

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 2

June, 2003

Web Site receives an Award

Visit our Web site: www.charvalley.pc.co.uk for additional information about the Parish Council, minutes of meetings, planning applications and much, much more.

The site, designed by Tim Heap at www.logomotion.co.uk, has been awarded the prestigious 'Golden Web Award' by the International Association of Web Masters and Designers.

You can also view and download *Char Chat* online or order an email copy - just complete the request form at the bottom of the Home page.

Finally, to keep distribution costs down, would you be willing to be a local distributor and deliver 5 or so Newsletters to houses close to you? If so, please contact Liz on 01297 560459.

How do we spend your money?

You may have noticed when you received your Council Tax bill this year, that the Parish Council receives a percentage of the money. Have you ever wondered how that percentage is set and how the money is spent?

Each year in October the Parish Council draws up a budget for the forthcoming financial year (April - March) and applies to West Dorset District Council for funds (the precept). In 2002/2003 the Parish planned to spend £12,140. Some money was carried forward from the previous year and £8,500 was precepted to the Parish. This year, 2003/2004, the Parish plans to spend £13,795. Again, money will be carried forward and a precept of £11,295 has been applied for and approved. The budget for 2004/2005 will be drawn up in October this year and discussed at the Parish Council meetings in October and November.

The way the money is spent is broken down broadly as shown below. Our Parish has a population of approximately 1,130 living in 464 dwellings covering 3,593 hectares. Running Costs are all those costs associated with running the Parish Council and include hire of halls, insurance, membership fees and payment to the Clerk to The Council.

Grants and Contributions include the maintenance of the playing fields, playgrounds, burial grounds and notice boards, which will include one new board for Stonebarrow Lane. We have one playing field and two playgrounds and Char Valley pays for grass cutting and maintenance and for the annual Health and Safety Inspection. There are six burial grounds for which the Parish Council pays half the cost of grass cutting and any resident, of any faith or none has the right to burial in one of them.

Any of our three Village Halls planning major refurbishment or improvements involving Grant Aid through Dorset Community Action can apply to the Parish Council for a promise of 5% of the Grant Aid. This counts as the community contribution and without it most grants are not available. In 2003/2004 both Whitchurch Canonorum Hall and The James Hargreaves Hall at Morcombelake have applied to us for contributions to grant aid which will amount to £2,500 for Whitchurch and about £750 for The James Hargreaves Hall (to be paid in the following financial year).

The Parish Council is committed to village improvements and facilities. The Community Survey and the Action Plans that are to follow were paid for directly from a grant by the Countryside Agency and did not involve Parish Council money. However, some initiatives from the Survey will need further investment by the CVPC.

Payments:	2002/03 Budget	2003/04 Budget
Parish Council Running Costs:	£4,090	£5,195
Grants and Contributions:	£4,650	£4,750
Transport Schemes	0	£350
Contingency:	£1,000	£1,000
Village Improvements	£2,400	£2,500
Total:	£12,140.00	£13,795.00

Xx
Mmm

Dorset Community Action

Dorset Community Action (DCA) is an independent voluntary organisation committed to encouraging and supporting local communities. It is part of a regional and national network of Rural Community Councils working to improve transport, community facilities, appropriate training, regeneration, sustainable living & social issues. Visit the Web site: www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more information.

Wootton Parish Meeting

The Wootton Fitzpaine Parish Meeting would like to compile a list of Wootton Parish email addresses in order to be able to keep residents informed about Wootton activities. Please email the Secretary to the Parish Meeting Marion Brooks on brookies@manorgardens.virgin.com and include your full name.

Community Survey 2002 - Comments and Recommendations to the Local Plan

The CVPC has reviewed the data from the 2002 Survey and, based on that information has sent recommendations and comments to the West Dorset District Local Plan Review. The Local Plan is a vital document which provides a land use policy framework covering the whole of the District's area. At present, it is at the stage of first consultation, There will be a public enquiry in 2004 prior to final adoption in 2005. Until 2016, it will then provide planning policy for decision making bodies such as Parish, District and County councils.

