

November 2003 Edition of the Linton News

[Previous](#) [Next](#) [Open this page in Full Screen view](#)

LINTON - A LOVELY PLACE TO LIVE

[Top](#)



More than nine out of 10 adults in Linton use the Linton News as their source of local information, according to the village survey results. This is 50% more than local newspapers, almost four times as many as village notice boards attract and nearly five times as many as the library.

"We are very pleased to see how much the Linton News means to the village," said Hazel Olway, the editor. "We have a dedicated, hard-working team of volunteers responsible for its production and distribution and these figures are a great encouragement."

Use of information sources (Base: All 1,278 respondents)

Linton News 92.1%

Free papers 63.5%

Linton Directory 39.3%

Local newsagents 35.9%

Council notice board 24.2%

Other local papers 24.1%

Post Office 19.8%

Library 19.1%

Church notice board 12.7%

Church magazine 11.7%

South Cambs News 8.5%

Linton website 7.7%

What's On guide 5.6%

Resource Centre 2.3%

Granta Grapevine 1.3%

The List' directory 0.9%

Other 3.1%

No answer 2.4%

Further survey results are included with this edition. or check out the Website www.linton.info

THE Linton News is full of surprises these days! Last month's paper carried the first edition of 'Parish Council Matters' and this month you will find pages containing results from the questionnaire a great many of you completed at the beginning of the

summer.

The Parish Plan Steering Group met on Tuesday 14th October to hear a presentation of the results given by Peter Dixon, the group's Market Research Consultant, who has given an enormous amount of time and expertise to the project. The page of results has been painstakingly put together by John Keeble who was responsible for the excellent brochure you all received to assist with the task of completing the lengthy survey.

The Parish Plan Steering Group would like to emphasise that they are NOT part of the Parish Council. The Steering Group consists of a group of residents who responded to articles in last summers Linton News (August and September editions), asking for volunteers to help with the project.

The Parish Council expressly adopted a non-interference attitude toward the survey and are awaiting the results which will aid the formulation of future policy.

The review of 1969 by the County Council resulted in a new junior school and two large new housing estates in the village but the proposed shopping centre in Coles Lane, never materialised! The current survey is unlikely to initiate such radical changes. If there is one overall theme emerging from the results it is: "There is always room for improvement but Linton is a nice village, leave it as it is."

The next phase of the project requires the group to seek the assistance of residents in formulating a plan based on the results and to decide on which improvements are the most important! For this reason we would prefer not to make any comments on the results but leave everyone who is interested to make up their own minds about what they mean and how they should be interpreted.

Full details will be available on the Linton web site as soon as possible but as you see from the answers to question 25, this is not yet a widely used information source (the availability of Broadband may improve this).

The group will meet again at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th November at the Village College. The purpose of this will be to decide proposals for The Parish Plan.

We hope to have all the comments from the original questionnaires which will help to put flesh on the figures. Many of you wrote at length and made some interesting and helpful suggestions. Some of these ideas are directly opposed to others and clearly it is going to be impossible to please everyone, but we very much hope to end up with a programme of improvements which most closely matches the majority of views expressed. It is a time consuming process and all are welcome to attend the meeting and contribute. Judy Rossiter

LIFE'S NOT A DRAG FOR COLLIN



Collin Morrice shows off the "Morrice Boys" dragster

IMAGINE what it must be like driving a 15ft long car at top speed for one eighth of a mile. Imagine what it must be like to accelerate from 0-73mph in eight seconds (faster than a Porsche 911). Imagine doing all this and being just 13 years old - that's four years before being allowed a licence to drive on the highway.

Collin Morrice, a Year 9 pupil of Linton Village College who lives in Balsham Road, Linton, doesn't have to imagine this, as most weekends he is either away competing in drag racing at Santa Pod Raceway or Shakespeare County Raceway in Stratford (approximately once a month) or doing practice runs at Santa Pod. And he must be good at it, as he recently became the British Junior Drag Racing Champion at a two-day event over one weekend.

For the uninitiated, drag racing is an acceleration contest between two vehicles over a flat, straight distance. The vehicles compete, in pairs, from a standing start in a knock-out competition until one driver/vehicle is the winner. Junior drag racers can begin racing from age eight up to 12 in stock cars (max. 40mph) then progress to scaled down methanol fuelled 225lb dragsters. It is a test of reaction time, nerve, driving skill and pure guts. Collin and his family have been going to drag races since the boys were very small, originally crewing for a friend. Then they hired a dragster for elder brother Stuart to drive while Collin crewed for a year, and subsequently obtained their own vehicle, which is from America.

There isn't a lot of manoeuvring space in the cockpit, so once Stuart was unable to fit inside comfortably it was Collin's turn to fly the flag for the family with them all acting as crew (including mum Christine and dad Sandy). But it's Stuart who is Crew Chief, using the mechanical knowledge learned from his apprenticeship with McKenzie and Hayward.

The boys work very much as a team; indeed the paintwork on the side of the car reads "Morrice Boys", but the whole family gets such a lot out of the weekends away - the season running from Easter to November. They meet with friends and socialise, and there is a great sense of kinship, with children of all ages, from children up to grandparents.

Some drag racers have sponsorship, but the Morrice brothers have had to pay their own way so far. They hope to attract sponsorship in the future, proving their worth

by winning - Collin has been a finalist in six of the eight events he has attended this season.

When I asked Christine whether she was worried about safety, she said that the sport is so well marshalled, and every safety factor is taken into consideration. Plus she has confidence in Collin's driving!

If you want to know more about drag racing, there is a terrific website at

www.eurodragster.com

Tracey Wilson

URGENT VACANCY: LINTON NEWS EDITOR

LAST month we ran an article advertising for a new Editor for the Linton News and - so far - we have not had any response.

So we're asking again!

The Linton News is run by a team of volunteers who work together to produce each month's edition. Being the Editor is an excellent, fun and very rewarding way to get involved in the community and really get to know Linton and - as confirmed by the recent village survey - the Linton News really is an invaluable source of information for all sorts of people who live in and around the village.

If you are interested please get in contact, even if you have just moved to the village or you have never edited before, give us a call. You never know, this could be your perfect opportunity!

For further details of this or other positions at the Linton News see last month's edition or phone Hazel Olway

Go on, don't lose the News! LNT

BIN ROADSHOW WHEELED OUT TO VILLAGES

SOUTH Cambs residents are finding out more about the new wheeled bin scheme at a series of roadshows. Councillor Colin Barker, environmental health portfolio holder said, "The aim of the wheeled bin roadshows is to get out into the district and help residents understand the new refuse and recycling collection scheme and give them an opportunity to see the bins before they start to use them. There are opportunities to ask questions on all aspects of the scheme from collection dates to what happens to the green waste after it is collected."

There are two roadshows left, one in Balsham on Monday 10th November at the Village Hall and another in Over on Friday 21st November at the Community Centre. Both roadshows take place from 10am until 4pm.

The first wheeled bin collections in South Cambs were on Monday 8th September and by the end of the year the majority of residents will be using wheeled bins for rubbish and garden waste.

The scheme has been introduced to increase recycling in line with Government and

EU directives to reduce the amount of waste that is disposed of in landfill sites. The successful implementation of the wheeled bin scheme for waste and recycling is one of the council's 10 main priorities for 2003/4 and reflects the council's objective to create a sustainable future for South Cambridgeshire by raising recycling rates in the district.

