

**ABBOT'S SALFORD
DUNNINGTON
IRON CROSS
PITCHILL
RUSHFORD
THE BEVINGTONS
SALFORD PRIORS**



*County
Council
"Cabinet"
shrugs off
public fire fury - so act now*

Salford Seven news

The Newsletter of Salford Priors Parish Council November 2009

Bidford fire station is earmarked for closure. Details of the plans have been widely circulated and a consultation exercise is in progress that must be completed by 8th. december 2009. the consultation document can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue

SALFORD PARISH COUNCIL SAYS

ONLY A PYROMANIAC WOULD DISAGREE WITH QUESTIONS POSED IN THIS HEAVILY BIASED CONSULTATION!

WE BELIEVE THERE IS ONE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION THAT CONCERNS OUR RESIDENTS:

IF A FIRE OR FLOOD OR OTHER ACCIDENT PUTS ME OR MY HOME AT RISK WILL THESE CHANGES IMPROVE MY CHANCES OF SURVIVAL?

All we have is a general statement from the Chief Fire Officer that their research suggests that risk to lives in the area planned to be served from Alcester will be reduced. There is no supporting evidence and no indication as to whether the risk for Salford Priors or for Bidford residents will be reduced. People living in our area cannot believe that closing Bidford Fire Station (5 minutes to most houses in the area) and putting a full-time crew at Alcester (20 minutes to most houses in the area) will make our lives safer.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

The Bidford Station Ground Information provided by Warwickshire CC states that all incidents will be met within the current rural response standard of 20 minutes from Alcester. It also states that the computer model predicts that the risk to lives will be reduced. How does this compare with the current situation specifically for Salford Priors and for Bidford?

Has the model been run just for houses in Bidford or Salford Priors? Does it show that residents in our villages will be safer than at present where our fire appliance can be on site within 5 minutes – far less time than a vehicle that has to travel from Alcester?

The ability of certain types of fire appliance to operate on flooded roads has been raised. Apparently, only the Scania vehicle at Bidford is equipped for such operation. Is it intended that all vehicles will be able to operate through floods?

Has notice been taken in the review of the further developments planned including a major housing development at Bidford and new traveller sites in the south of the County which are prone to small fires?

The advantage of small local stations is that the fire fighters know the area and take "ownership". Evidence from the ambulance service

has demonstrated that important time can be lost when drivers are not familiar with the local area.

A similar case is that of highways maintenance where local knowledge has been lost. It is difficult to programme factors like this into a computer model!

There has been no information enabling a comparison between the current situation and the proposed position in terms of manpower or vehicles. What assurance is there that will be sufficient resources if a large incident occurs? (Deputy CFO Glen Ranger said at the meeting at Alcester on 30th September that there would be 19 fire appliances and 2 small fire units under the new proposals. He said that the present strength is 26 units but often only 12 or 13 are available. This indicates incredibly bad management!)

Residents of Salford Priors who own thatched cottages (a considerable number in the parish) were previously assured by fire officers that two appliances would be dispatched to any incidents at their homes. Does this assurance still hold?

There is concern that the current fire station in Bidford will quickly fall become derelict. It is not really suitable for any other community purpose and to say it may be used by the Young Fire Fighters would not appear to be financially viable. No doubt it will eventually be demolished and the land sold for housing.



Writes Cllr. Marianne Myers

Following meetings with local landowners, the parish council is pleased to report that Rights of Way are being improved before the winter.

When asked about the path from the Post Office leading to the Right of Way, Sandfields Farms stated that they are quite content for walkers to use the path **with dogs on a lead and the means to clean up any dog waste**. They have provided a dog waste bin near the packing station for dog owners to deposit the waste.

The only reason that this path was gated is because thieves are stealing not only large quantities of crops but also equipment and, therefore, vehicular access had to be stopped as a matter of urgency.

