

We'll now pursue our aim of obtaining planning permission for residential development and sale.

#### Council Tax

We've finalised our budget for 2007/08, and have managed to restrict our ordinary spending to an increase of 3.46%. However, we still don't know whether the owner of the Packet Inn site, Andromeda Trading Ltd., is going to commence court action against us over the access issue, and so we've had to earmark extra funds to cover this contingency, taking our total precept to £65,580, an overall increase of 34.13%. This money will be ringfenced, so that any part of it not used will be available to reduce the 2008/09 precept. We're under a legal duty to budget for such contingencies, and so have no choice in the matter. Furthermore, we've acted under legal advice, including Counsel's Opinion, throughout. Hopefully the company will buy the access land from us, thus resolving the issue.

#### Primary School Swimming Pool

We've made a grant of £10,000 from our capital reserve in order to ensure that the £35,000 swimming pool improvements go ahead. This isn't money that could be used to support the precept, being only available for capital projects. The head teacher has confirmed that the project has only become possible because of our grant.

#### Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the spring, in which we'll give a full update of developments since this newsletter. However, don't forget that you can visit the Clerk to the Council on Thursday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30 p.m. You can also contact the Clerk and any Councillor using the contact details below. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read approved minutes of meetings, etc. at the Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: [www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk](http://www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk)

## Contact Details

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## Neighbourliness

We held a public meeting on 17th January to discuss possible neighbourliness initiatives.

Firstly, a presentation was given by Melissa Pickance, Partnerships Officer at Nottinghamshire Police, about Community Speedwatch. Three Bassetlaw parishes now have schemes in which trained community volunteers carry out speed monitoring, with follow-up police work on driver education and enforcement. Schemes must have at least six volunteers prepared to dedicate at least one hour per week. The Community Safety Partnership provides equipment and village signage. Active volunteers monitor traffic speed during daylight hours within the 30 and 40 mph zones. The Partnerships Officer writes to offenders identified, asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down. Details of persistent offenders are passed to the police for targeted enforcement. If you're willing to dedicate at least one hour per week, please contact the Clerk – details below.

Terry Reynolds, Chairman of Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch, gave the second presentation. We have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating in a small area of Misterton, which could usefully be extended throughout the village. Neighbourhood Watch is very successful, and 70% of crime in Bassetlaw is recorded in non-Neighbourhood Watch areas. To assist with administrative overheads, each participating household is required to pay a subscription of £1 annually, although in many areas the parish council pays the subscription. Generally speaking, each co-ordinator covers ten households, and receives messages about local crimes or suspects by Email, fax or telephone from the central Neighbourhood Watch office. Every household covered receives a free quarterly magazine. If you're interested in joining a scheme and/or becoming a co-ordinator, please contact the Clerk.

The third presentation was by Carola Jones and Jonathan Dawson, of Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, on good neighbourhood schemes. These are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community to those in need of help and support. The people in need of support may be the elderly, disabled, single parents, young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness, or anyone who may be isolated within the community. Such schemes are not there to replace the work done by Social Services and other

professional care agencies; they operate on a more personal level, often starting as simple offers of help to an acquaintance in need. However, they can improve the quality of life for isolated people in rural communities.

Good neighbourhood schemes formalise informal arrangements and provide safeguards for volunteers and beneficiaries. Formalisation encourages beneficiaries to ask for services they might ordinarily be shy to request. Schemes require a committee, a co-ordinator and volunteers. Our Librarian, Jane Kilpatrick, said she considered there's a need for a local scheme in order to get library services out to housebound people. If you're interested in joining a scheme and/or becoming a co-ordinator or volunteer only, please contact the Clerk.

The last item for discussion was the compilation of a community directory. Councillor Brand explained that, as she was aware of a number of village organisations that needed, and relied on, voluntary support, she'd take the lead in producing a directory of such organisations. It was important that all organisations contacted either herself or the Clerk with details of their requirements. Giving information on what help is needed, and by which groups, may encourage others to lend a hand.

## Grass Cuttings

With Spring just around the corner, British Waterways politely ask residents not to dump grass cuttings on the towpath verges. We noticed a similar problem affecting the ditch on the west side of Grovewood Road last year, from the junction with Gravel Holes Road to the southern end of the road. Wherever you live, please dispose of grass cuttings responsibly.

## Dog Mess

Although we've had great success in reducing dog fouling, the problem on High Street and Church Meadow is getting worse, with fouling taking place very early in the morning. If anyone sees an offence being committed, please ring the District Council on 01909 533533 and ask for the Dog Warden. Note as many details as you can, but particularly the time of the offence. Alternatively, contact the Clerk.

## Parking on the Pavement

P.c. Gregson, our local police beat manager, has asked us to once again draw attention to the problem of vehicles obstructing pavements, thus creating a danger for pedestrians.

It's an offence to cause an obstruction by parking on a public footpath, enforceable by a £30 fixed penalty.

## Websites

We're running two websites. The first, [www.mistertonvillage.org.uk](http://www.mistertonvillage.org.uk) now operates purely as a village community website. We've added a message board and also an adverts page, so please make use of them – free of charge. Same if you wish to advertise your business or your local organisation. Just contact the Clerk.

The second, [www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk](http://www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk) is new, and is our official website, where you'll find most things you need to know about us.

## CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

Following last year's glittering achievement in winning Category A – population over 2000, and being judged Best New Entrant for the whole county, we're now hard at work preparing for this year's entry. It would be terrific if we could emulate Everton's achievement last year and not only win our Category, but also go on to win Wilko Best of Notts. You'll find a separate leaflet with this newsletter about what needs to be done, together with details of our Most Improved Property Competition.

## Harry Johnson Award 2006

In co-operation with the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Kingdom, we entered Ranters Farm, Station Street, in the Harry Johnson Award 2006 – and are delighted to announce that it won joint first prize! Ranters Farm is a restoration project, and the award is for the appropriate use of older buildings and the careful integration of new buildings into rural settings. Nottinghamshire Buildings Preservation Trust presented the award to Mr. & Mrs. Kingdom at a celebration hosted by the Parish Council on 27th January.

## The Misterton Centre

With a little bit of luck we're hoping to open for business in March. The Centre will initially be staffed by our receptionist on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm, although other staff will be there from time to time. Remember, the Parish and District Councils and the Police will be providing services locally there. Please call in to see how we can be of service.

## Village Hall

Tremendous news to hear that the Secretary of State has decided that the Village Hall won't be listed, as it's "very plain" and falls well short of the necessary criteria. ...continued overleaf