

DON'T MISS OUT – IT MATTERS!

On 3rd May 2007 local elections will be taking place to elect councillors to your Parish Council. This is the chance to have your say by voting for the people you want to be councillors to help look after your community or possibly becoming a councillor yourself and help shape it.

The Government is keen for local communities to have a real influence on those things which directly affect them. For this reason Parish Councils are to be given new powers so that they have an even more important role to play in local affairs.

Not only will Parish Councils be given an increased role in delivering local services but they will also be given a stronger voice in representing the community's interests and make sure that local people are listened to.

If you have considered being in a position to be part of deciding how your community is run and developed, now is the time for you to come forward. Providing you are a registered local government elector for the area (or meet certain other requirements) and will be at least 18 years old on election day you can stand for election. There are no other special qualifications needed to be a councillor. You just need to care about your community and be keen enough to make a difference.

If you are interested and want to know more you can contact your local Parish Clerk or your District Council for more details and to check that you are eligible to stand as a councillor.

Whether or not you decide to become a councillor, your vote in the elections is still important. It is your opportunity to help decide who runs your Parish Council.

This year you will be able to vote at your usual polling station, which will be open longer than before (7.00am to 10.00pm), or you can simply request a postal form from your District Council's elections office.

Remember, every vote counts and your vote could tip the balance!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In last quarter's newsletter we had an article that might have put some of you off considering putting yourselves forward so let us say here and now that it is more than a worthwhile position. Without a parish council both the Borough and Leicestershire County Councils would take us to the cleaners, with a strong and proactive Parish Council they will listen, and do, respect our input.

There are 11 vacancies, 4 for Asfordby Hill and 7 for the Village. For those of you who care about the parish and feel that you could contribute to its well-being then consider putting yourself forward. We need you, we could give you many smart government generated reasons for being a Councillor but the real reason is that you care about the community in which you live.

BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In the best interest of The English Fair Play Ethic and a threat of possible legal action by Melton Borough Council, the Parish Council have decided to remove this article that was written and printed in good faith long before the names of any prospective candidates were published.

Anyone interested in standing either as a Borough or Parish Councillor can obtain an information booklet entitled "Have I Got What It Takes" from the Clerk.

It's Your Parish

Written by Mr. John Bullimore, Chairman of Asfordby Parish Council

In last quarter's Parish Newsletter, the first of a new year, I try to look for the positive. I also felt slightly nostalgic although that's brought on by advancing years. You see, it will happen to you and to be honest it is quite nice, slightly sad, but still nice. Nostalgia and fantasies - what has my life come to?

Now its back to reality, there have been times just lately when I've seen the mess around the shops from waste bins that have been overlooked for emptying, overflowing with pizza trays, chips and chip-paper, sandwich cases and empty drink cans, all dropped by people who just don't care, I've thought "Its Your Parish" and you can have it, you're welcome.

The small garden at the bottom of Bradgate Lane is being destroyed. Firstly we must be on our sixth waste bin, the seat was destroyed , ripped out of the ground, a track through the shrubs where the youths both male and female either ride or walk through, saving at least a yard. Now that is economy of movement. But I ask myself why? Exam results say that they are all geniuses, those who can read and can write their name on the exam paper that is, and yet thought for others doesn't exist. Sometimes when I see how hard Reg, our handyman, and Steve work at keeping things neat and tidy I wonder how and why they keep going. Breaking beer bottles that they aren't old enough to buy, by the way, is the current sport, iif only it was included in the Olympics we might even win a gold medal. Finally because I've depressed myself I've a question to ask "Should irresponsible dog owners be given ASBOS?" I've never seen the village worse for dog fouling than it has been for the last few months. We have lots of young mothers with prams at the moment and young children at the walking with mum stage. I shouldn't imagine that they ever go home without dog fouling on their pram wheels or on their kiddies shoes. I'm constantly dancing around piles, and squashed piles of dog on my trips

down the village. It is as much Anti-Social Behaviour as some of the jobs who are given them by the courts. Come on dog owners, not the biggest percentage of you I know, and I know that I 'll never get through to those of you who couldn't care less. Perhaps when they were younger they were responsible for a similar state to the middle of their village as the present ones are. Well that's got that off my chest. Do I feel any better? Not really!!!

ASFORDBY WIND FARM UPDATE

Despite what would appear to be a fictional report in the Melton Times about the proposed wind farm in Asfordby Valley becoming a reality, the Parish Council have been in touch with the company as we had asked to be kept informed and consulted about any future plans, including a visit to a similar site, helium balloons floated to the height of the proposed wind turbines so that you could see just how they would be seen from all over the Parish and more photographs. This they are only too willing to do. We feel that it is always important to have a good relationship with developers of whatever it is that they intend to be developing.

After reading the article in the Melton Times the Parish Council got in touch with the company involved who informed us that they hadn't finished getting the information from the site about wind speeds and direction and as yet they obviously couldn't analyse the data to see if it would be a worthwhile project. As such no planning application had been formalised but the Parish Council would be kept informed when that time arose.