Any residents with queries about the wheeled bin scheme should contact the Wheeled Bin Hotline on 0845 650 0280. The lines are open from 8am until 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

For further information please contact me (Jo Fowler, communications officer) at South Cambridgeshire District Council on 443289, or 07887 633640, or email

joanne.fowler@scambs.gov.uk

Joanne Fowler

WASTE NOT - BUT WHICH BIN WANTS WHAT?

AS most residents will be aware wheelie bin collections begin in Linton this month. Full details of what is and is not allowed in each bin or box are provided in the most recent edition of the South Cambs Magazine but for your convenience here is a quick recap of what goes where. LNT

Green Wheelie Bin

DO use for grass cuttings; hedge and shrub trimmings; untreated wood and bark; weeds and flowers; junk mail; cardboard and Yellow Pages

DO NOT use for cooked food, bread, meat, bones, veg and fruit (incl. peelings); coffee filters; tea bags; plastic; nappies; glass; cans; textiles, soil, stones, treated/painted wood, cat and dog waste, oil, non-compostable rubbish

Green Box

DO use for aluminum and steel cans; newspapers; magazines; textiles; glass bottles and jars

DO NOT use for plastics, Yellow Pages* or cardboard* (* place in green wheelie bin)

FAMILY FEUDING?

LINTON Action For Youth is organising a Parents' Support Group commencing in the new year. The course is 7 weeks long and is aimed at sharing experiences with others including subjects such as arguments between parents and their children. We know parenting is not always easy. Maybe we can help and support each other!

Please contact either Chantel (07931 846943) or Lesley (07974 881452). An appointment will be arranged so you are aware of who we are and what we are about before the course begins.

Chantel Powell

PRIORITIES:

WHAT ARE YOURS?

SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council would like the views of all residents on our priorities for improving services in the year beginning 1st April 2004. We would also like your views on our future plans for spending and Council Tax.

These are some of the areas where we think it is important to improve services.

1. More affordable housing
2. Helping village communities define and address their needs.
3. Improving the cleanliness and tidiness of villages and verges.
4. Planning the new town of Northstowe (at Oakington/Longstanton) and other major developments around Cambridge.
5. Improving efficiency and the service we provide to people contacting the Council.
6. Improved communications with the public.

What do you think? We set priorities to ensure your money is spent where it is most needed and where it will benefit many South Cambs residents. We need your help to identify these areas.

We will be holding consultation meetings at the following locations (all at 7.15pm):-
Comberton Village College, 11th November; Sawston Village College, 18th November; Cottenham Village College, 24th November; Bassingbourn Village College, 26th November.

The meetings will be informal and friendly, with light refreshments. Information will be provided and there will be opportunities to discuss priorities and the Council's spending options with Councillors, officers and other participants.

If you would like to attend one of the consultation meetings, it would help us if you could contact me on 443297 or alternatively, email me at

kirsty.simmons@scambs.gov.uk However, if you cannot contact us beforehand, please feel free just to turn up! You will be most welcome.

Kirsty Simmons

MEGABRAINS MEGABYTES

COME along and help raise funds for much-needed computer equipment at the Friends of Linton Heights Quiz'n'Cakes afternoon at 3pm on Sunday 16th November at the Heights. There will be separate questions for adults and children and of course there will be prizes for the winners! Teams will consist of up to four adults and six children – either come along as a team or just turn up on the day. The entry price includes mulled wine or tea (with soft drinks for the children) and a slice

of home-made cake. Tickets available in advance from Rachel Fosberry. Tony Kelly

RICHES TO RAGS

TRICIA Lewis congratulated Dawn Scott on her 50 years WI membership. Members were reminded that the Christmas dinner menu and payment needs to be finalised by the November meeting. Outings secretary Joan Pearman has arranged to book tickets for any members wishing to see Calendar Girls on 17th November.

Joan reported an excellent visit to Buckingham Palace, organised by the County Federation, where, as well as touring the state rooms, they saw the state carriages and had a tour of the grounds. The security search provided some amusement with hip, knee and shoulder replacements setting off the sensors.

Anne reported on the 'Know Europe' meeting and found it very informative. Business over, our guest was welcomed – The Revd. David Reindorp, for his talk 'Millionaire or Bust'. With his manner and attire, red waistcoat and dog collar, we knew we were in for an hilarious talk. He first of all explained his unusual surname; one of his predecessors, Baron Reindorp, was Prussian (and a millionaire). Tales of pillage and rape followed. His ancestors were often in the priesthood, and one was even sacked from the Vatican. Eventually David's great grandfather (by then in Belgium) moved to England and became a penniless priest. His life certainly was far from dull, and we were truly entertained.

Dawn thanked David, who said that he would give his fee to a Sudanese Church. At the next meeting, Mike Petty will talk on 'Cambridge at War 1939-45'. It is an open meeting, where men are also welcomed. It will be at 7.30pm on 4th November in the Social Centre.

Cynthia Norris

GET QUIZZICAL

DUE to the great success of their first Pub Quiz, Linton Granta Playgroup and Toddlers are holding another one in the 'Dog and Duck' at 8pm on 10th November. Teams of up to 4 are invited to enter. Please contact Anna McMahon to enter. Thanks to Bob and Tracy for allowing us to host this popular evening.

A Quiz sheet 'Bird Brain Teaser' was sold in aid of the playgroup during the summer, raising £90. It was won by S.M Jones of Derbyshire (our reputation is spreading nationwide!) Thanks to our sponsors Linton Village Motors and David Urwin Vets. A new quiz will be available from the end of November (contact Anna, number as before).

Jane Laverock

CAR BOOT UNDER COVER

THE Friends of Linton Village College are having a table top sale at the College on Saturday 22nd November from 10 am – 2 pm. A table top sale is an indoor car boot sale, without the cars. Here you can sell your craft goods or other produce in time for Christmas or clear your cupboards by selling your old toys and bric-a-brac. The Friends of LVC will provide refreshments as well as a raffle and tombola stall. This should be a great opportunity to both stock up for Christmas and to raise the money to do so!

If you are interested in having a table top pitch, phone Sue Buckingham on 01799 584522 to reserve a place.

Elaine Wintle

HIGH STREET - ALWAYS A HOT TOPIC

Dear Editor

I was disappointed to read the letter by M R K Holden concerning traffic control in the high street and the recent village questionnaire.

As one who contributed to preparing the latter, I protest at his suggestion that there was manipulation of the questionnaire.

A great deal of hard work by many people not on the Parish Council was put into production of the document. Membership of the steering committee was open to all and widely publicised.

Where was he when we needed him? There was additional opportunity to view and suggest amendments at the pre-questionnaire open day, which was also widely publicised and well attended.

I presume his statement that, "the majority of the electorate voted to close the High Street", referred to those present at the meeting he refers to. I doubt that the majority of the inhabitants of Linton (including bus users and businesses) would vote to close the High Street.

At least he knows that he has the ear of the Linton News (supported by the Parish Council) and his democratic rights to voice his opinions as he thinks fit.

Mike Crofts

Dear Editor

I was sitting here this morning thinking of the High Street, and I realised it was filling up nicely, if slowly. We have three pubs, a ladies salon, a barbers, an estate agent, a bakers, a funeral directors, a small builder, an electricians, a chemist, an art gallery, a small gift shop, a florist, two paper shops, a Chinese takeaway/Fish & Chip shop, a library, an insurance agent, and a very nice Indian Restaurant. Now all we need to do is get rid of the co-operative off-licence and get one or two small grocery shops and we will stop the drunken teenagers.

