

# **Tewin Parish Council**

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20<sup>th</sup> May 2005

Dear Parishioners,

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

At the Annual Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005 Cllr K.Lawson was unanimously elected as Chairman and Cllr K St Pier was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman for a further year.

## **TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL YEAR END ACCOUNTS**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulation the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 will be available for inspection from 2<sup>nd</sup> June until 29<sup>th</sup> June by appointment with the Clerk.

## **EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN INQUIRY**

The Inquiry will begin at 10am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and is likely to run until Spring 2006. There will be a pre-inquiry meeting in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Wallfields on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2005 starting promptly at 10am. The Inspector will outline how the Inquiry will be conducted and the procedures to be followed. All objectors will receive a copy of the minutes if they are unable to attend.

## **MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2002-2016**

The report into the objections to the Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2026 will be received from the planning inspectorate by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Once it has been checked for accuracy it will be available on the Hertfordshire County Council's website [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org).

## **YOUTH CLUB/THACS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Tewin Parish Council is still looking for volunteers to support the Youth Club as without a leader this venture cannot begin. The Parish Council have had pledges of assistance for various activities such as football team, drama, police talks etc and would be very supportive of the Youth Club.

THACS are also looking for volunteers to run a Youth Group and the Parish Council would like to encourage as many people as possible to respond to the THACS questionnaire so we (and they) can see for certain what people are interested in.

## **VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council has one vacancy for the North Ward of the Parish of Tewin although applicants from the south ward are also welcome. A formal notice of the vacancy is displayed on the noticeboards. The job of Parish Councillor is voluntary and very rewarding in terms making a difference to what happens within our Parish. Meetings take place in the evenings on the first Monday of every month except January and August.

Anyone who may be interested is very welcome to attend our next meeting to get an idea of what the Council achieve and Councillors would be willing to answer any questions you may have at either the beginning or the end of the meeting.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 4 April 2005**

For the first time in several years, the Parish Council has established some stability by finishing the year the same eight Councillors – each of whom has served for at least two years.

Meetings have continued to be held on the first Monday of the month, which has enabled regular reports of the Parish Council's activities to appear in the Parish News. To improve communication with Parishioners and for the benefit of those who do not see the Parish News or the Tewin Village website, the Council produced its first Newsletter in June 2004 which was distributed to

all households in the Parish. Two further newsletters have since been circulated, to date.

The Parish Council's regular activities have continued as usual during the year. A total of 39 Planning Applications have been examined and commented on. East Herts District Council granted 21 of these applications and refused 12. The Parish Council is always willing to hear views in favour or opposed to applications before making its own comments, but the final decision is the responsibility of EHDC. Maintenance of parish paths, grass cutting, tree pruning, and general repairs of Council property have continued and a new Union flag has been purchased. The Woodland Management Survey, undertaken a year ago, recommended certain actions for the management of woodland areas of Common Land and the Hundred Year Wood, which are in the Council's care, but few of the recommendations are considered essential at present.

The increase in the precept for the financial year 2005-2006 will be limited to 3%. One saving has occurred as a result of the decision to withdraw from membership of the Hertfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils (HATPC), which is affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils. In common with several other Hertfordshire minor authorities, the Parish Council decided that legal and other advice could be obtained from other sources. Councillors have confirmed their decision not to claim allowances, although co-opted members as well as elected members are now eligible to do so.

A significant number of the highways works, which had been outstanding for several years, have now been completed. The School Lane Flooding Alleviation works were finished in spring 2004, and apart from a few initial problems, have successfully prevented flooding in that area. The flooding problem at the junction of Margery Lane and Churchfield Road, however, has worsened since kerbing was installed. The eroded points of Lower Green have been kerbed and reinstated and the west side of the green has been turfed, the latter at the direct expense of Tewin Council Tax payers. It is therefore disappointing to see that vehicles are still continuing to damage such grassed areas.

We liaised with HCC and local residents to make improvements to the junction of the track on Upper Green with the road, by adding hard surfacing to protect it from use by authorised vehicles. Some outstanding works remain for attention in the forthcoming financial year, largely as a result of an administrative error in the Highways department. The forthcoming risk assessment inspections will provide an opportunity for Councillors to identify any other works that are essential.

The Parish Council's views on several regional and local policy documents have been sought during the year. The one with the most immediate impact concerned the local bus service. In late June, following months of rumours, the Parish Council was notified that a funding shortage at HCC and EHDC was threatening to cause severe cuts in the local 388 bus service. A petition was started opposing the cuts and support for a campaign against the proposals was given by local politicians.