We will, of course, keep you informed of any information that the Parish Council receive from the company.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COPY
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
4 JUNE 2007**

www.asfordbypc.org.uk

Your Parish Council's Website, and apparently quite a good one, for it has just been voted the Best Overall Website in the County by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership. We feel that this is quite an achievement but after taking a closer look at it, we can see why. It covers most things that happen in the Parish that people want you to know about. It covers practically all the Parish Council services, Church and Chapel services and is kept well up to date by Lorraine, our Parish Clerk. There is a short history of Asfordby, articles about Old Asfordby taken from the Parish newsletters plus many photographs of Old Asfordby and of Asfordby in its present form.

We feel that it serves both you, who are living here now, and those who have moved away but still like to take a look at somewhere they remember with fondness.

It is always nice to be told that you have done a good job particularly when you haven't entered a competition and been judged by those who know the merits of whatever is being judged. We hope that perhaps you will all have a look and perhaps tell us what else you would like included. We won't be resting on our laurels but always looking at ways to improve it.



ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7

Written by John Bullimore, Chairman of Asfordby Parish Council

Although, as always, it has been a year of ups and downs I certainly feel better about things than I did last year. It has been a year of successful transition of which I am reasonably happy.

We have had the usual developments taking place, the most successful to my mind, being the one behind New Street. For me it is everything that I would like to see in development within the village. Its there, it looks good and yet, to all intents, you hardly know that it exists, perfect.

We feel that we have been taken advantage of, for the want of a more descriptive word, by another developer and I wish him all that he deserves. On Asfordby Hill a full application has been submitted for Home Farm. Apart from what we consider a very dangerously positioned access and some concerns about the position of some properties on the main road, it doesn't look too bad. Every time I walk past Dwyers Yard development and see their site notice saying "Second Phase coming soon" I wonder just how long "soon" actually is. I feel ashamed that we supported phase one which still hasn't been completed. The area for phase two looks like a parking lot for severely disabled Portable Site Offices. The whole set up is unfair to those who have bought properties there and those who live in close proximity to the whole sorry mess.

We have successfully bid for £5000 from Melton Borough Council towards creating a Wild Flower Meadow on the Hobby Road and we look forward to its completion being an asset to both the west end residents and the school.

Our new Beat Bobby Martyn was a success until his 3 month leave of absence although the WPC who had Asfordby tacked onto an already full beat was an able replacement under the circumstances and for that we thank her.

Unfortunately, the number of youngsters attending the youth club is low. I know that those that do enjoy it. It is well run and I thank the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Our web site has been rated best overall in the County by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and we are rightly proud of that achievement.

The IT Centre is still well used and free of charge but like our post office, use it or lose it, once gone neither of these will return.

I would like to thank our council staff for the hard work that they carry out in the parish hall and the parish in general, that is Julie, Rob, Reg, Steve and Lorraine our Clerk. I appreciate it very much.

A well done, once again, to our two primary schools for maintaining their excellent teaching standards. It is of the utmost importance that youngsters get a good start on the long road that lies ahead, to both Parent Teacher Organisations for all of their fund raising that they do to pay for those little but much appreciated extras.

Finally a big thank you to all of our parish councillors who give both their time and thought to the many problems that befall parish councils. At the time of writing I don't know how many will put themselves forward for election but I would like once more to say thank you to both those who stuck it out to the bitter end and to those who for whatever reasons, fell by the wayside. Thank you for the support you have given both myself personally and the parish, in particular.

MONTHLY SURGERIES

Meet your Borough Councillor Mal Sheldon to discuss any matters that concern you on the following Saturdays at Asfordby Parish Hall between 10 am and 11 am. No appointment necessary.

7 April 2007

5 May 2007

2 June 2007

DON'T BUY AT THE DOOR

Unfortunately we are hearing of more and more cases of what is called "Distraction Burglary" where someone calls at your door selling various things or claims to be from the water board or gas/electric boards because there is a supposed problem some that get you to come outside enabling an accomplice to steal whatever they can find and believe you me these people are experts, they know or seem to know exactly where we keep your spare cash or valuables. Lets be honest how many of us take money with us to the door when we get that knock. If we are tempted to buy anything and generally whatever is being sold is of poor quality, we have to go back to get our purse giving someone ample time to have a look around. Some people who come to our doors may well be genuine, ask to see confirmation of who they represent or perhaps open a window instead of a door and don't feel guilty about refusing even to consider purchasing anything. In this day and age it would seem that nice decent people are considered to be easy prey.

BE WARNED, BEWARE

BURGLARIES IN ASFORDBY

Currently Asfordby is being hit by a spate of burglaries. These chancers seem to move around the borough pushed out by a police presence in the town to the far less policed villages. Unfortunately our designated Beat Bobby has been on three months' leave although we have had a very efficient WPC in his place. At the moment we appear, I'm sure that it will be confirmed that it only appears that we have no-one, and this doesn't help. We need to have verbal contact as well as spiritual, so we urge you, as we have before, keep your eyes open for people in cars and vans who appear to be there for sometime doing nothing, for generally pairs of men, women or a mix who you don't recognise hanging around. If we have to do it ourselves then we will. It could be your house next. BE ALERT.

