

HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

HUTTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008



PARISH COUNCIL ACHIEVES QUALITY STATUS



Hutton Parish Council is pleased to be able to announce that it has been awarded Quality Status following submission of its portfolio to the accreditation panel.

This award which is held by only a few Parish Councils in Lancashire is just reward for a lot of work done over a period of time in not only putting together a Village Plan (which was used as part of the submission) but also improving procedures to ensure that the Parish Council works in a lawful manner and adopts best practice in its dealings with the public, other authorities and any organisations with whom it has contact.

The award will last for the duration of the existing Council and will need to be re-affirmed in 3 years time following the next local elections. This means that ongoing work will be required particularly as some elements of the scheme are now changing and additional criteria are being introduced to ensure that the award remains reflective of the professional standards that will continue to be required in what is the first tier of local government.

An award ceremony is to take place in November 2008 at the Lancashire Association of Local Councils AGM at County Hall Preston where a formal certificate will be presented to the Parish Council.

VEGETATION NUISANCE

Vegetation nuisance is a perennial problem which can often cause obstruction of the pavement which in turn can result in accidents. Whilst there are statutes governing pavement obstruction under the Highways Act 1980 this Parish Council would much prefer that its residents take a considerate view with regard to their hedges, trees and shrubs and maintain them so as not to encroach into the pavement rather than have to invoke the law via the Highways Authority. If trees and shrubs overhang the highway, adequate pruning should be carried out to ensure that the work is lasting and that new growth is sound. This often means cutting well back behind your boundary to allow for re-growth. With trees, adequate headroom also needs to be considered and for clearance purposes the foliage from overhanging branches should not obstruct pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles, including buses and lorries. Please check to make sure that:

- Vegetation does not obstruct the footway or roadway
- Vegetation does not obscure sightlines, signs and signals
- Vegetation does not render street lighting ineffective
- Vegetation does not prevent access to highway and utility equipment

A leaflet has been produced by LCC (0845 0530011) which provides more detail or contact may be made using the internet address www.lancashirehighways.gov.uk. A copy of this leaflet is also viewable from the Parish Council web site www.huttonparishcouncil.co.uk

Would your business be interested in sponsoring an edition of Hutton News?

For just £50 you can place a 1/2 page advert in the next edition of the newsletter and a small advertisement on our new web site. For further information please contact:

W V McEnerney-Whittle on 01772 733829

PARKING OBSTRUCTION ISSUES, SALE OF VEHICLES ON THE HIGHWAY, PLANNING BREACHES IN RESPECT OF CAR SALES AND VEHICLE EXCISE REGULATIONS

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARKING OBSTRUCTION ISSUES, THE SELLING OF CARS ON THE HIGHWAY, AND LACK OF EVIDENCE OF EXCISE DUTY ARE NOT PLANNING ISSUES SINCE PLANNING JURISDICTION ONLY APPLIES TO THE AREA COVERED BY THE PLANNING PERMISSION.

PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE HIGHWAY CAUSING AN OBSTRUCTION is generally an offence which should generally be reported to the Police for action.

Under the Highways Act Section 149 however a Highway Authority (SRBC may act as agents) are authorised to remove a vehicle which constitutes a 'danger' and this includes vehicles which cause an obstruction of view. Please bear in mind that due notice does normally require to be given to the offender to allow them time for removal before action can be taken by the Highways Authority. The decision as to whether the vehicle constitutes a danger is in the hands of the Authority who must therefore see the obstruction in order to make a decision. Reports can be made using Gateway telephone number 625625. A reference number can be obtained and details will then be passed to the appropriate dept of SRBC.

PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE HIGHWAY WITHOUT A VALID TAX DISK DISPLAYED is an offence which can be reported to the Police, SRBC or DVLA.

The Police can be informed however it is probably best reported direct to DVLA and this can be done by accessing the web site www.direct.gov.uk or by using their freephone telephone number 0800 0325 202) Please bear in mind however that reporting does not apply to car parks, driveways or other specific parking spaces. Full details of the location of and details of the vehicle are required with preferably the time and name and address of the owner if known. SRBC will also investigate however persons reporting such incidents to SRBC must bear in mind that action can only be taken if the offence is being perpetrated at the time of the visit of the SRBC officials. Please also note that if the vehicle carries 'trade plates' then no irregularity is taking place.

PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE HIGHWAY 'FOR SALE' is an offence in certain circumstances under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 which can be reported to SRBC (telephone 625625) for enforcement.

Please note that it is only an 'offence' when two or more cars are exposed or advertised for sale in this way within a 500 metre distance.

The question of 'exposed or advertised for sale' is open to interpretation however most views are that where there is clear evidence that the vehicle is for sale then an offence is taking place. The removal of the 'for sale' sign in itself would not necessarily protect the offender if there were other clear evidence that the vehicle was available to be purchased.

PARKING OF VEHICLES ON PRIVATE LAND 'FOR SALE' without the required Planning Permission is an offence and in this case only; enforcement is through SRBC Planning Enforcement Dept.

A good example would be a shop or restaurant owner who allowed vehicles to be sold from their private car park. The sale of vehicles would not be within their allocated planning permission usage and they would therefore be in contravention of planning regulations.