Mr L Booth

A SMALL BUT VERY SAD STORY

Dear Editor

Chalklands has once again claimed a victim of the traffic. On Monday 6th October, our 6-year-old ginger and white neutered male cat came into the house at about 8.45pm. We already kept the cats in overnight to protect the birds and other small wildlife, but would not have normally had them both indoors until about 9.30pm. Despite getting himself through the cat flap and into the sitting room where we were, he was clearly badly injured. There was no blood but there were tyre marks on his front paw and his right hind leg and he went to hide behind the settee. I immediately phoned the vet as I felt it unwise to pick him up and put him into our rather narrow cat basket.

Young Mr Oliver Garrod came within minutes and took Sunshine to the surgery where he could examine him properly, and I followed in our car. Mr Garrod said it was difficult to determine the full extent of the damage without x-rays and I left Sunshine there to be given pain relief and a drip and to have whatever further treatment he needed. He survived the night but x-rays showed damage to his bladder, which we were advised could at best take 6-8 weeks to heal, but the outcome could not be certain.

We spent an agonising night, knowing that everything possible was being done for our beloved pet, and that he was being kept free of pain, but ultimately decided that the only kind thing to do was to have him put to sleep.

We are all devastated by his loss. His twin brother is obviously grieving too; they were great companions and playmates and he clearly misses his brother very much. Compared to the many tragedies of the world, this is to many people something of no significance, but we have lost a very dear pet.

We are grateful to all the veterinary and nursing staff at Belmont House and could not have been given a kinder or better service, but it will take a long while for us to feel happy again about the road outside.

Mrs C M Fisher

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor

Would you please pass to all concerned our thanks and gratitude for the truly fantastic evening held at the Heights Junior School on Saturday 11th October. We managed to raise £1,094.77 and rounded that up to £1,100.00, for presentation to Papworth Hospital Rehabilitation Centre. Once tax concessions have been added the figure will grow to £1,408.00.

We have been amazed by your support and generosity. Thank you!

Myra & Brian Buttle

Dear Editor

I would just like to pass on my thanks to all the people in Linton who donated some wonderful baby equipment and clothing to the Romsey Mill Young Parent Project and to the Family Resource Centre for arranging the collection and delivery to us here in Cambridge. Some of these donations are already being used by some of the

young women within the project. Thank you so much.

Liz Diamond

THE YOUNG PARENT PROJECT, ROMSEY MILL TRUST, CAMBRIDGE

WHAT A FARCE

Dear Editor

Well, doesn't this take the biscuit; I think I have seen and heard all now. What is happening with our Parish Council that they have to employ someone to pick up litter from Parsonage Way after the youngsters have camped there at weekends?

I do agree that the mess left behind is an eyesore, but surely, the first thing to do is to speak with the culprits explaining the law for litter dropping: they should be told to place the litter in the bin provided (surely they were taught to do this as children) and if the youngsters still continue to drop the litter, the new Constable should be around at the same time handing out the fines. People who break the law should be accountable for their actions and face the consequences. Young people like to think that they are grown up, so why is it that they do not act like it?

Perhaps the bright spark that thought the idea up in the first place can explain where the money is coming from to pay this person. Could this money be directed to a more worthy cause within the village?

As one of the residents of the Copperfields estate, every weekend I am constantly disturbed up until 3 to 4am by the antics of many youngsters who have found a haven on the grass common in Parsonage Way.

It seems the idea is to make as much noise as you can, with girls screeching and shouting, then the lads join in using foul language and hurling abuse at each other, this all at shouting pitch. Then it's the cars racing off, sounding their horns (all junctions have signs of their tyre marks). Whilst their parents are tucked up in bed their darling children make life hell for the residents of the High Street, and Parsonage Way.

What is happening with the young of today, their manner is certainly aggressive and intimidating, yet they are more fortunate today than previously, and they seem to have more money and freedom. But are they happy with their lot? Wouldn't it be nice if we could be proud of them instead of running them down?

BUS SERVICE TO SPLIT IN HALF

FROM 10th November the 113 will be splitting into two services called 13 and 13A, when there will be a bus every 15 minutes from Haverhill to Cambridge.

But, before you shout your hoorays and throw your hat in the air, the snag is that only every other bus will be driving through Linton and Abington. The bus will stop at the top of the village, but that is too bad for residents at the wrong end of the village.

For the past few months we have had a half-hourly service with a bonus of buses every 15 minutes at peak times, but this will be lost once the new service begins. Timetables will be available on the internet and on buses before the new service comes into force, and Stagecoach are planning a bulk drop of leaflets to those villages affected.

Having spoken to Stagecoach's Head Office, it seems that the problems of driving double-deckers down Linton High Street has been a contributing factor in the decision making.

Comments can be made in writing to: Stagecoach, 100 Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 0DN or by phoning them on 423578.

Tracey Wilson

DON'T TREAT THIS LIGHTLY

OVER the last few months there have been a number of malicious fires in Linton involving dog waste bins and street litter bins.

This will not be tolerated by the Police and I am concerned, as the Local officer, that these actions could put the public at risk, as well as the person lighting the fires. I will be doing my utmost to identify the person(s) responsible and would appeal to the public to assist by coming forward with any information about who may be involved.

Any information will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Pc Dave Hall

PUT YOUR CASE FOR A WINDFALL

THE Charles and Mary Anderson Benefaction distributes funds each year to help those living in Linton. The goals of the trust are to support the Christian mission of St Mary's, to promote the education of those living in Linton, particularly through the church school and for any other charitable purpose for the benefit of Lintonians. If you wish to apply for funding the trustees need a written letter of application making a specific request for funding for a project. General requests simply result in further enquiries and this delays consideration for funding. If you are asking on behalf of a group, the trustees need to see the last set of annual accounts or at least a summary of income and expenditure for the last year. If you have received funds from the trust in the past the trustees require confirmation that the funds were used for the original purpose.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 26th January 2004. Please send applications to Mrs W A Sanders, Nine Chimney House, Balsham, Cambridge CB1 6ES

David Parry-Smith

DO YOU LOOK BUT NOT SEE?



Lots to see if you look up in Cambridge - Jan Shambrook in the Market Square
WATCH people walking through any town or village, and they all have their heads down, keeping an eye on what is immediately around their own small space, concentrating on where they are going. The Camera Club decided it was time to see what else there is to look at if eyes are raised – is there anything worth seeing and photographing?

So, off we went on Sunday 12th October to look around Cambridge. Well, we all know Cambridge don't we? We've pretty much seen it all really.

Guess what, when you actually start to look, it's amazing what you find you've been ignoring for years.

Hands up those who know what used to be Fosters Bank in Cambridge – the name is carved in stone over the door - or where there is a plaque which says 'Charles Lamb lodged here August 1819'. And how many of us have looked at all the amazing towers, turrets, spires and chimneys (and aerials of all sorts) that make up the Cambridge skyline?

We didn't just concentrate on the 'old' but tried to take a new look at things more modern – even the CCTV camera got a look in, though one member thought better of standing in front of the camera to take a picture of it looking at him.

We welcomed another new member, Richard Smith, on this awayday and would like to see more new members especially a few more women.

The programme for the coming months is 9th November, awayday to Houghton, the Cromwellian-style village with watermill and locks on the Ouse; 14th December, Social Centre seasonal social event and review of the year's work; 11th January, awayday to Peckover House and Ellwood Brewery.