A meeting to discuss the proposals was held at County Hall in early July and an Emergency Parish Meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July, before the Parish Council Meeting, attended by a representative from HCC's Passenger Transport Unit, Tewin's County and District Councillors and over 30 members of the public. Resolutions opposing the cuts and urging the County Council to maintain the current service, were forwarded to HCC, together with a formal response to the consultation.

A succession of articles, letters and editorials appeared in the local press and parishioners and BBC Three Counties Radio was encouraged to take an interest in the story. Letters from bus users were sent to local MPs, to the Head of Environment at County Hall and the Transport Secretary. On 20<sup>th</sup> July, the petition of 319 signatures was presented to the County Council Meeting and a meeting was held with HCC, attended by County, District and Parish Councillors and two members of the public from Tewin. On 28<sup>th</sup> July another copy of the petition was presented to the East Herts District Council Meeting and on 9<sup>th</sup> August a meeting was held with EHDC.

Finally, on 20<sup>th</sup> August the Parish Council was notified that there would be no change to current service until spring 2005. This allowed time for further discussions about funding and HCC and EHDC agreed that the 388

service could continue. The Parish Council was then asked to comment on timetable changes, which extend the service to Presdales School. It is therefore hoped that passenger numbers, which have already been rising, will continue to increase.

The Parish Council maintained its objections to the East Herts Local Plan, at the Second Review, and attended the Minerals Local Plan Initial Inquiry Meeting in May. Most recently, we submitted objections to the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy.

Members of the Council have continued their representation on the so called 'outside bodies', namely the Tewin Memorial Hall Committee and the Tewin Website Committee. Former Councillor John Burton will continue as the Council-nominated Governor of Tewin School until a new instrument of government is introduced, under new regulations. Cllr David Howson was nominated to fill the vacant position as Tewin Charities Trustee.

We have continued our support for the Village of the Year Competition and Cllr Adrian Hill and the Clerk attended the meeting in June. Support was also given for the village Carol Service, held in December, with the funding of the Christmas Tree

Hertfordshire Constabulary has continued the service of a mobile police station, which visits Tewin on the first Wednesday of every month. The persistent problem of motorcycles being driven illegally on footpaths and bridlepaths was dealt with, but has been succeeded by the illegal use of motorised scooters (go-peds). The Parish Council is continuing to monitor all cases of nuisance caused by motorcycles of all kinds, and Parishioners are advised to use the non-emergency contact number for the police for this and other policing matters. New Community Support Officers have been introduced to the police service and the local representative was introduced at the Parish Council Meeting in January. Vandalism and fly tipping still continue to be issues of concern. A speed reduction sign was used for two weeks in November, with the assistance of other Tewin organizations, to monitor traffic speeds at specific locations. Overall, 22% of vehicles were exceeding the limit; the results were forwarded to the mobile speed patrol.

The Parish Council has continued to encourage sport and recreation in Tewin. Discussions have been held with the sports clubs over possible improvements to the facilities at the Pavilion and remedial drainage works were undertaken on Upper Green to prevent flooding. The Council undertook a Play Audit to determine level of demand for play facilities for small children, with the result that more than 90 households stated that their children or other relatives would use a playground. The Council is still prepared to take this idea forward if a suitable site can be identified. Recognising that there are few opportunities for teenagers in the village, we also circulated a Youth Club Questionnaire, explaining how facilities for young people can be set up, with the assistance of the Hertfordshire Association for Young People.

This year's East Herts Interparish Conference (for Parish Councillors) was hosted by Tewin Parish Council in the Memorial Hall. The topics on the agenda were The East of England Plan, 'Plotlands' and Licensing. Thanks go to the Clerk, Caroline McFarlane, for organising it.

Finally, I would like to thank the Clerk and Councillors for the hard work, help, and support they have given throughout the year.

Kristina Lawson

April 2005

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For details of the next meetings, how to put items on the agenda or contact details of Councillors please refer to the notice board outside Tewin Stores.

Useful Numbers/Websites

**Highways Fault Line: 01438-737321** for reporting potholes & any other damage to the roads

East Herts District Council: 01279-655261 or [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)

Re: Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Environmental Health, Animal Welfare, Pest Control, Waste Services, Planning, Tree Preservation Orders

**Herts County Council:** [www.hertsdirect.gov.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.gov.uk)

**Dial – a – Ride** Membership 01992-588744

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**Police:**

**Operation Arable** – **01992-533000** – For reporting motorcycles

**Police Community Team** – **01992-533013** – For non-emergency purposes

**Police Control Room** – **0845-3300222** – For General Enquiries, advice

**Highways Fault Line:** - **01438-737321** - For reporting potholes and any other damage to the roads

**Parking Warden Manager at EHDC on 01279-655261** – For reporting parking offences