GRAFFITI SPRAYING

Unfortunately a spray painting pond life has been spawned in the Parish and even more unfortunately he or she isn't even very good at it which makes it even more important that we try and clean it up and return him or her from whence they came. It sometimes causes more mess trying to clean it off than to leave it and that is annoying. So if any of our young adults who are out at night and might know who is causing this problem drop a name into the village hall. I'm sure that the whole Parish would be very grateful but not I'm sure their parents for we will be going to court for the cost of cleaning it off.

CHILDS PLAY

Or so it would seem but expensive childs play. Only recently, 24 February infact, the village side of the Parish Hall had the windows literally covered in dirty wet football contact marks, everyone that is, plus half of the windows had had full milk cartons thrown at them. Not very clever, not a very good advert for people who pay to hire the hall, and not very good for double glazed windows. We are sure that they must be intelligently challenged youngsters from the village who, if we can get proof, their parents will be getting a bill for the £40 that you are currently paying. Some window cleaners even turn down the opportunity of cleaning our windows.

Football Bowls Pool Darts Rifle Range Dominoes Whis

HOLWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – THE STUTE

Warm, friendly members' club open to all
Open 7 days a week – Entertainment every Saturday night
2 large function rooms available for hire

WANT TO JOIN? CALL IN FOR A MEMBERSHIP FORM
Welby Road, Asfordby Hill

DOG CONTROL ORDERS

On January 1st 2007 a new Dog Control Order came into effect on designated land open to the public in the Borough, and that also means here in Asfordby, following approval by the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee in September 2006. These Orders give new powers to deal with those allowing dog fouling, the fixed penalty fine will now be £75.00

The new legislation requires signage in designated areas to alert the public that THEY are required to clean up after their dogs. The signs will be erected in the Parish.

Asfordby will consider appointing a person or persons to carry out issuing fines for this offence. The only time that you might be meetings these people will be when they approach you with the fixed fine ticket.

These designated areas will be the Parish footpaths, parks, plays areas, in fact anywhere that the general public can legally be, SO BEWARE.

HAILING PAD

We aren't even sure if that is how it should be spelt but whatever, it is the footpath that now goes from the Glendon Close Play Area down to Red Lodge Farm, originally it went from Station Lane. Recently we have been asked if anyone might know just how or why it got its name but we are sure that someone out there does. If so, just let us know at the Parish Hall. We know that a good number of you are interested in Old Asfordby.

ASFORDBY GARDEN CLUB

Our monthly meetings are to be held at Asfordby Captains Close School at 7.00 pm. On April 23rd we have a return visit of Josie Hutchinson who will show slides of the plants of Australia and New Zealand.

Steve Pole will bring examples and talk about Alpines in containers on May 14th and on June 11th Richard Yates will show us different methods of propagation. Visits are welcome to all of our meetings.

An outing to Trentham Gardens near Stoke is being arranged for Monday July 9th, departing around 9.00 am and leaving Treatham at 4.00 pm. The cost will be £15. If you would like to join us on this trip please contact 812513.

ASFORDBY METHODIST CHURCH

Asfordby Chapel Anniversary will take place at 7.00 pm on April 18th. The visiting speaker will be our former minister Rev. Sheila Baldock, and the chairman our Minister Rev. Vincent Price. Gift boxes will be received on that day and we thank all box-holders for their loyal support.

Monthly coffee mornings will be held at the chapel from 9.30 - 11.00 am on Saturday 14 April, 13 May and 9 June.

There will be a Good Friday service, lead by Rev. Price at 7.00 pm on April 6th.

For weekly services see the chapel notice board and asfordby parish website.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The ministry team and congregation of All Saints' wish everyone a joyful Easter.

Services for Holy Week and Easter

We hope to have a services daily throughout Holy Week to help people prepare for Easter. For times and further details please look out for posters locally.

Palm Sunday	1st April a.m.	United Service
Monday	2nd April p.m.	Service of Reconciliation
Wednesday	4th April p.m.	Holy Week Reflection
Maundy Thursday	5th April p.m.	Eucharist with meal
Good Friday	6th April p.m.	Service of readings & prayers
Saturday	7th April p.m.	Easter Eve Ceremonies
Easter Sunday	8th April a.m.	Easter Day Service

Future Events

Friday 6th m. - noon

Easter workshop for children between the ages of 4+ and 10.
For further details ring 813994

Saturday 23rd June - All Saints' Summer Fayre

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS MAGAZINE
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK**

HOUSEHOLD BILLS THAT CAN BE PAID AT THE POST OFFICE

Very often on Service Bills that you receive it states that you can pay them at a P.P. Pay point conveniently not mentioning that for the most this includes the post office, further eroding the need for rural post offices to survive. Below is a list of transactions that can take place at Asfordby Post Office:-

**British Gas
Power Gen
Atlantic
Scottish Power
B.T.
Talk Talk
P O Home Phone
Severn Trent (fee payable)
E Top
Car Tax
Pre order Currency
Travel Insurance
Car Insurance
Home Insurance
Insurance Savings
Cash Withdrawal (when the machine
outside the Co-op breaks down)
Fishing Licences**

For further services just ask the pleasant helpful staff.