Sandfields have already unlocked the pedestrian gate leading from

New Inn Lane and cut back all the paths around the fields. This will make walking far easier in the winter months. They have also provided a new dog waste bin at the New Inn Lane gate.

Alamo has already re-surfaced the Right of Way – AL17, which runs from Station Road directly behind their factories. This was hazardous in places but these problems are now resolved. Alamo has also agreed to provide two dog bins and sites will be confirmed shortly.

Polacci Bros are responsible for the next part of AL17, and they are shortly to begin work to level the poor areas of this footpath.

Dog walkers are reminded of the new Act, which came into force in April 2009.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please complete the questionnaire!

Preferably you should complete it online but if you want a hard copy please contact the Clerk.

Please attend any public meetings!

Details will be posted on the notice boards. If you are aware of any other issues please contact Mike Philpott, the Clerk.

The man in charge of plans to close your fire station is

Cllr. RICHARD HOBBS

Write to him with your views at **Warwickshire County Council Shire Hall, Warwick CV344SA**

Call him on 01789 730331

Or email him at

Cllrhobbs

@warwickshire.gov.uk

This clearly states that owners are responsible for picking up any dog waste left by their pet or may be liable to a fine. Local landowners are doing their best to make this easier by providing bins at their own expense. It is not only very unpleasant for others walkers but can be very dangerous for children; also, who wants to eat crops which have been subjected to dog waste before they are washed for sale? Please do the decent thing and clear up after your dog.



Following recent quarrying proposals many residents feel the need has arisen for a new local resident's group to be formed to defend our environment. This group would be complementary to the Parish Council which has to work within the rules of local government. If you are interested in this proposal please contact John Fenlon of 01789 772 182 or Lindsay Wright on 01789 778496.

Email: envirowatch@live.co.uk



COUNCIL PROJECTS UNDERWAY

NEW WINDOWS AT TOPS and....

Many projects are identified during the course of the year. (writes Parish Clerk Mike Philpott) In order to prioritise projects in a logical manner and to avoid making ad-hoc decisions, as issues emerged the Parish Council held over all proposals until their July meeting when the first quarter financial report was available. This enabled decisions to be properly prioritised within the agreed budget. There are projects in Abbot's Salford, Dunnington, and Salford Priors. Major works are needed at The Other Place, Salford (TOPs) where new UPVC windows have been fitted and a new storage shed provided. At Abbot's Salford the white railings have been repainted. At Dunnington new flower display planters are to be provided. In Salford Priors, new dog waste bins and a new salt/grit bin will be provided. At the allotments an additional water trough is to be installed. Finally, a survey of street lights will be carried out to see if efficiency savings can be made. Suggestions for any other projects should be made to me.

PLAN TO EXPAND QUARRY SITE

A planning application has been submitted by CEMEX to develop a new quarry North of Broom Lane as an extension to the existing quarry at Marsh Farm.

The Parish Council (and many residents) has objected to this application. We have little confidence that the existing quarry will be restored quickly. We need evidence that substantial progress is being made. An aerial photograph taken earlier in the year demonstrates that this is not the case. We know there has been a virtual stop to the availability of inert waste to fill the site in accordance with the current conditions, but there are no proposals for an alternative scheme.

The Council thinks the application is premature and we are very concerned about the long term plans for gravel extraction in the area. At the moment it seems as if ad-hoc decisions are the order of the day and we have no idea where it might end. This will be a major issue at any public examination of the gravel issue.

and record numbers protest at Berry Coppice plan

Residents should know that there were more objections to Berry Coppice than any other site in the County and already the operators have spoken about reducing the area of the site to behind Hillers – not that that is anymore acceptable!

The Parish Council, with support from the Salford Seven Gravel Group, put together a very full response to the consultation and the County planners have recorded all the many points made. Eventually this process should culminate with an examination in public and this will be the main opportunity for residents and the Parish Council to put their case to an independent assessor.



