by everyone in the village and a small Committee run it on your behalf so if you could help, please contact Margaret on 01903 892633.

WHAT'S ON

Events can now be seen at www.ashingtonvillage.co.uk For those of you without computers why not make arrangements with the Parish Clerk (01903 892991) to view events on one of the new computers in the parish office?



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ASHINGTON FESTIVAL 2011

The sun shone on Ashington Festival this year, and thousands of people came along making a fantastic day and a real community spirit. The Carnival was one of our biggest with a lot of floats and walking groups, majorettes, belly dancers, vintage vehicles and lots of people in fancy dress. And didn't our Princess and Attendants look beautiful and her Pageboys very handsome. The Best Float was won by Chanctonbury Playgroup and the Best Walking group was won by Alfie's Formula One Racing Team and the overall winner of the two groups who won the £100 prize was the Chanctonbury Playgroup, well done to them. The winner of the Fancy Dress was Cruella De vil, Annie Francis.

The Recreation Ground was full of all sorts of stalls, animals and sideshows and Harris Brother's funfair. The main arena act was

a brilliant mountain bike stunt display team who stunned the audience with their daredevil stunts.

In the evening the atmosphere carried on with a live band and disco outside, and a fantastic firework display, one of the best yet, which marked the end of a brilliant day.

The Festival Committee have written to village clubs and organisations offering them small grants for equipment for their groups as they wish to support village activities.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors and to everyone who worked hard to help us on the day, making it a great success that it was. And we hope to see you all next year on the 18th of August 2012.

Margaret Alford – Chairperson of Ashington Festival Committee

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HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Karen Dare, Honeysuckle House, London Road, Ashington, RH20 3JR
Telephone office: 01903 892991
Email: clerk@ashingtonpc.org.uk
Council website: www.ashingtonpc.org.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings, dates are published on noticeboards and the Council's website. Please can you try not to contact Karen on her home telephone number unless it is extremely urgent!

WINTER IS COMING

Having had two bad winters recently we now find ourselves preparing for winter weather. We hope residents are now better equipped with personal snow clearing equipment and that you carry emergency equipment in your vehicles in case of bad weather. The Parish Council has been working hard over the summer to make arrangements for the village in case of heavy snow. We have secured the services of a snowplough contractor who is able to clear some village roads. West Sussex County Council will clear London Road, Hole Street, Billingshurst Road, the A24 and its slip roads. The Parish Council's contractor will be asked to clear a route from Church Lane (from the junction with London Road) round Foster Lane, turn left up The Sands, turn right onto Rectory Lane and link up to London Road. Inevitably there will be teething troubles – we can foresee that during ploughing some residents driveways

or side roads will have piles of snow at their entrances, parked cars will cause obstructions. We ask that residents give us their comments so that we can review these arrangements ie effectiveness, time, cost, problems, roads etc once ploughing has taken place – email the Parish Clerk at clerk@ashingtonpc.org.uk or call 01903 892991.

WSCC will deliver one tonne bags of grit to 3 strategic locations in the village (London Road/Turnpike Way junction, outside the School, Rectory Lane/Rectory Close junction). Put on you rubber gloves and collect a bucket of grit and PLEASE spread it thinly on the pavement or road outside your house. It is intended that residents work together to keep their roads/pavements clear because neither WSCC nor the Parish Council have the resources to treat all areas of the village.

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