The club meets on the second Sunday of each month. For information phone, or just turn up. Everyone is welcome! Jan Shambrook

HELP! WE NEED HARDWARE

IS there any individual or business in Linton about to upgrade their computer system who no longer need their old screen, keyboard and box? Then please consider donating it to the Linton Granta playgroup.

The children can use it to support the work they undertake on the foundation stage curriculum, play age appropriate games on it and gain essential keyboard and mouse skills. It will be of particular benefit for children who do not otherwise have access to a computer. So if you have an old computer sitting around please get in touch on (Lavers69@aol.com)

Jane Laverock

THE FOOD OF LOVE

AS part of the Cambridge Music Festival, The Cambridge Voices (director Ian de Massini) will be giving a concert at 2pm at St Mary's Church, Linton on Saturday 22nd November.

The music chosen reflects the church's dedication to St. Mary and the fact that the concert takes place on the feast day of St Cecelia, Patron Saint of music. The concert includes works by Benjamin Britten, Herbert Howells and Ian de Massini.

The Cambridge Singers will also be performing at St Mary's, Great Abington (10.15am); Holy Trinity, Balsham (11.45am); and St Botolph's Hadstock (3.45pm) in a South Cambridgeshire Church Crawl. Tickets for the whole day are available in advance from the Cambridge Arts Box Office (503333) or at each individual church 30 minutes before the concert starts.

Anne Parry-Smith

WE HAVE THE RESOURCE TO HELP YOU

IF you are unemployed, between 19-65 years old, living in Cambridgeshire and thinking of going back to work, then you will be eligible for a place on a free advice session that will help provide you with the information you need to take the first steps.

These informal training sessions are being run monthly by the local Childcare Information Service (Opportunity Links) at the Linton Family Resource Centre. They are aimed at helping people overcome the barriers often associated with getting back to work, particularly childcare.

Among the subjects covered will be how to find childcare in your area, finding out if you are eligible for the Working and Child Tax Credits and how to claim them, working in childcare, and general training and job opportunities in Cambridgeshire. The next session will be held from 1.30pm to 3pm on Wednesday 19th November and if you would like to book a place, please call Mary Barnes at Opportunity Links on 0800 29 89 121, or alternatively email: mary.barnes@opp-links.org.uk. Or you could just turn up on the day.

After the success of our extended opening time in October the Family Resource Centre will be holding another Visitor Display Day on 12th November. Many of our regular users and visitors will come together to display and/or sell their products including Creative Memories, Beverley's Jewellery, Busy Fingers, Usbourne Books & Traidcraft. There is no obligation to buy and we would welcome you to join us for a cuppa and a chat between 2 & 4pm at the Social Centre.

For further details or to join in with a display phone or email

traceyrussell@talk21.com.

Tracey Clayton

GET TO KNOW YOUR OWN HISTORY

STAN Sutherland addressed the October meeting of the Historical Society on "Family History – an explanation on the use of local and national records". He emphasised that he wanted us to get enjoyment out of researching family history. He himself has had a great interest in the subject for about 30 years and founded the Saffron Walden Family History Society 18 years ago.

Mr Sutherland led us gently through the many and varied sources available to those wishing to find out more about their family history. He showed us certificates that he had used in his own researches as well as indenture documents for apprentices, which can also provide much valuable information. He urged us to start by asking members of the family and looking at photos and old documents stored away at home.

There is much information freely available. Often this is due to hard work on the part of Family History Societies, which now exist in every county. For example, Mr Sutherland has transcribed information from the Parish Registers in Radwinter, which can be seen in that village, thus saving a visit to the County Records Office where the originals of the registers are now lodged. Many County Record Offices now have census information available on CD Roms. Mr Sutherland also gave details of several useful internet sites. He even suggested that the Historical Society could undertake a local project using census records from 1841 onwards to identify who had lived in the houses in a particular part of the village.

Leaflets are available about the programme at the Linton Library in November for Local and Family History month. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 18th November when Jenny Gooch will give an illustrated talk on the history of Balsham.
Anne Parry-Smith

FAITH FOR ALL AGES

AS part of the on-going children's and youth work programme overseen by Linton Free Church we are very pleased to let people know of a new development at the Church.

Every 6 weeks we will be hosting a special all-age family service. These services explore a key Bible theme and provide a good opportunity to worship, learn and pray in a lively, welcoming, child-friendly setting.

Our first service in this new series explored the parable of the Sower and it was lovely to welcome a number of new visitors.

The next all-age family service will explore the theme of 'Jesus light of the world' and will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd November. The service will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by refreshments.

For more details of this service and other Church events please visit our website or phone us

Linton Free Church is a member of the United Reformed Church, and works in partnership with the Evangelical Alliance and Linton Churches Together.

Revd Alex Jacob

ONLY 53 DAYS 'TIL...

FLAXFIELDS Sheltered Housing Scheme residents are holding a Christmas Fayre at the Social Centre between 11.30am and 2.30pm on Saturday 22nd November.

The proceeds will be spent on a Christmas Dinner for the residents. Agnes Smoothy

TAKE ACTION FOR YOUTH



MY name is Amanda Barnard, and in August I took over as Youth Work Manager of Linton Action For Youth. We are open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings for teenagers in the area to come down and to have some time and space with other people of their age.

We are open to anyone aged approximately 14-19 years, who just wants somewhere to go, wants to talk to someone, have a game of pool or to chat with friends. We also have a Connexions Corner and a regular Connexions worker who comes in and offers help and advice to young people who are seeking work or are not in any employment, education or training.

Some members have become involved with Youth Achievement Awards. These are a way of doing something for yourself or others and receiving an award at the end of each stage. Others plan to re-decorate parts of the 'drop in' and others are helping to raise money for charities, or get more involved in a hobby that they enjoy. We also hope to offer nights where those interested can work with staff to cover subjects with their friends that they feel are important to their lives and to help them make informed choices.

There is much that we can offer the young people of Linton and the surrounding villages but we are in need of some extra help. We are looking for staff with experience of working with teenagers, who work well in a team, have good listening skills and can communicate well. You would be needed from the end of school until 6pm, or in the evenings from 7pm-9.30pm.

If you get on well with young people, have some relevant experience and want to help and support the youth of Linton we are looking for you.

We need the right people to help make our plans work. Call me on for more details.
Amanda Barnard

IT COULD BE YOU

OCTOBER saw the commencement of the sixth year of the 'K-Club', Linton's own lottery, with 325 people signing up. Prize money of £2,145 is to be distributed over the coming year, with Linton Action for Youth benefiting by £1,600 – the cash surplus generated. Numbers are only slightly down this year as the 'K-Club' continues to be an effective fund-raiser for local youth-orientated projects.

Encouragingly, more and more members are opting to pay by annual standing order - a sure sign of their long-term commitment to a worthy local cause. Many thanks to all 'K-Club' members for your continued support, and good luck in the many prize draws yet to come. Peter Dixon

WADDLING THE WEB

LINTON Granta Playgroup and Toddlers has launched it's own web site containing information on the playgroup and the mother and toddler sessions we offer. The site will be regularly up-dated with the latest activities and fund raising events.

Why not log on to www.lintongrantaplaygroup and check it out.

We would like to say a huge thank you to David Woodhouse who set up the site for us. Jane Laverock

K-CLUB WINNERS

THE winners of October's K-Club monthly draw:

1st (£50) Mrs D Hayward (No. 185); 2nd (£25) Josie Buxton (No. 228); 3rd (£10) John Thacker (No. 129).