CVPC's input to the Plan is *briefly* summarised below and has been divided into four main categories - LOCAL HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS and AREA of OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB).

Local Housing

West Dorset District Council's policy is to provide social housing in Bridport, which would mean that people will have to commute to the Char Valley. Some *social housing* will be necessary in our villages if we are to retain a working community. If not, properties will eventually be owned by the retired, second-home owners and incomers. Youngsters working in local industries should not be forced out of their traditional communities. We strongly support the ideals of fostering community life expressed in the Dorset Structure Plan.

We support the principles of *agricultural ties*. However, changes in employment patterns suggest a change in designation from 'agricultural ties' to 'local employment ties'. This would retain local housing stock but keep suitable restrictions. We would like to see *redundant buildings* adapted for social housing but with safeguards to prevent their return onto the housing market. This is preferred to building new social housing in AONB.

Employment And Business

We badly need a wider range of employment opportunities, or local young people will leave the area or stay in low paid jobs. Policy should therefore not restrict business expansion and diversification.

Development of *tourism* should be sensibly planned with emphasis on the natural environment as the attraction. We would like to see *landscaping conditions* to planning consent properly implemented, especially around caravan sites and large agricultural buildings. It is essential to keep our *village shops and post offices*. We would welcome any planning guidance which facilitates solutions to problems posed by the disappearance of shops.

Protection of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Planning policies relating to property extensions should be reviewed. The *size of houses* is steadily increasing with unfortunate consequences for local young first-time buyers. We would like better *drainage systems* within our parishes. Our soil type and summer visitor numbers often lead to water pollution. If mains drainage is not possible, we would like secondary filtration or reed bed systems to be considered for settlements in our area. Mains drainage is desirable if it does not lead to excessive development.

The number and placing of *mobile phone masts* cause great concern. We wish to see policy decisions defining the minimum distance permissible from buildings in constant use.

Looking for housing?

WDDC and local Housing Associations operate a **Joint Housing Register**, so anyone who needs housing should get their name on the list, as applications will only be looked at from those who are registered. You can send for an application form to **The West Dorset Housing Partnership, 22 High East Street, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1EZ**, Telephone 01305 756045, email housing@westdorset-dc.gov.uk. Advice surgeries are at present held in Bridport Town Hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, or at 22 High East Street, Dorchester, Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 5 pm.

Transport

The following is a *summary* of CVPC's response to questions asked at a meeting of the Bridport Area Partnership, a sub-committee of the Town Council, relating to Rural Transport Needs, for an Infrastructure Survey by Transportation Planning International Ltd.

Issues under consideration include:

A35:

In Morcombelake, 30 mph **speed limits**, a pedestrian crossing, a filter lane or a widening of the corner from A35 (easterly direction) into Tizard's Knapp, a safe crossing point for horse riders, bus shelters, clearly marked bus stops and a car park.

Road signs indicating the nature of the lanes where they leave A35 and B3165. Large delivery lorries cause chaos in the lanes which could be avoided if very large HGVs were forced to use transfer stations on local industrial sites.

A **diversion scheme** involving Dorset, Devon and Somerset police to cope with closure of the A35 for any reason. We need a permanent strategic plan to which all police forces adhere. This is necessary because there is no alternative route for A35 traffic between Axminster and Bridport.

Buses are appreciated but a later service is required.

In the lanes:

Proper **maintenance** of the existing road infrastructure. Ditches, drains and gullies cleared; Potholes repaired; more money for lane maintenance.

Maintained and well waymarked **footpaths and bridlepaths**. Reinstatement further inland of the South Coast Path where it has fallen into the sea.

Lanes are not safe for unattended children. Continued provision of **school buses** within rural areas and a 20mph **speed limit** through Whitchurch Canonicorum and Wootton Fitzpaine. 'Children crossing' or 'Children at play' signs at the village halls in Whitchurch Canonicorum and Wootton Fitzpaine.

Public Transport:

The once-a-week bus to Bridport is appreciated. Nearly half the people of working age work within our parishes. Consequently, much vehicle movement is not just to Bridport and Axminster, but also between villages and hamlets within the Vale for both social and work activities. An economic public transport service in such an environment is not possible.

