

POLICE NEWS



Awareness

There are many tricks criminals use, sometimes they pretend to be from a utility company saying there is a gas leak or a water leak or in some cases pretend they are police officers, flash their identification quickly and go on to search the house. We strongly advise you that **“IF YOU ARE NOT SURE, DON'T OPEN THE DOOR”**.

Not everyone that knocks people's doors are criminals and may be there legitimately, but we want you to check. Ask for ID, do this by talking through the door or window and ask them to pass you their ID card, give the company a quick phone call, if they are genuine they will not mind waiting whilst you check. If you are still unsure give us a ring and we will come and check. If you are expecting a utilities company then give them a ring in advance and set up a password that will be known, between you and the company.

Door to door sales persons have been calling into the villages as well, stating they are ex-criminals who have been given a licence to mend their ways and sell goods on the doorstep. I can tell you now, the majority of these that we encounter are bogus, and they have very poor identification and may be committing criminal offences. If you do get asked to purchase items on the doorstep, call us,

WEBSITE

The number of visits to the website continues to grow but we are still dependent on local inhabitants to advise us of any newsworthy item they would like included, also of any clubs or associations that should be listed on the information pages.

give us a description of the person, and we will come and check them out. If we find they are acting unlawfully then we may arrest them.

We need your help

We are looking for vehicle registration numbers and descriptions of vehicles that frequent your area collecting scrap metal or asking to do garden work. What time they were seen, what they were collecting and how many people are in these vehicles. You can let us know on the number below. The information you provide is invaluable.

Surgeries

On the 1st Saturday of the month at the Farmers Market and the 2nd Saturday of every month in the Burton Latimer Library at 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Why not pop down and say hello or tell us your concerns.

Contact us

Emergency..... 999
Non Emergency 03000 111 222
Crime stoppers 0800 555 111
Email:
SCTKetteringRuralEast@northants.police.uk

It has been decided to further promote the website by arranging for notices to be circulated to the larger companies in the town, also we will be approaching selected companies to ascertain whether they might be interested in sponsoring sections of the site.

Any comments please visit www.burtonlatimer.org and let us know..

Burton Latimer *Sounding board*

Spring 2010

Burton Latimer Town Councillors Newsletter

What an eventful year so far - amazing snow creating picture postcard scenes which children and, dare I say it, some adults revelled in! Your Councillors have been busy attending to matters within the town, but our biggest project is to provide you with a new Civic Centre which we hope will be used by many, to run interesting events or a place to meet for that next important meeting, together with occasional visits from different societies, a drop-in centre for the youth and a new location for the Heritage Society. May I thank the many volunteers who are helping to bring this exciting new facility to fruition as we hope it will be a place the whole community can use and enjoy.

I have been liaising with our community on various issues and representing the town at mayoral engagements conveying the virtues of living, working and investing in Burton. A most enjoyable event was our annual Town Ball, where we raised money for the Air Ambulance and local charities, helped by Ed (Stewpot) Stewart running a rather humorous auction, especially when a local tradesman was called (by accident) to compete in the telephone auction for a round of golf with Ed, causing the recipient much confusion as he thought someone wanted a good quote. It was

an amazing night, thank you to all who were able to support the evening, and to our clerk George Sneddon who so ably ran the tombola stall. We will shortly distribute the proceeds of the evening to some of the worthwhile causes in our town.

Congratulations to George for passing his CiLCA clerks course, this also means that your council can aspire to achieve Quality Council status.

May I close by wishing you an enjoyable spring, it is such a beautiful time of year as the flowers awake and we hear the bleating of new born lambs. I am especially looking out for the new bulbs we planted at the entrance to our town, the art exhibition scheduled for the first week in April in the Council Chamber, and the NSPCC fashion show on Tuesday 30th March at 7pm, at Burton Latimer cricket club - please attend if you are able - tickets priced at £5. May I leave you with these thoughts "a little happiness sweetens the day" and be mindful of spending time with your friends, as they are the family we choose.