BEAU BELLS

A MOST successful quiz evening was held last month in aid of St Mary's church bell restoration appeal. It was master-minded by the Ellis family: Sue the quiz provider, Mike the quiz-master and Christopher the scorer, ably assisted by other ringers and friends who cooked the supper, provided the bar and did the 101 jobs that these events entail – our hearty thanks to them all.

Eleven teams entered, two from outside the village, the rest made up of village organisations or teams of families or friends. They faced a wide range of questions on subjects as diverse as Beatrix Potter, geography, advertising slogans, music and even a round of sausage tasting! A team of Fen Ditton ringers were the eventual winners; they had visited our tower some weeks before for a striking competition and had lost to the Linton ringers so in the quiz they got their revenge. The event raised a magnificent £550 for the Bell Appeal – many thanks to all those who came and supported the evening.

As a result of the article in the September issue and previous publicity, a total of nearly £5000 has been donated to the restoration appeal so far. This most generous response means that we now have only approximately £8000 to raise before work on the bells can start, assuming that our applications for other grants are successful. I've been asked to repeat the appeal details; cheques to St Mary's Linton Bell Restoration sent to me at Middleditch, Hadstock Road, Linton will be most gratefully received.

Keith Nightingale

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 8TH NOVEMBER

YES, it's here again – the 2003 Linton Fireworks will be taking place on Saturday 8th November, and to make it the usual success, we need your help.

For those of you new to the village, this will be our 14th Linton Firework Display. Over the past 13 years we have raised a staggering £59,500, which has been split between the three schools in Linton, benefiting all the children. Over 4,000 people regularly attend - even last year despite the downpour. This year we are again very kindly supported by Camgrain who since 1996 have donated £8000.

The event takes place on the Infant School playing field, with admission commencing at 6pm. The bonfire will be lit at 6.45pm and the fireworks are scheduled for soon after when everyone has gained entry. As well as the spectacular firework display, there will be a giant bonfire, mega BBQ and Glo toys. Another feature is the Guy competition with the number of entries growing each year. Let's see if we can have more than ever this time.

Safety is always our prime consideration, please could Linton residents leave their cars at home to minimise traffic congestion. It should be remembered that no fireworks or alcohol can be brought into the display for safety reasons – and this

includes sparklers.

Advance tickets can be bought at a discount (either a family ticket for up to 2 adults and 3 children or an individual ticket) and can be purchased from any of the three Linton schools, Sweet Talk News, the Post Office and Hale and Jacobs in Linton, Balsham Post Office and the farm shop at Hill Farm, Castle Camps. Alternatively, full priced tickets will be available on the evening at the gate.

As always we need volunteers to help – please let us know if you are able to lend a hand. Help is especially needed between midday and 4pm on the 8th. With the ever-increasing popularity of the event and the constant need to regard safety as our number one priority, we may need to restrict the amount of material accepted for the bonfire. Any material can only be accepted up to 12 noon on the day (although paper and card only until 10am). The decision whether or not to accept material will be at the organiser's discretion on the day, or contact Peter Thomas in advance on . For further information, please contact me. Alan King

HOOKED ON HISTORY? HEAD FOR THE LIBRARY

NOVEMBER is local and family history month at Linton Library. There will be a special programme of events taking place at the library in the Cathodeon Centre throughout the month.

The events include the following: Remembering Duxford Aerodrome (Michael Bowyer) 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th November;

Family History Internet Workshop, 10am-1pm and again at 2pm-5pm on Thursday 6th November;

Looking at Houses, (Mac Dowdy) 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11th November;

Historic Towns of Cambridgeshire – Linton, (Quinton Carroll) 7.30pm on Thursday 13th November;

Local & Family History Fair (including book conservation demonstration), 10am-1pm on Saturday 15th November (this event is free)

Archaeology Road Show Quinton Carroll, 10am-1pm on Saturday 15th November (this event is free)

Family History Internet Workshop, 10am-1pm Wednesday 19th November, and again at 6pm-9pm on Thursday 20th November;

Linton Revisited – Old Photographs and more from the 'Cambridgeshire Collection' (Chris Jakes), 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th November;

From Norden to Modern – Historical Maps of the Linton Area (Philip Saunders), 7.30pm on Thursday 27th November.

There is a small fee payable for most of these events however some are free and light refreshments will be provided. For further information please contact the library.

Alison England

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

All weeks are interesting at LVC but this one has been particularly so. On Tuesday we launched the College as a specialist Business and Enterprise school and parents, staff, pupils and business people shared in a celebration of what has already happened and also of the exciting things that are planned. Two days later we had another celebration; this time we were joined at the College by representatives of the other nine Cambridgeshire schools that were awarded the International School Award. Representatives of the British Council and Cambridgeshire's Director of Education also joined us for the event.

The day before this however, I received something less positive, a call from a local newspaper asking me why the College was on the website of a particular political party with very strong views about race. It seems someone had logged on as a supporter and given their organisation as the College – hardly a ringing endorsement by the College of the views expressed on that website, but there we are. I said I didn't know how this had come about but that I would be disappointed in the extreme if such endorsement had been given by anyone from this organisation. That evening my words were printed and I received an email telling me how repressive and dictatorial my views were and that it was not my job to tell people what to think. I agree with the last part of that statement. What I don't agree with are the views of that party, and more than that I actually think they are dangerous and likely to cause the kind of pain and suffering that follows when you set one person against another because of the colour of their skin.

Schools are in a difficult position at times like these. We are required to foster free and informed thinking and debate which is good. We are also required by law to promote an anti-racist and multi-cultural attitude among children. This is also good. LVC, as readers of the Linton News will know, has taken a high profile approach to the latter through its international links, particularly with Boepathutse School in South Africa. It may be that when such things feature so strongly in the life and work of any organisation, a minority who disagree will feel more inclined to make their disagreement felt. I do not know if it was one of our pupils who logged on to that website. What I do know is that as a school we have to have a strong sense of what we believe is right and to be prepared to stand up and be counted for that. As I said in assembly this week, we can only consider ourselves to be truly civilized when we judge a person by what they do and say rather than by the language they speak, their religion, or the colour of their skin. Clive Bush, Principal

NEW HANDS IN THE GARDEN

IT was good to welcome some new members as well as the regulars to the club's AGM last month and we were very pleased to see some former stalwarts who have returned after an absence. Luckily a 'volunteer' has been pressed into service as the new treasurer in the shape of Vernon Boyd, with Charles Attwood and Peter Thomas joining the general committee. These extra hands are much valued to help spread the load of arranging and staging the club's programme and events.

The produce and bulbs sold well at the end of business but the plants were not so successful, so we have drawn the conclusion that by October gardeners have had

enough! We were forced to leave a large and impressive pot plant in the Social Centre lobby but next day a lady visitor offered it a good home – many thanks! This month the talk will be on the gardens of Western Scotland by Andrew Peters. All are welcome.
Gloria Fidler

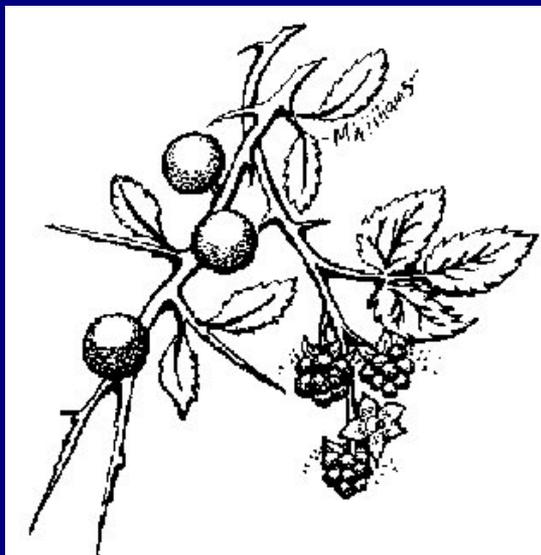
CARPET RUNNERS (UP)

WELL done Linton Carpet Bowls Club for being runners up in both the Summer League and the Knock Out Cup.

