

Methodist Chapel

After more than a century of worship, the chapel finally closed last year and is currently for sale. The proposals for conversion to some form of community or artistic use have been unsuccessful, and permission is being sought to return it to a domestic dwelling once again.

Out To Graze Music Festival

There was a music festival last year at Fir Tree Farm that affected a number of local villages with noise issues. An application for a similar event but five times larger was made to the licencing panel at SDC recently. This was rejected after representations from local Parishes and a smaller event was licenced, subject to certain noise restrictions. The event organiser has now ignored SDC and proposes to put on five simultaneous events in five fields each for 500 people, thereby avoiding all restrictions on the event. This is yet another blatant abuse of the process we expect to protect our rural way of life. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this matter with SDC to ensure that we are not adversely affected by the event.

Summary

We all need to continue to invest a small amount of money and a great deal of time in preserving all that we value in our rural communities. The pressures on our environment from many different directions must not be ignored.

If we are to preserve what we have and ensure that it survives for future generations to enjoy we must all work to ensure it is not destroyed by neglect or wilful damage.

www.warmington.info

Geraint Lewis Chairman

Warmington & Arlescote



Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report

26th April 2011

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Please use our village website and support local businesses and services.

There is a lot of useful information and news updated every week.

There is wireless internet access in the village hall.

www.warmington.info

Highways

We have continued to put pressure on WCC Highways to ensure that drains are maintained and potholes are repaired. Budget restraints have meant that fewer resources are available so we have to push harder to get our fair share.

Water leaks and surface drainage have been dealt with, and the ever present springs that appear and disappear are part of the battle to maintain the village.

Planning



The interaction between Stratford District Council and the Parish Council over planning matters has at times been extremely difficult. We have been faced with a number of fundamental issues within the planning system that have resulted in our village being left exposed to unacceptable planning decisions because the District Council had no plan for dealing with Travel-

lers and Gypsy sites. We have fought a long battle with them to ensure that we do not suffer because of the shambles that the Government and local authorities have created. We are not alone, other Parishes have suffered similar issues and some progress is being made to prevent further abuses of the planning process in the future.

In the meantime we continue to pressure SDC to ensure that failings in their planning and enforcement departments do not result in development that threatens to destroy the rural nature of our village or compromise the conservation of important local buildings.

Motorway Noise

There have been a number of meetings held in the past few years and we are now trying to agree a scheme to put a large earth bund in place



adjacent to the motorway. This should have been done when the motorway was built, but a local farmer, who has since left the village refused to allow it at the time, and we have all suffered as a consequence. The proposals are likely to take some considerable time to agree and implement as there are a number of large technical issues to be addressed.

Parish Plan

We are producing a parish plan detailing the expectations and needs of residents with regard to the services and facilities within the Parish. A detailed questionnaire was circulated to every household in the Parish and is being collated. The data will be used to produce a document that will assist the Parish in meeting the needs of residents in the future. A separate housing needs survey has recently been commissioned as part of this process and we expect the results back within a few weeks.



The Parish Council will use the information to ensure that future decisions reflect the needs of residents.

Stratford District Council will use these documents as part of their planning process to ensure that our expectations and needs are not ignored when they create new structure plans for the District.

Parish Councillors

Mark Burstall (Deputy Chairman)

Jeff Deakin

Jenny Handscombe

Geraint Lewis (Chairman)

Susan Stevens-Hoare

Clerk Ms Christine Walker

Warmington & Arlescote Parish Council is responsible for a number of local services of benefit to our community and is the publicly accountable elected body representing some 250 electors in these two communities and the surrounding area.

Review



Strength in adversity would seem to be the defining mantra during the past year. There have been a number of issues within both villages that have taken a considerable amount of time and money to resolve. Progress has been made with the Village Hall refurbishment and our Parish Plan is under way.

Local MP

Following boundary changes and the general election last year our new MP is now Jeremy Wright who represents Kenilworth and Southam as a Conservative. He has shown some interest in our local issues and we look forward to his support in some of the larger issues that arise.

Village Hall



There have over the years been a number of schemes put forward to improve, or even relocate the village hall. The VH trustees are in the process of updating this important asset, and with the help of £5122 seed funding from the Parish Council, a Biffa grant of £50,000 has been secured towards the cost of these works. The village hall continues to be well supported with events and

functions, and with a new events committee recently set up future bookings are sure to increase. The hall is vital to many of the societies and group meetings that need an indoor event space and the updates will provide further flexibility for the years to come.

The free wifi point provided by WAPC is working in the village hall.

The log on details are:

Network Name Warmington Password 1BB9BC4B4B

High Speed Rail



The Government consultations and subsequent changes to the route of HS2, the new high speed rail link from London to Birmingham would seem to have settled on a route that does not adversely affect our villages. The proposals show a new line to the east of Cropredy well outside our valley, and not following the M40 as

had been feared. We continue to be vigilant on this matter as there are no guarantees that the current proposals will not be amended in the future.

Emergency Planning



The heavy snow falls at the end of 2010 brought the emergency planning procedures into focus and we benefited from the programmed snow ploughing, regular gritting and refilling of the grit bins during this period. Additional grit bins have been purchased by the Parish Council and located at strategic points to assist with the safe clearance of ice from the minor roads. Ditches have been

cleared and gulleys repaired to ensure that surface water does not cause flooding issues that could lead to property damage or impassable roads

Fire & Rescue Services



The future of Fenny Compton fire station which serves our two villages was at risk during the recent fire service review. It was proposed that Banbury would cover their responsibilities in South Warwickshire, even though they are under the control of Oxfordshire fire service and have no county links with our villages. After many months of delays and discussions Fenny Compton station

was kept open, and some much needed operational improvements instigated. The station, although staffed by reserve firemen, serves a large rural area in South Warwickshire, and also provides rescue capability on the busy sections of M40 to the south and north of the Gaydon junction.