

The Parish Council was working towards the provision of a community centre, as the village currently suffered from the lack of one.

Furthermore, Misterton Sports Social Club was under notice to quit in January. The developer proposed to gift a community centre/club to the community. Some residents appeared critical of the Parish Council's relationship with the Club, and the possibility of relocating the Club to this site. It was a fact, however, that the Parish Council had been trying to help secure the Club's future for several years, being a community facility. However, the lack of support for the proposal meant that such provision was unwelcome to the majority of those responding to the consultation exercise.

Development of the site would provide employment opportunities. However, most of those responding to the consultation exercise didn't see this as a particularly important requirement for the village. There was considerable capacity at West Stockwith Business Park for employment and businesses. The developer said that, if there was no demonstrated need for employment use, the land provisionally allocated for such use could be added to the green area. However, those responding to the consultation exercise were opposed to the proposal generally.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the autumn, in which we'll give a full update of developments since this newsletter, but a wide range of information and advice is now available at The Misterton Centre. You can also use the contact details below. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read agendas and approved minutes of meetings, etc. at The Misterton Centre, Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk.

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Summer 2009



Misterton
Parish Council
Newsletter

SUMMER 2009



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

People

We're pleased to welcome Ian Trossell on to the Parish Council, to replace Norman White who recently resigned.

You Asked. We Acted

The Misterton Centre has now been open for over two years, and is being increasingly used as a public and tourist information point. Listed below are some examples of the things we've recently dealt with:

- Tourists, including canal boaters staying at West Stockwith, call in to request information such as times of church services
- Many residents request contact phone numbers of services such as the local fire brigade
- Some residents request advice on how to access legal services
- We've helped with problems such as lost cats and dogs
- Bus timetables are regularly requested.

Don't forget, that if you've any public service enquiry, we'll try to either deal with it, or put you on the right track. Just call in.

Rumour Buster

A rumour that's been circulating for some considerable time is that the village can't afford the Parish Council. To debunk this rumour we begin by pointing out that the Parish Council Tax represents just 4% of your total Council Tax bill. It works out at £24.21 per head of population per annum (2001 census), or an average of £51.05 per dwelling per annum. For this money you get:

- The services of the three members of staff, plus the unpaid services of 13 councillors
- The Misterton Centre, which is a unique facility in Nottinghamshire
- The sports field, which provides cricket/football pitches, bowling green, multi court, skate/bmx park and children's playground
- Various amenity areas, including the nursery play area on Church Meadow
- Street furniture, including 17 public seats, 6 notice boards, 12 dog waste bins and 2 bus shelters
- A host of miscellaneous services including Christmas illuminations, small donations to village organisations, charitable gifts to elderly people, competitions, including Citizen of the Year and Most Improved Premises.
- Representation and consultation – the Parish Council as a local authority works hard to assess public opinion and to represent it to the relevant authorities

Something that isn't generally realised is the amount of money we've brought in over recent years in grant-aid. Grants totalling almost £100k covered most of the cost of the multi court, skate/bmx park and playground in the sports field. A grant of almost £10k was secured towards the cost of the Parish Plan. Because we're a Quality Council, we were able to obtain a grant of £500 last year in order to re-establish DARE.

A new rumour is that we're going to become a town council, with a mayor. There's no truth in it whatsoever.

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots grants of up to £5,000 are available through Nottinghamshire Community Foundation to help voluntary groups. The main exceptions are religious or political groups, or groups with an annual income of more than £30,000. Social outings are also excluded unless they're educational. If you think you may benefit, have a word with our Clerk. He's at The Misterton Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays. If that's not convenient, give him a ring.

Citizen of the Year Award 2008

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May, Ms. Ursula Lidbetter, Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Co-operative Ltd, presented the Parish Council Citizen of the Year Award to Mr. John Horton, who had retired as village milkman because of ill health, but over many years had served Misterton and surrounding villages with stalwart determination.

There was no junior award, for the first time, because there were no nominations.

Public Relations

We find ourselves regularly criticised by a small number of people who attend our meetings. They've recently told us that our public relations leave much to be desired, and that our communications are poor. One thing they've said is that the language we use in our publications goes over the top of the heads of many people in Misterton. Do you agree? If so, please tell us. As a Quality-accredited Parish Council, voted No. 1 Parish Council nationally in 2007 and 2008, we aim to reach a certain standard in our publications, but we don't want to be considered to be customer-unfriendly. We'd like to hear from you.

Development proposal at Grovewood Road

A constructive debate took place at our June meeting, when it was resolved unanimously that Bassetlaw District Council be informed as follows:

A consultation leaflet was delivered by the Parish Council to almost every dwelling in the village – it was accepted that the odd dwelling was missed (but leafleting was supported by information in the local press). One particular resident suggested that it was wrong for the Parish Council to involve itself in this matter.

The outcome of the consultation exercise was that there were 10 people in favour in principle and 80 against. 5.43% of the electorate responded. The opposition was mainly based on insufficient infrastructure, inappropriate location, lack of need and the desire to keep Misterton a village. A considerable number of those opposing the proposal lived near to the site, but that was to be expected.

During the consultation period, it was suggested by certain residents that the leaflet was biased in favour of the proposal. The Parish Council denied this, as it was not biased.

A Parish Council bye-election was held in June, where the successful candidate campaigned mainly against the proposal in a bid to keep Misterton a village. He polled 455 votes (64.72% of the votes cast), representing 27.18% of the electorate.

A letter from Dr. Brownson was included with the report to the Parish Council. He fully supported the proposal for reasons given in his letter, in particular the opportunity to relocate the medical centre with the bonus of enhanced medical facilities.

The report included a reference to a discussion the Clerk had with the Headteacher, Dave Herrett, who expressed the opinion that the school had the capacity to accommodate extra pupils, and, furthermore, there was capacity to develop the site if necessary. The school could, therefore, cope with the increased demand put on it by the proposed development. Mr. Herrett also considered that a community centre might well be used by the school.

The Parish Council recognised the fact that Misterton was classed as a development area, and, despite the expressed wishes of most residents responding to the consultation exercise, it may not be possible to limit future development, which might take place without the promised added value. If not at this site, it might happen elsewhere. The developer stated that the proposed housing development would be similar in nature to the Grove Park estate. Nevertheless, at the current time, the majority wish expressed in the consultation exercise was that this development was not welcome.

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