They have only been in the Summer League for two years, last year winning the League. The final was held at Kirkling, and Kirkling won only by six shots. June Hall

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY BY DARRYL

NANTAIS Illustrated by Maureen Williams



UP Long Lane towards windmill house, bearing right over the old railway bridge following the footpath to the left I met the grim reaper. In fact I met several not-so-merry reapers with fingers pricked, hauling large punnets of expectation. For all the Yin and yang the cost of a little gin and jam speckled in human blood on tanned skin was all too clear to see. I realised the high interest bill had arrived for this year's fine weather, leaving little left in winter's wild harvest account.

The sloes hung like tiny grapes and some like shrivelled raisins. Their beautiful bright blue bloom belies their use for this year's treasured blackthorn palate-cleansing liqueur so prick the berry well with a thorn rather than a needle. The blackberries too are small and hard, clinging to scorched brown stalks, barely surviving intact the touch of the gentle dexterous digits.

Despite this scene of disappointment, a small handful of pickers awakening their hunter-gatherer spirits on the hill, smiled in contentment after thoroughly stripping the last tiny reachable wild goodies, whilst the autumn sun relentlessly baked the fruit left high out of human arms' way.

Bemoan not, the woody blackthorn spines and the bramble thorn are friends of birds and mice waiting in the shade for the reapers to buzz off to the supermarket. Well, having gathered a few precious berries with a sense of guilt at robbing birds of their rightful feast I'll blend a gift of cookers to make that once a year treat of home-made blackberry and apple pie in an effort to re-find some nostalgic taste of youth, and those so called good old days. In half an hour and with a little self imposed blood letting, I had my own fill in a plastic tupperware box and left with a small gift from the hill. No, not so much the fruit but wonderful views of Linton and a strong sense of home nestling in the shallow valley. This is where we live, our village, our place, our environment, our settlement, our history and a place of change! A few years ago traces of the old railway track could easily be seen, and with a stretch of the imagination we could envisage the hard working men and woman toiling to lay down sleepers; and then came the train to Haverhill. The physical remnants are disappearing beneath grass, trees and bushes growing where none did for a time as nature hides the evidence of man's intervention upon the land. I wondered how long before the roads too will vanish?

The blackberry or bramble is a member of the rose family of which there are many hybrids. Loch Ness and Silvan are early fruiting varieties, which come to mind. Making pies is one obvious use but this delightful fruit does in fact contain many organic acids, tannins, flavone and good old vitamin C's. Consequently it has been used to make wines and fusions for centuries. The blackberry's medicinal virtues are reputed to be numerous. Having had squashed berries applied to my arm to treat a rash of unknown origin I later discovered it may also be used to treat non-verbal diarrhoea. Better still, in those 'good ol' days' a fusion was used as a gargle for those nasty winter throat infections, although without being too polemic it is, in my opinion, our local doctors and chemist who have something far more efficacious without meeting the grim reapers on the hill. Good health to you all!

CELEBRATE CHRISTINGLE

EVERYONE is welcome at the Annual Christingle Service at St. Mary's Parish Church, at 3pm on Sunday 7th December. There will be activity songs for all the children to join in. The service will last approximately 45 minutes and is in aid of the Children's Society. Anne Parry-Smith.

...AND BRING YOUR CHARITY BOXES!

IF you have any Children's Society charity collection boxes please can you bring them to this event. If you are unable to attend then please take your boxes to Mrs Lesley Gore, 38 Symonds Lane, preferably before the 7th December. The count will occur on Wednesday 10th December and it will help the counters enormously if all boxes are in by the 7th. Janet Annett

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



AS part of our bid for Quality Parish Council status, we would like to keep parishioners updated on Parish Council activities so we have organised this regular page published with the Linton News. This column, a less formal view of our work, may be used to put forward some more contentious issues, to elicit responses that will help form policy, and to help us reach decisions to reflect the changing needs of the village.

The Parish Council recently spent its reserve of cash to refurbish and add to the amenities of the Recreation Ground.

We are now saving for the next big project, so any changes

or work now needed in Linton will either have to be funded from other sources, or be very cheap! Ideas for projects are welcome—sites for litter or dog waste bins, seats and lights, planting trees, can be added to our ‘wish list’. Changes are proposed for the Cemetery—what changes would you like to see there, in keeping with its dignity and purpose?

We continue to suffer the distress and expense of wanton vandalism, which has escalated to arson. We can inform the police and report incidents, but there is still insufficient law enforcement at night, when most of this crime takes place. Parents and friends know the small number of people who are doing this – any influence to stop it will be appreciated. Bear in mind it is your money that is being wasted.

On this page, the Steering Group explains the proposals for extending parking restrictions in the High Street. Parking will always be hotly debated. Double yellow lines must be respected. Illegal parking near the Co-op causes real problems, and impedes business. The thoughtlessness of one person can block the whole High Street, or threaten the safety of those who use it. Inconsiderate parking and the growing use of Linton as a free ‘park and ride’ are having effects on the viability of commercial premises and access to them. Parking on pavements adds obstruction to narrow footpaths that are already difficult to negotiate, particularly for the less able. One answer to these problems is increased policing in the village, or to increase the precept and use Parish funds to finance a PCSO. It would be better, though, to have these problems solved by consideration and common sense rather than enforcement.

Enid Bald

chair@lintonpc.org.uk

HIGH STREET: COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES INCREASED PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The County Council has proposed increased parking restrictions in the High Street. A consultation process is under way. You still have time to comment. Esther Cornell reports



TRAFFIC problems in Linton High Street have been a long-debated issue and in May 2003 County Council Highways proposed additional parking restrictions between Balsham Road and Coles Lane. They suggested that these restrictions would significantly improve the safety of pedestrians using the High Street and would give large vehicles a better chance of passing one another in this historic street. It should be understood, however, that this is not being suggested as a 'cure-all' but as the first of many steps that will have to be considered before the situation improves.

Prior to any alterations to double yellow lines, the County Council has to undertake an official consultation with residents and businesses that could be affected. They have to announce their proposals publicly and wait for a period of three weeks to allow all those who wish to respond to do so. This consultation process is now being undertaken and any resident wishing to comment, whether in favour of the proposals or against them, should do so before 14th November 2003. The proposals can be viewed at the Parish Council Office or by contacting CCC.

In August a preliminary consultation was undertaken with all those residents from the High Street and adjacent lanes who would primarily be affected by the proposed changes. The rate of response, 22 letters in total, was as expected, with some in favour and some against. There were, however, a number of additional issues raised which are detailed below. The County Council are investigating some of the 'finer' points raised in this consultation.