At present, only Somerfields presently provides a **home delivery service** in Bridport and carrying shopping home from a bus stop is often difficult. More home-delivery services should be encouraged to reduce the number of car journeys into towns and be of help to those in isolated areas.

Car parking is needed in Morcombelake to service transfer to public transport and access to the shop/post office, church and URC hall.

The CVPC needs to investigate whether children and their parents would like a dedicated **bus** to a **leisure** facility once per week.

The Axe valley Ring-and-Ride scheme has not been used despite extensive advertising.

The CVPC is pressing for the retention of the WDDC **taxi voucher scheme** for those who have no car or any other form of transport. This facility is available for those over 75 or registered disabled of any age, provided applicants are not already in an existing scheme. Some who are still driving may wish to give up if vouchers are offered, and the very elderly often find a bus journey too difficult to negotiate.

Vox Pops

Spring has been glorious this year, encouraging many of us to get out and stretch our legs on some of the footpaths around the Parish. We asked which of the many walks were considered the nicest.....

The walk along the river to Champernhayes Mill is wonderful in the Spring - the ancient meadows are covered with wild flowers - but the best has to be the walk from Bakers Cross to Catherston. The woodland and stunning views make it a wonderful walk at any time of the year. GD, Wootton.

Why not let Liz (560459) or Trevor (489349) know if you have favourite walks? Or perhaps you have concerns or comments about some of our pathways? Then contact the Rights of Way Officer or the Clerk to the Council on 01308 421410.

AONB

Come and have your say on the future of our countryside on Saturday 28th June at the Bridport Arts Centre. Drop in anytime between 10.30am and 3pm or 6-7pm. There will also be a more formal workshop in the evening; contact Sarah Bentley AONB Officer on 01258 484250 to take part.

Contact Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Char Valley Parish Council Members

Representing Whitchurch Canonorum North

Mrs A C BAY (Chair)	Stoke Mill Farm, Broadoak, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NR	01308 868036
Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500

Representing Whitchurch Canonorum South

Mr R COOK	Hillside Home, Ryall, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EG	01297 489695
Mr P G WHITE	7 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 498128
Mr V G DIMENT	Peter Pan, The Green, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EA	01297 489636
Mr R K TAYLOR	Knapp Cottage, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DY	01297 489125

Representing Wootton Fitzpaine

Mrs E J FORTESCUE (Vice-Chair)	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wyld, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464
Miss B BRISCOE	Stonecroft, Fishpond, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NN	01297 678203

Representing Stanton St Gabriel

Mr J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Stanton St Gabriel, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
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Other Representatives

Rights Of Way Officers

Mr & Mrs J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
Mr & Mrs D NEWMAN	Peal House, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RH	01297 489781

Tree Officer

Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500
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Transport Representative

Mr J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
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Bridport Area Partnership Representative

Mrs E J FORTESCUE	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800
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DAPTC Representatives

Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wylde, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464

Village Hall Representatives

Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr R K TAYLOR	Knapp Cottage, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DY	01297 489125

Finance Committee

Mrs A C BAY	Stoke Mill Farm, Broadoak, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NR	01308 868036
Mrs E J FORTESCUE	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mr J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
Mr R K TAYLOR	Knapp Cottage, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DY	01297 489125

Ancient Monuments Officer

Mrs S CREED-CASTLE	Crabbs Bluntshay Cott, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RN	01297 489064
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West Dorset District Councillors

Mr D NEWSON	Lavender Cottage, Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6BB	01297 560855
Mr I L GILLESPIE	Tempest, Hawkchurch, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5UW	01297 678235
Mrs G SUMMERS	31 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3AD	-

Dorset County Councillor

Mr G BRIERLEY	Hinkhams, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RJ	01297 489773
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Police Liaison Officer

P C MULLEN	The Police Station, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3PG	01297 442603
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Clerk to The Council

Mrs C HUGHES	42 Fishweir Fields, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3HF	01308 421410
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