

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting
Village Hall
20:00 14th April 2010

Firstly I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their personal support and commitment over the past year. 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.

We have been assured by Northamptonshire County Council that the junction between Cockley Road and Main Road will be reconstructed during financial year 2010-11 (budget permitting). This will protect the entrance to the school and take traffic further back from the pedestrian crossing.

Although funding is still to be identified for a Farthinghoe Bypass we continue to lobby our local and prospective Members of Parliament and have been assured by NCC that we remain on the list. Assuming the considerable housing development in Middleton Cheney goes ahead then clearly traffic will increase.

We are also monitoring with interest the impact that the High Speed Rail-link between London and Birmingham might have on traffic levels. If properly planned and routed, with the retention of F1 at Silverstone the link could bring business to the area.

Parking

Although we explored the possibility of off-road parking on Charlton Road the Council have elected not to pursue this initiative further at this point in time.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council has again continued to monitor street lighting and new lights have been erected on Main Road. The old wooden posts carrying the overhead cables are scheduled for removal shortly and e-On will ensure all remaining standards are lit. Following a request from Residents of Bowling Green we hope to secure project funding for an additional light at the top of the Green during financial year 2010-2011. This will have no impact on precept.

Village Web-site

The Village web site now displays a soft copy of the Farthinghoe Chronicle and various reports as they become available. Links are provided to the School, Limes Farm and Fox Inn. The web address is www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org . This report is available for downloading now on the website!

Litter

Although the Parish Council does not intend to formalise a Stop the Drop Campaign as proposed by the CPRE we do feel strongly against the amount of litter thrown by passing motorists as they leave the Village. Cockley Road and Charlton Road are particularly badly affected. Major Cox has agreed to walk Clarks Lane once a month and collect litter and I have agreed to walk Cockley Road from its junction with Seven Sisters Close to the Burial Ground on a similar basis.

Sir Paul Hayter, David Montagu-Smith and two Volunteers will collect litter under the auspices of CPRE, around Farthinghoe on Saturday 17th April 2010.

If we can find volunteers to walk each road of the Village once a month and collect litter this will considerably reduce the amount of litter. We can provide yellow high visibility tabards but it must be said that this is a purely voluntary activity and not a formal Parish Council undertaking. Please contact me at chairman@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org if you are willing to volunteer to be a Litter Warden.

The major issue remains to be the A422 where unless we can close the road once a year, litter will continue to build up. If e-On close the A422 to remove the old lamp standards FPC will instigate at short notice a litter collection when the road is free of traffic.

Dog Waste

You will no doubt have observed that a bin has been provided near the children's play area on New Road for the collection of pooh bags. Dog walkers are encouraged to pick up their dogs waste and deposit in this bin. Further bins will be considered if dog fouling continues to be an issue.

Fox Inn

The Council wish to express its sincere thanks to Mark Higgs and his team for the splendid work they have done over the past year in bringing life back into the Village. We have had some excellent events and sincerely hope this will continue in the years ahead!

Grass Cutting

As our group of active volunteers continues to age we have of necessity had to employ external help to cut the grass at both the Village Hall and Children's play area. The cost of such an exercise is over 20% of our Annual Council Budget.

Council Tax

You will have noticed that once again the Parish Council has made special efforts this year to contain our budget since we recognise how tightly many of our villagers are being pressurised by rising costs. However, we have once again 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