Take care Jan Smith
Town Mayor



Highways

Highways is a never ending dialogue with the relevant organisations to try to get as much done as possible for Burton Latimer against a very restrictive budget.

However there is some reasonable hope for the future. Active dialogue has taken place with senior members of NCC regarding a number of outstanding issues and, as a result, we have been informed that there will be an improvement in 2010 as far as the cleaning of the gulleys throughout the town are concerned, also the spraying of the weeds on both the inner and outer edge of the pavements.

The rectification of potholes is an ongoing problem but I can confirm that Burton Latimer is much better placed than many other areas in the county. This does not

mean we will not press for the rectification of potholes and the resurfacing of the roads on our priority list of actions.

A comprehensive survey of the signage leading to or from the A6 has been undertaken and the results will be forwarded to the council in due course.

The work to provide a footpath in Alice Drive has been completed and the work on junction 10 is well underway.

The work at the junction of Polwell Lane and Aldentiez Way will commence in a few days time.

In the next financial year we should have barriers erected on the footpath in the Spinney to deter motor cycles also the manhole covers on Aldentiez Way should be repaired.

cut. Hard pressed council tax payers cannot be expected to make up the shortfall. The County has therefore to find ways of delivering services much more efficiently and with some urgency.

Members of the Council scrutinised the budget in great detail, discussing with officers priorities and potential efficiency gains. As a result the administration's proposed budget was significantly revised in three key areas and extra money was put into children's care, adult care and highways.

The majority of the cleaning out of the premises and the redecoration has, and is, being carried out by the Probation Service under their Community Payback scheme.

Whilst there is still a lot of work still to do we are confident that the target date of completion before June will be met.

You may have noticed that the some-what dilapidated fence has been removed, this we believe opens up the site and enhances the security of the building at the side.

Community Payback in Your Community

The Community Payback Unit has been working in Burton Latimer since early 2009. This means that your local community is being improved by offenders on court orders.

These people have to complete anything between 40 and 300 hours of unpaid work. The amount of unpaid work they have to undertake depends upon what offence they have committed as well as other factors being taken into account.

These work groups are identifiable through the bright orange hi-visibility vests they are required to wear which says "Community Payback" on the back. This aims to ensure the general public can see offenders "paying back" society for the crimes they have committed.

To date the offenders have worked on the pocket park and the local cemetery, both of

these areas have been identified as in need of care and attention and are an important part of your local community. This allows the Community Payback Unit to teach offenders new skills and encourage them to think through problems or challenges they may face.

We have now focused our resources towards Burton Latimer's new Civic Centre. We have cleared the entire building of rubbish which resulted in 4 skips being required to dispose of the rubbish.

The group have played an integral part in the inner refurbishment of the building. By joining forces with Burton Latimer Parish Council we are able to provide resources which are essential for the survival and development of local parishes.

We are proud of our working relationship with the community in Burton Latimer and welcome any feedback or ideas from local residents.

COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

The biggest issue on the County Council in the last three months has been next year's budget and the council tax precept from April 2010. Although this went up 3.5%, Northamptonshire still has the lowest council tax precept in England.

The County Council depends for a large proportion of its funding on grants from central government. Because central government is hugely in deficit, local government is expecting its grants to be

New Civic Centre

Since taking occupation in early January very significant progress has been made in getting the premises renovated.

The side and rear windows have been replaced as have all the vandalised roof lights and it is hoped that the remaining windows will be replaced in the very near future. All the basins in the various rooms have been removed and the walls made good. The heating system is now operational and we have lights in all rooms.

New Seats for Burton Latimer

Responding to requests for seating in Burton Latimer Cemetery, Christopher and Ruth Groome have spent some of their Ward Initiative Funds on two seats, one by the Church Lane entrance and the other nearer the most recent graves. People wishing to visit the graves of loved ones or just take a walk can now take a rest on one of these carefully sited seats.

They have also provided a further seat up Wold Road, so that people can stop and admire the view. This replaces a seat that was sited nearby some years ago.



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