

THROOP & MUSCLIFF NEWSLETTER UPDATE

COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER
Throop & Muscliff Ward [Independent]
34 Glenmeadows Drive, Kinson,
BOURNEMOUTH, Dorset. BH10 5HQ
Tel. No. (01202) 575621
E-mail: ronald.whittaker@bournemouth.gov.uk

SUMMER EDITION ON LOCAL WARD ISSUES FROM COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER

June 2010

Our next Newsletter was planned for the Autumn but I felt that residents should have an update before then on some of the ongoing issues in Throop/Muscliff.

Please visit our website on www.peoplebeforepolitics.info for all updates in the Ward.

Throop United Reform Church, Muscliff Lane and The Manse

As residents in Throop village are aware, this lovely 1826 Grade 2 listed church was closed last year. In April this year I undertook to write to the Executive Officer of the United Reform Church [Wessex] Trust Ltd., including our Conservation Officer, requesting possible future plans in respect of the two properties. Great interest has been expressed in a letter to me regarding the Church and The Manse by a local church in Bournemouth. This letter has been forwarded to the Wessex Trust.

I have subsequently been informed that a local agent has been appointed to discuss the future of the church and associated grounds with the Council's Conservation Officer. My Ward colleagues and I will be watching any proposals that could affect this listed building and sincerely hope the church remains within religious worship. *[Please see our website for pictures of both the Church & The Manse]*



4b, Bus Service, via Shillingstone and Chesildene Drive

[Changes to Transdev Yellow Buses - Route 4b, from 6th June 2010]

Over the past months, my Ward colleagues and I have been making representations regarding the withdrawal of the Sunday service, so I am now pleased to confirm that the Authority has listened to our requests and advise there will be an hourly Sunday service in the day time to Bournemouth from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and an hourly service to Castlepoint and Bournemouth Hospital from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition, although we were unable to achieve the return of an evening bus service we have managed to secure a 'one off' late evening bus back from Bournemouth at 11.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday for those people visiting late night shows, etc. The only other change is the daytime frequency of the route which will change from the current 20 minute intervals to every 30 minutes [two buses per hour]. We are not happy with this arrangement but at least we have secured the Sunday service. Naturally we hope that residents will use the Sunday service so that we can say it is a viable service and we will not lose it next year.

Velocity Patcher

Due to the amount of potholes within the Throop Road and Muscliff Lane area, and with the severity of the winter weather causing serious damage to the highway infrastructure, at short notice and through representations, we were able to secure for two days from Dorset County Council their unique patching machine. This equipment patch-filled the vast majority of broken/damaged road surfaces which manually would have taken weeks to complete.

Muscliff Primary School

A report is due before Cabinet at the end of July to consider seeking to approve making provision in the capital programme for the expansion of Muscliff Primary School. This year saw some 70 children turned away and within that figure, and most disturbing for parents, is that 29 children were resident within the catchment area, like Epiphany. Both schools are highly successful but sadly it is not reflected in the formal funding arrangements as it affects Epiphany C.E. Primary school which is the worst funded school in the Borough. Again, Ward Members have had numerous contacts with the Education Officers who push the issue on to the Schools forum.

Parley Sports Club - Complaints

Many residents this year have again endured late night/early hours' noise levels coming over the river from the Bournemouth University Students' Union party which has resulted in many complaints. I have spoken at length with the Environmental Health Officer, Gary Smith, at Christchurch Council who admitted the noise levels were extremely excessive.

A review of a licence is to be considered and a meeting is being planned with the organisers.

Abolition of Regional Strategies

As so many residents living in North Bournemouth know, we were waiting to hear from the previous Government if the Green Belt from Throop through to Holdenhurst would fall into its plans for 1,500+ new housing units as was approved by the Regional Assembly some two years ago. With the election of the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government coalition, we are informed by the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that it is its intention to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision-making powers on Housing and Planning to local councils; this has to be great news in protecting our Green Belt. In the Secretary of State's letter to all local authorities [please see details below contained in the letter from the Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles, MP. dated 27 May to Local Planning Authorities setting out his instructions] where he makes it clear that he will expect Local Planning Authorities and, more so, the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to his letter as a material planning consideration in any decisions that are currently being taken; he also makes reference to the provision of travellers' sites.

[At present I cannot add any more to this information but, as always, I will most certainly keep residents informed of any further news which will be published on our website: <http://www.peoplebeforepolitics.info> and in future newsletters.]

"Dear Chief Planner, 27 May 2010 ABOLITION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES

I am writing to you today to highlight our commitment in the coalition agreements where we very clearly set out our intention to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local Councils. Consequently, decisions on housing supply (including the provision of travellers' sites) will rest with Local Planning Authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

I will make a formal announcement on this matter soon. However, I expect Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to this letter as a material planning consideration in any decisions they are currently taking. Yours, [signed] THE RT. HON. ERIC PICKLES, MP."

Throop Hatches [Sluice Gates]

With the completed works to restore the Hatches at the Weir Bridge by the Environment Agency, and funding made available by Dorset County Council for the path to the main Weir bridge, we are now waiting for a start to the south-eastward path that runs from the main Weir bridge for the surfacing of the path that runs parallel to the river by Dorset County Council.

Sadly we have nothing more to add on Throop Mill. Over so many years I have been sending endless emails/correspondence, etc., for a Visitor Centre, supported by other attractions like a Craft/Organic Shop, Cafeteria, etc. What a great and lovely spot to relax in with the surrounding countryside and also remembering that the Mill still retains much of the original machinery.



South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Document

With the publication of this 136-page document, I have set out the section on our website, pages 108-113, that makes reference to the Stour Valley, Throop Mill, Hicks Farm and Stour Acres Barn, and the Connect 2 Sustrans project of the river crossing at Pig Shoot (bridleway) - the only thing missing here is the funding. I have raised a number of the areas mentioned in the document with the relevant Officers who were involved in drawing up the study. Again, comments are on the website but I am happy to provide a copy of the information on those pages or e-mail to any residents wishing me to do so.

[Please see the website for information on the S.E. Dorset Green Infrastructure Study, especially pages 108-110]

Countryside Service, Stour Valley Supporters

One must pay enormous thanks to the many residents who give up valuable time as volunteers in the maintenance of the Stour Valley and other such protected sites of special scientific interest in the Borough. Existing staffing levels in the countryside team have now reached the limits of their capabilities and any further staff reductions in this very small team would have serious consequences for this Council in fulfilling its statutory obligation to conserve and manage its SSSIs. These issues were raised at the Economy and Tourism Overview Panel on 29 April; the minutes and the decision made are on the website but I am more than happy to forward a paper copy to any resident wishing me to do so.

Farm Estate

We are working hard to secure a site/area within the farm's estate for allotments.

I do hope that residents have found this newsletter of interest.

Many thanks. COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER
www.peoplebeforepolitics.info

My two other Ward Members are:

Councillor Anne Rey - Telephone No. (01202) 538068, e-mail: anne.rey@bournemouth.gov.uk

Councillor Derek Borthwick - Telephone No. (01202) 397087, e-mail: derek.borthwick@bournemouth.gov.uk