20mph speed limit

Many letters requested a 20mph speed limit in the High Street. This could be considered as part of the Safer Routes To School programme which is currently running in all three village schools. However, County Council policy is that any 20mph limit must be self-enforcing, and this is supported by the police. To do this, physical traffic calming measures, such as gateways, road narrowing, mini-roundabouts and interactive signs, would be required.

Coles Lane

For any one way system to be considered for Linton, major modification to the Balsham Road/Back Road junction would be required. These modifications would allow for the retention of some parking for the cottages on Back Road. Draft plans show a cost of £60,000 for this so the County Council will be considering this scheme for possible funding in October 2004. If this junction is modified, further efforts can be made to encourage cars to use Coles Lane. The results from the Parish Plan will help the steering group work towards a solution.

Car park

Many residents of the High Street and the adjacent lanes are already using the car park, particularly at weekends, and the availability of spaces will be monitored so that residents can continue to use this facility.

Changing bus times

Efforts to change bus times in an attempt to prevent buses passing in the High Street are likely to have little impact given the frequency of the buses and the traffic congestion leading to delays seen daily on the A1307. Efforts are being made to investigate communication between bus drivers as they enter the narrow section of the High Street.

Through traffic

It is not possible to close the High Street to through traffic while it is designated the B1052. Declassification of the High Street, and hence re-routing existing traffic, will require a roundabout at the Bartlow Road/A1307 junction to be in position. The steering group doubts that this proposal is a viable solution since easy access to the church, school, shops and other amenities are crucial to village life.

Co-op

The Co-op is an essential amenity within the village, particularly for the elderly, and we are hopeful that the Co-op will work with the village in limiting the problems caused by the delivery vehicles. The Steering Group would not wish to jeopardise the viability of the Co-op, but all comments that have been raised will be forwarded to the Parish Council in the hope that discussions can begin to solve the problems that exist.

Double yellow lines

Concern was expressed about residents unloading their cars. Double yellow lines allow you to park your car while unloading providing there is not a loading restriction - areas with loading restrictions are identified on the proposed plan.

Enforcement

Discussions with the Police will be undertaken to explore how existing and proposed parking restrictions can be enforced more efficiently. The new Police Community Support Officers will be responsible for controlling illegal parking as South Cambridgeshire will have no traffic wardens by the end of the year.

More speed?

The parking proposals are aimed at addressing pedestrians' perceptions that they are at risk from vehicles mounting the kerb. The proposals will reduce the need for this. There is, inevitably, a balance to be struck between the possible increase in vehicle speed once parking is removed, and pedestrian safety when pavements are not mounted by larger vehicles. Efforts will be made to ensure regular speed checks are undertaken.

Obstructions

Parked cars outside the terraced cottages do provide a barrier for pedestrian safety. However, wing mirrors together with the protruding bay windows cause an obstruction both for the disabled and those with pushchairs, who consequently tend to use the narrow pavement on the south side of the road.

Roundabout

The steering group is hoping that a roundabout will be installed at the Bartlow Road/A1307 junction within the next eight years as this junction is currently fourth on the County Council's Major Safety Schemes Programme. Consideration of the junctions along this route is based on accident grounds only. Any consideration of this stretch of the A1307 would need to look at the possible impact on adjacent junctions. The installation of a roundabout at the Bartlow Road junction could reduce traffic in the historical section of the High Street but increase traffic on Bartlow Road.

School run

The Safer Routes To School initiative is trying to reduce the impact of increased traffic at school times as well as looking at safer crossings and alternative routes to school. It must be remembered, however, that many children at the Infants' School come either from outside the catchment area or from the more rural areas of Linton and Bartlow and consequently have to be driven. Attempts will be made to reduce the morning chaos and stop the congestion outside the school if better parking locations can be found.

There are many issues to be taken in to account when considering the alteration to an existing road system. It is important to explore carefully all the implications of the current proposals and we would ask that any resident wishing to make any comment regarding these should do so in writing before 14th November 2003, addressed to David Lines at Cambridgeshire County Council South Division, ET1030, Station Road, Whittlesford, CB2 4NL.

Bus service

The bus service is very important to many Linton residents. There has been at least one instance recently where buses have refused to travel through the congested High Street and consequently dropped passengers off at the bus stop on the A1307 instead, resulting in a long walk for some residents. This incident demonstrates that urgent action is required.

All responses to this article can be made via the Parish Office or direct to Ms E Cornell at 23 Barley Way.

CHAIR OF PLANNING



Linton is fortunate in the range of amenities available, educational, medical, social and recreational. But there is still much that can be done for all age ranges within the Parish. My only reason for being a member of the Parish Council is to see even more improvement in the village over the coming years. One of the most important facets of Linton life that must be solved is traffic safety. There is the continuing problem of danger to pedestrians in the High Street and also the blight of the A1307. Now so busy as Haverhill expands, most traveling parishioners, whether in cars, buses, cycling or as pedestrians often take their life in their hands in getting out of the village on to or over the A1307. Pressure on the County Council, through the Parish Council and the A 1307 Group, must be continued with vigor.

VICE-CHAIR OF PLANNING



Michael Clay

My family and I have lived in Linton since 1977. My children were educated at the local schools and I also have grandchildren in two of the local schools, so as a family we are still involved in a broad aspect of village life.

I am now retired after working for the NHS for 35 years, 25 of those at Addenbrooke's Hospital. I have been a Council member for about 18 months. This year I have taken over the role of Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, a role that I enjoy as I feel that in a small way I am influencing the future development of the village and its amenities. As a member of the team that looks after the Open Spaces in the village, I feel that I am contributing to looking after the upkeep of the community areas of the village. I am also the Parish Council member on the Social Centre Committee and the Council representative on the Bowls Club Committee. I think that it is important to keep the village as we would like, for future generations.

COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELDON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2003

Cllr Cornell reported on the light pollution at the new housing development in Balsham Road. In response to concerns, Granta Housing had now disconnected all the lighting, leaving residents without means of negotiating their own keyholes. The Clerk was asked to take this up with Granta. All that was required was for the large yellow light on the side of the building to be directed downwards.

The police crime report showed 13 reported crimes in Linton for August, the most worrying of which were a number of arson attacks.

The Chairman noted the Police Consultative meeting on 9th October and stated as many people as possible should try to attend and voice their concerns.

District Cllr Smith reported that SCDC were shortly to debate a request from the police to assist in funding new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). It was noted that Parish Councils were also to be asked to assist in funding. This issue was discussed at some length and it was agreed that a Parish Councillor would attend the meeting with the police and seek answers to specific questions. This item would then be on the agenda at a later meeting for further discussion before any decision would be made.

District Cllr Smith further reported that SCDC had been advised by the Environment Agency that Linton is to benefit from a full Feasibility Study regarding flooding. This is good news. It was noted that Cllr Urwin would advise Dr Brassington, currently carrying out Linton's own study so that the two could liaise.

District Cllr Smith then reported that SCDC were about to decide whether to fund a feasibility study into Linton's swimming pool needs. This was due to the proposals for a Special Needs School at LVC. It was heartening to note that CCC were in favour of some form of dual use for any pool.

Cllr Potter reminded the PC as yet we had not seen any plans for the proposed school.

District Cllr Batchelor then reported that parliamentary boundaries were currently being examined, and that it was proposed to remove Linton, Balsham and the Abingtons from Cambridge South East to Cambridge South. The Parish had not yet been consulted.

