

Sonning Parish Council

Winter Newsletter 2015

As your new Chairman I welcome you to our Christmas update.

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to Pat Doyle for his time as Chairman. Nine years on the council is testament to his work and belief in his community. He still helps the council especially in planning matters. He is fondly known as 'the man with the white dog' look out for him.

No changes in problems we have to deal with; traffic, drainage, dog fouling, upgrading of street lighting, planning etc. The positive results are a start in raising funds for refurbishment of our ageing community pavilion, to accommodate our growing sporting youth of both genders, this is being guided by Cllr Mena Pownall.

The Wharf, in partnership with the new owners of The Great House, is being upgraded. I would remind you that 'The Wharf' is owned in law by the village.

We are at present two councillors short. If you feel an urge to serve your community, visit our excellent web site, or come as a visitor to one of our monthly meetings.

Finally I take this opportunity to thank our parish clerk Lesley Bates and my fellow members for their time and commitment.

May I also wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Tony Farnese

Defibrillator fund raising afternoon.

Back in May the Parish Council held a fund raising afternoon in King George's field in aid of the 2nd defibrillator sited in our village.

With help from Sonning Scouts BBQ, WI cake stall, Sonning Cricket Club bar, Sonning School bottle tombola and events run such as Joan Farnese's very popular dog show, bouncy castle and wellie wanging, we had a very successful afternoon.

The total of £1,190 raised was gratefully matched by Barclays Bank under their match funding scheme up to £1000. Thanks go to Kim Savage at Barclays for orchestrating that for us and her help on the day. Thanks to Richard Best a local vet, who did an excellent job of judging our Dog show and also to other volunteer helpers whose assistance was greatly appreciated..

Council Allotments-Little Glebe

Another year in the horticultural cycle has almost passed on the allotments with excellent results. Plots are being well fed and left to rest ready for Spring planting. There is one

half plot still vacant should anyone be interested in a tenancy.

For further information please contact our Parish Clerk.

Planning

After a relatively quiet summer the autumn has been quite a busy time for your planning committee with many applications coming in. Some of these have involved planning on the designated countryside, which presently acts as a green buffer surrounding Sonning, retaining the identity of the village between settlements, and preventing it becoming a suburb of Reading. These types of application have been occurring not just in Sonning but in the parishes that surround us, and some of them have been approved. It is important that we try to protect this green wedge from being subtly eroded, and in addition try to ensure that any new development located on the settlement edge demonstrates how the interrelationship between the open countryside and development form is respected.

Whilst realising that the village must develop over time we must ensure that it is carried out within the settlement area, and that it respects the character of Sonning using sympathetic design and materials, not just in the conservation area, but in the village as a whole.

Pavilion King Georges Field

As Tony has already mentioned we are currently looking into either a refurbishment or rebuild of our ageing sports pavilion. The pavilion was built in the 1930's and is in desperate need of updating to incorporate; male and female changing rooms and shower facilities, new electrics and plumbing, insulation, heating and disabled access. I am sure that many of you will have strong feelings and opinions about this facility especially if the route we take is a rebuild. We feel that as a council we have an obligation to provide enhanced facilities for our users. I would appreciate hearing any feedback you may have, either positive or negative. Please contact us with your thoughts by emailing :- clerk@sonning-pc.gov.uk or a handwritten letter to the office on Pearson Road next to the Pearson Hall.

SONNING PARISH COUNCIL

Sonning Parish Council meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.00pm in the Pavilion in 'King George's Field', Pound Lane. Sonning Parish Council Planning Committee also meet in the Pavilion at the new time of 6:30pm on the Monday of the week before and the Wednesday of the week after the meetings of the Parish Council.

Both meetings are open to the public.

The Parish Council Annual Public Meeting is normally held in Pearson Hall, its date and time will be posted on Parish Council notice boards.

Parish Council and Planning Committee agendas are displayed on Parish Council notice boards three working days prior to their meetings.

Changes to meeting times and venues caused by severe weather or unavoidable circumstances will be posted on Parish Council notice boards.

SONNING PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS:

Tony Farnese – Chairman	07774 494610
Ian Runnalls – Planning.	0118 9693389
Mena Pownall – Recreation	0118 9698245
Trefor Fisher	07789 880072
Alex Evans - Highways	0118 9448348
Peter Morrison - Finance	01189 697223
Sue Jacobs	01189 693173
Lesley Bates - Clerk	0118 9697753
Email:-	clerk@sonning-pc.gov.uk
Website:-	http://www.sonning-pc.gov.uk

Wokingham Borough Council Christmas waste and recycling collection dates

Normal collection day*	Will be collected on**	Delay
Monday December 21	Monday December 21	No change
Tuesday December 22	Tuesday December 22	No change
Wednesday December 23	Wednesday December 23	No change
Thursday December 24	Thursday December 24	No change
Friday December 25	Monday December 28	3 days
Monday December 28	Tuesday December 29	1 day
Tuesday December 29	Wednesday December 30	1 day
Wednesday December 30	Thursday December 31	1 day
Thursday December 31	Saturday January 2, 2016	2 days
Friday January 1, 2016	Monday January 4, 2016	3 days
Monday January 4, 2016	Tuesday January 5, 2016	1 day
Tuesday January 5, 2016	Wednesday January 6, 2016	1 day
Wednesday January 6, 2016	Thursday January 7, 2016	1 day
Thursday January 7, 2016	Friday January 8, 2016	1 day
Friday January 8, 2016	Saturday January 9, 2016	1 day

*Garden waste collections will coincide with the above schedule

**Collections will be made earlier than possible so waste and recycling should be put out the night before

FREE PARKING THIS FESTIVE PERIOD

Free car parking on the three Saturdays (December 5, 12 and 19) leading up to Christmas will again be on offer this year thanks to Wokingham Borough Council.

Free car parking will be available at:

- Polehampton Close, Twyford
- School Lane, Wargrave
- The Paddocks, Wokingham
- Denmark Street, Wokingham (COUNCIL-MANAGED SECTION ONLY)*
- Easthampstead Road (east and west), Wokingham
- Rose Street, Wokingham
- Cockpit Path, Wokingham
- Headley Road, Woodley
- Crockhamwell Road, Woodley
- Lytham Road (east and west), Woodley