

**FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Village Hall**  
**20:00 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

Firstly I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their personal support and commitment over the past year and to the villagers who have supported our endeavours which at times may have appeared unreasonable. Special thanks to our Clerk, Sue Shepard who has kept us on course throughout our deliberations.

**Traffic Issues**

Traffic continues to be a major focus of the Parish Council. At this point I would like to pay special thanks to John Grant who continues to devote many hours lobbying the District and County Council in exploration as to what is possible and what is not. I would also express special thanks to Ron Sawbridge for his backing on all occasions when we pursue support. Numerous devices have been tested and traffic levels have been monitored in an attempt to find solutions that can be implemented.

The possibility of a bypass and one-way systems on appropriate roads is actively being investigated. The Village will need to agree where a bypass should be located and I would remind you that last time we voted the majority supported a bypass to the south side of the Village. Little is likely to happen in the near future and we are probably at least ten years away from any realistic possibility.

Tim Boswell MP has indicated his support for a 'Farthinghoe Bypass' which will strengthen our position when the appropriate time arises for action.

**Parking**

Over the past year we have explored the possibility of off-road parking because of the number of houses with inadequate parking within the conservation area. This is in anticipation of congestion occurring in Chapel Lane and Baker Street when our focal point (the Fox), achieves the success it deserves. No decisions have been concluded but we continue to explore options.

**Street Lighting**

The Parish Council has again continued to monitor street lighting and new lights will be installed shortly in Baker Street and at the junction of Baker Street with Queens Street.

**Village Web-site**

The Village web site was soft launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. With effect from this month you will be able to see pdf eCopies of approved Council Minutes and eNews aligning with the Farthinghoe Chronicle. Our Web Master will be Lucy Garnier. Links will be provided to the School, Limes Farm and Fox Inn. The web address is [www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org](http://www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org) This report is available now via the website!

**Internet Access Speed**

Martin Wall is leading on a key issue that he reports as follows:

‘It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that many people and businesses in the village have complained about the poor level of broadband internet speeds that can be attained using the current services that are provided over BT’s network. The Chairman and I have many years experience of UK telecoms and especially the evolvement of broadband networks.

The problem we have is simply caused by the fact that we are located some 3 miles from the local BT telephone exchange in Middleton Cheney and the technology deployed (DSL over copper cables) cannot operate at much over 512kbps over such a long distance. There are other technologies available such as optical fibre and new generation wireless, but service providers cannot normally justify the deployment of these in rural areas. However, we believe that if we create enough local demand, then we could convince an operator to provide us with the technical solution to meet our needs.

I understand that we have many businesses in the village who continually struggle with trying to transmit and receive large files, so we would like to hear from you and set up a meeting in the village hall with the intention of forming a pressure group.

If you are interested please send me an email to: [martin.wall@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.wall@btinternet.com) stating which evening would be convenient for us to set up a meeting.’

### **Fox Inn**

Top priority for the Parish Council over the past year has been our continuous support for Charles Wells Brewery in their efforts to re-open the ‘Fox at Farthinghoe’ as a community focus we can all be proud of. Villagers cannot have missed the considerable effort that has ensued since last autumn and on 24<sup>th</sup> April the doors will be open. A Village preview will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April when you will all be able to meet our young dynamic LandLord Mark Higgs. Again the Fox enters the twenty first century and regular information can be found at [www.foxatfarthinghoe.co.uk](http://www.foxatfarthinghoe.co.uk) Once all is active links will be established between the Council, School and Fox web-sites to avoid you remembering all the sites. In this time of economic downturn, it is excellent to see today four jobs advertised for employment in our Village.

### **Council Tax**

You will have noticed that once again the Parish Council has made special efforts this year to avoid increasing our budget since we recognise how tightly many of our villagers are being pressurised by rising costs. However, we have been able to make contributions to a number of worthy requests including the Alms Houses. My special thanks to Nigel Heywood and John Grant for keeping our eyes on the financials.

Finally I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Ian Hunt for monitoring all planning applications submitted within the village and taking the Chair when I am unable to attend due to other external pressures.

Professor David P Mellor OBE  
Chairman