Cllr Hammett asked the District Councillors if they knew what arrangements were being made for wheelie bin collections for the High Street area. He was concerned with regard to pedestrians trying to negotiate the High Street on collection day. Both DCs replied that the High Street had been surveyed and certain properties were to be allowed to keep bag collection due to lack of space for the bins. Cllr Cornell reported that Pavements for People were also checking that suitable arrangements were in hand.

There were three written reports from Councillors. 1) The Chairman had attended the AGM of Hundred Houses. 2) Cllr Potter had reported on potential proposals for extension to the pavilion. 3) Mrs Anderson, the Tree Warden, had submitted a planting scheme. All three reports were read and noted with Mrs Anderson's proposal being agreed unanimously. A request for possible tree siting areas was also noted. The Planning and Finance Committee Minutes were both considered with no

queries. The Traffic Working Party Notes were considered with all the recommendations put forward being agreed. This included the submission to CCC of two further Jointly Funded Schemes: a mini-roundabout at High Street/Balsham Road junction; and a Disability Access Project for the village. The work-in-progress list was considered. It was noted that a number of items were still out with other agencies. These matters were to be chased by the Clerk. The wish list was then considered. The following items were agreed as moving to work-in-progress: a seat for Rivey Close/Balsham Road; a cemetery notice-board; two grit bin sites (for the Heights and Paynes Meadow) are to be investigated for sites; the proposal to remove some/all of the lime trees in the cemetery was to be investigated through the Linton News to gauge public opinion; a review of street lights - Cllrs Rossiter and Hammett volunteering to organise; a dog-waste bin to be sited at Wheatsheaf Way/Balsham Road. There were a number of items added to the wish list, which can be viewed at the Parish Office.

The payments due were agreed with Cllrs Potter and Urwin signing the cheques. The correspondence was then reviewed with the following being of particular note: the invitation from the police to attend a meeting regarding new PCSOs, Linton Granta Bowls Club having won the League - Councillors sent their congratulations. Finally, Cllr Kenyon reported concern that the church noticeboard had still not been replaced despite planning approval some time ago. Cllr Urwin reported two 30 mph yellow backed signs missing. The Clerk was to notify CCC. It was also reported that problems with delivery lorries had again occurred during morning rush hour. This would be taken up with the Area Manager of the Co-op who had been a great help in keeping this to a minimum in the past.

COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2003.

Under matters arising, the Chairman reported attendance at the Linton Area Pool Project's AGM. District Cllr Smith had reported that SCDC had refused a feasibility study for Linton Swimming Pool. Following discussion, District Cllr Smith agreed to 'call-in' the decision, which would give it another airing on 23rd October.

The Planning Committee minutes were considered and Dr Cox reported that there was, finally, to be a meeting between SCDC's Conservation and Listed Buildings Officers with Greene King and the current tenants Dog & Duck to try to achieve a compromise for an extension. This was to be applauded. It was also noted that the Parish Council's attempt to have the flint cottages 6/8 Cambridge Road listed had not been supported by SCDC and would not, therefore, proceed. Reports from Co-ordinators followed.

Cllr Clay on Open Spaces, had nothing to report at this time. Cllr Batchelor reported on behalf of Cllr Kenyon for the Recreation Ground, that proposals were currently being investigated by Mr Creedy, the resident who had led the skateboard project, for

an all weather shelter for the youth on the rec. This would come before Council shortly. Cllr Gee reported on the cemetery, where children had been making a den. This had now been cleared away.

Cllr Rossiter had nothing to report on Rights of Way at this time. Cllr Urwin reported that the sign stating 'No Dogs' was missing from the Venture Playground. The Clerk was to organise its replacement.



Cllr Cox reported on Leadwell Meadows (Pocket Park) that the pathways had now been cut although to varying sizes, and Hogs Holme field was looking particularly good. The pond area is overgrown and the river clogging up so work will soon be required. The Parish Plan surveys were currently out with the data company and results are awaited, the Chairman reported.

Councillors then discussed the forthcoming meeting with the Police regarding new Police Community Support Officers. District Cllr Batchelor had provided some information with regard to the potential duties of these officers and the total costs for each. It was explained that central government had provided funding for three, and SCDC had proposed to put funding in place for a further three, all six being for the South Cambs area. It was queried how this related to what was available now.

District Cllr Batchelor reported there were currently three to four traffic wardens for the South Cambs area. It was noted that the 'job description' of the PCSOs was of a much wider remit and not just for parking and/or vehicle taxation offences. It was also queried how much time PCSOs would actually spend on traffic warden duties? It was further queried how the current budget for traffic wardens was to be spent, if not on their replacement? It was noted that the information provided would appear to say that only villages who part funded PCSOs would get use of them. District Cllr Batchelor reported that this was impractical. Any/all PCSOs financed would cover the whole of SC district, whether a Parish Council had assisted with funding or not. Cllr Potter reported that he was concerned that Parishes were being asked to directly fund officers who would be issuing fines to local people. This always had been, and should remain, the responsibility of higher authorities. He also queried whether, should the Parish decide to fund say one whole officer, could they then have control over the number of hours they spent in the village? Cllr Cornell reported that the PCSO currently based at Linton police station, who was officially the PCSO for Fulbourn, had twice recently been mentioned in the press as the PCSO for Linton. This needed clarification quickly. Cllr Alper reported his concern regarding the legal/employment liabilities etc. for parishes who contributed as a quasi-employer of these PCSOs. Cllr Cornell noted that it was intended that the work area of any/all of the

new PCSOs would be dictated by the higher crime areas. It was therefore necessary to emphasise to residents how important it is to report every incident to the Police. It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the forthcoming police meeting and listen to the presentation, seeking answers to the questions raised above. This would then be reported back to Full Council at the next meeting for a decision on whether to fund the scheme.

The Chairman then reported on the Notes of the Policy Working Party. With regard to the Indemnification of Members item, the Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter from the Society of Local Council Clerks in response to this item. The Clerk reported that District Cllr Batchelor had sought the legal advice of SCDC on this item, but they had not yet been able to respond. The deadline for formal responses to the consultation was Monday 6th October. She queried whether Councillors would wish to comment along similar lines to the SLCC, as this highlighted the concerns expressed regarding this issue at the Policy meeting. This was agreed. The payments due were then agreed with Cllrs Cox and Potter signing the cheques.

Correspondence: a resident of Paynes Meadow had written setting out his concerns regarding proposals for further 'build' on this estate; the Environment Agency had written seeking specific information should Linton be unfortunate enough to be flooded again; ACE (Activities and Care for the Elderly) had notified of a forthcoming trip to the Thursford Christmas Carol concert with tickets available from Mrs Read; a resident had written regarding noise from the Cathodeon Centre - the Clerk reported this had been passed to the Chairman of the Trustees of the building who would be responding personally; HDRA were seeking people who wished to become master composters - the Clerk reported that Mr Booth had already completed this course and was now working toward his certificate and recommended the course. The Chairman then reported on two late items of post, the first from the PCC formally requesting the Council 'adopt' the Churchyard. After discussion this was unanimously agreed. The second item, notification from CCC of impending changes to the service 113 buses, caused great concern. Although the revised service now appeared to run every 15 minutes throughout the day, only two of the four hourly buses will call through the village. The new service will also stop inter-village transport as those buses stopping in Linton will not stop in Abington and vice versa. Our concerns had already been expressed and as a result, a survey of passenger space required during peak hours is to take place. It was agreed that the Council's concern should be forwarded immediately to CCC.

[Top](#) [Next](#)