Affordable Homes survey

In January over one hundred residents came to TOPS to push pins into a large map of the parish to show where they thought houses could be built and where they felt they should not be built.

The housing survey carried out last year showed a need for six affordable homes specifically for local people and this is the objective of the land search.

Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC), who carried out the survey, analysed the results and produced a report for the Parish Council to consider.

Several sites were felt to be possible and WRCC were asked to consult with planners to see which were the most suitable. The Council considered the planner's reports in September and the short-list has now been reduced to two. One site is at Iron Cross and one at the top of Tothall Lane.

There is still a long way to go with this before even a planning application can be made, but any concerned residents should speak to the Clerk to find out the latest information.

PLAYING FIELD 'SOLAR LIGHTS

Users of TOPS and the Scout Hut during the winter months will now benefit from three new solar powered lights to light the way to the car park. These lights have been provided through a grant of £7000 by CEMEX with the help of the Warwickshire Environmental Trust using the Landfill Tax scheme.

The lights collect power during daylight hours and store it in batteries. This power is then used to power the LED lights during the evening. We are told that they will still work even on short overcast winter days and the Clerk would like to hear from users of the two community buildings if they encounter any problems.

E-newsletter

One of the new ways in which the Parish Council is keeping residents informed is through its E-newsletter. This may take the form of a letter which updates residents on recent or forthcoming events. If you would like to be included on our list of addressees please just send an e-mail: clerk@salfordpriors.gov.uk

Council website

We are very grateful to Richard Dare for helping us load information onto our new website:

www.salfordpriors.gov.uk

Formal documents like the Parish Council's Minutes and Agendas are regularly uploaded but we want this to become a real community website.

We need items of interest from individuals and organisations and photos to bring the site to life. Please contact the Clerk if you have something of interest.

CLAMPDOWN LIKELY AS DRIVERS IGNORE VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS

Residents must be aware of the new speed limits on Evesham Road/Station Road through Abbots Salford and Salford Priors and on the B4088 through Rushford, Pitchill and Iron Cross.

In addition to the new limits a "build-out" to narrow the road was constructed at the West end of Salford Priors and also a speed indicator has been installed on the approach to Abbots Salford.

There are serious concerns that drivers are speeding through the villages and that in some places dangers have actually increased. A covert speed survey by the County Council made in July supported these concerns and the Parish Council is continuing to press the County for further investigation and enforcement. All residents are urged to keep to the new limits and this will force other drivers to slow down too.

Manager wanted and Players!

New under 16's football team for Salford

Tom Ball is keen to start an under 16s football team in Salford Priors. If you are under 16 and interested in playing please contact Tom directly on baldey123@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01789 491 563. The team will need a manager, so if you fancy being 'The Boss' call Tom.

Council Surgeries

The Parish Clerk writes: Last year the Parish Council commenced a programme of monthly surgeries where residents could come to the Parish Office and seek advice on any matter relevant to the Council. In the event very few people turned up and the Council has decided not to hold any more surgeries in this format. Councillors are keen to help whenever they can and their contact details are on every notice board in the village. In addition the Parish Office is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and the Clerk is available to help. Hopefully we can at least point people in the right direction. Dealing with the numerous councils and other bodies is a minefield for the uninitiated (and those who are!)



The village pub that once carried such an unfortunate reputation has been transformed by new owners, Sally and Dave Atkinson.

The Bell has undergone complete restoration to create what Dave describes as a relaxing place to drink alongside an informal but high quality restaurant. His chef creates menus using produce from local suppliers.

You can view this welcome addition to the village at: www.thebellatsalfordpriors.com

There will be a special meeting for residents of Salford Priors to discuss proposals for next year's Parish Council budget. This "Participatory Budget Meeting" is a new venture where residents can suggest ideas for new projects or for possible savings. The meeting will be held in the Salford Priors Memorial Hall on Wednesday 2nd, December starting at 7.30pm.

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