Please note that it is car park owner that is in breach of the regulations and NOT the seller of the vehicles. Enforcement would therefore be against the car park owner who should not have allowed the vehicle sales to take place.

HUTTON VILLAGE HALL

The hall was very quiet during August, with most groups taking a summer break. This allowed us to go ahead with the refurbishment of the toilets. We hope you agree that the result is very pleasing and a great improvement to the facilities. Most of the money used for the project has been raised at May Day Fêtes but we would also like to thank Hutton Local History and Interest Society for their generous donation towards it.

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting took place in July and was very well attended. The Chairman gave a report of the years activities, the accounts were presented and the Committee for the ensuing year were elected. After the short formal proceedings cheese and wine were served and a pleasant social evening followed. Thank you to all who attended.

The Committee have not had much response to their suggestion in the last Hutton News to hold a Car Boot Sale sometime in the Autumn, maybe this was because everyone was thinking about their holidays so we are repeating our suggestion. If you think you would be interested in having a stall please contact a committee member or put your name and telephone number on the list in the hall. If we get enough interest we will book a date.

HUTTON VILLAGE HALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

Winning Numbers since the last Newsletter:

June 2008 (245 & 62)

July 2008 (225 & 268)

August 2008 (77 & 28)

BOOK THE VILLAGE HALL Make use of your village hall by going along to one of the regular group activities or book it for your private function – birthdays, anniversaries etc.

A licensed bar is available if required. For further information or to book please contact:

07964750783

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

The results of the above competition have just been announced. Hutton have been awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the large village category on what is its first entry into the competition. Falling just short of one of the two major awards in its class of 23 entries the Parish Council will be seeking to obtain a copy of the judge's report so that it can identify areas for improvement for next year. It is also pleasing to note that Mill Brow Farm who were entered into the Merit Award Section for Farms was also awarded a 'Highly Commended' only being beaten by Yew Tree Farm from Coppull. This is an extremely popular competition attracting 98 entries from villages of various sizes across Lancashire in 2008 which reflects the interest of residents in maintaining a clean, tidy and attractive local village environment.

GREENACRES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OPENS

The completion of the 8 bungalows for the elderly was officially opened by the Mayor of SRBC at a short ceremony attended by Progress Housing, SRBC officials and members of the Parish Council. The occupancy criteria for this long awaited development have now been confirmed and were presented to members of the Parish Council at a meeting held at the offices of Progress Housing. Whilst there are some 'need' and 'financial' criteria attached to the occupancy rules they do give priority to Hutton residents or those who have family connections in Hutton who are over 55 and can demonstrate a need for low cost housing. Should the properties not be filled using these criteria then the properties will be allocated in an ever increasing circle starting with Longton then Little/Much Hoole, Farington and Penwortham and finally persons residing in South Ribble. The selection process for the properties has been completed and 7 out of 8 occupancies will relate to Hutton residents or those with family connections to Hutton.

A DOG IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Following on from the last issue there is a perception that improvement has been seen with regard to the removal of dog faeces from public areas. Thanks must go to all caring dog owners that clean up behind their pets. Did you know however that it is quite acceptable to place dog faeces in ordinary litter bins where no handy dog bin exists rather than have to take them home with you.

HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Councillor George Gilbert

25 Fensway Hutton Preston PR4 5SX

Tel: 611276

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor David Parkes

25 Moor Lane Hutton Preston PR4 5SE

Tel: 614709

MEMBERS

Councillor David Barton

21 Ratten Lane Hutton Preston PR4 5TE

Tel: 615263

Councillor Roger Mitchell

Stryands House,

22 Stryands Hutton Preston PR4 5HD

Tel: 616121

Councillor Jon Hesketh

Westlands Farm,

Grange Lane Hutton Preston PR4 5JH

Tel: 615412

Councillor Mrs. Barbara Thackeray

5 Fensway Hutton Preston PR4 5SX

Tel: 615123

Councillor John Wilshere

Hutton Manor,

Moor Lane Hutton Preston PR4 5SE

Tel: 615175

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet at 7.30 pm in Hutton Village Hall on the following dates:

Monday 27th October 2008

Monday 8th December 2008

WESTERN PARISHES AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 15th September 2008

Monday 17th November 2008

Meetings are held in Hutton Village Hall commencing @
7.15pm

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Longton and Hutton West Ward

Colin Clark Tel: 616990

Jon Hesketh Tel: 615412

Peter Stettner Tel: 613386

New Longton and Hutton East Ward

Jim Breakell Tel: 616077

Margaret Smith Tel: 613429

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Keith Young Tel: 614223

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

David Borrow MP, House of Commons,
London. SW1A 0AA

E-mail: borrow @parliament.uk

Constituency Office: 2-6 Sandy Lane,
Leyland Tel: 454727

Mr Borrow holds regular surgeries throughout the Borough.

**W V MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE (CLERK AND RFO)
7 BILSBOROUGH MEADOW
PRESTON PR2 1YY
TELEPHONE 01772 733829**

E-MAIL ADDRESS huttonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

WEB SITE ADDRESS www.huttonparishcouncil.co.uk

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECK

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service can provide a Free Home Fire Safety Check, fit smoke alarms if needed and give you advice on what to do in the event of fire. A visit will be arranged at a time to suit you, and will be carried out by authorised personnel who will show their ID.

CALL FREE 0800 1691125