

Booths Supermarket

EH Booth's have agreed to buy a plot on the site large enough for the development of a Supermarket and Car Park. Outline Planning Permission has been granted and, as we go to press, an application has been made for a licence for EH Booth to sell liquor. So, although they haven't yet applied for detailed planning permission, it seems pretty clear that we are going to get a Booth's Supermarket in Hesketh Bank.

Several attempts to extract a proposed start and completion date from them have drawn a blank. They are, not surprisingly, unwilling to speculate on dates until they are more certain about when building work will start. However, the smart money is on a start by next spring with a planned completion in time for next Christmas.

Morris Homes

Enquiries to West Lancs Council have revealed that the outline planning proposal which generated such fierce local opposition last August is not due to be considered by the District Council until the New Year. As noted at the public meeting, if West Lancs refuse planning permission an appeal may well be lodged. In view of this, the Parish Council feel that it would be prudent to consult with the whole community on this proposal

Please let us know whether or not you support the proposal by completing the tear off form at the bottom of this page. You can return it by post to The Clerk or you can hand it in at the SPAR shop on Chapel Road or Top Shop Newsagents. Please return your completed forms by 31 December 2004.

Redevelopment of Alty's Building and Horticultural Supplies

Work to reorganise Alty's core business as a supplier of building and horticultural materials is already well underway, with the near completion of a large new horticultural store. Adjacent to this a further large store is planned to replace the existing building materials and timber stores. A new access road to the consolidated site will pass between Alty's office building and the front of the West Lancs Light Railway.

As part of the proposal the brick kiln, built by Henry Alty when he started the business in 1877, will be demolished and eight new industrial units will be built to provide rental accommodation for any tenants whose existing units are due to be demolished. The remainder will be offered to new business tenants.

Linear Park

In its Replacement Local Plan West Lancashire District Council is proposing the development of a Linear Park along the Canal and River Douglas Corridor in Tarleton and Hesketh Bank. The proposed Linear Park would incorporate a pedestrian footpath and cycle way.

The Alty's Brickworks Site could play a pivotal role in the development of the Linear Park, because this site incorporates the footings of the dismantled swing bridge which used to serve the Preston to Southport railway.

This makes it the perfect spot on which to construct a second bridge, this time for pedestrians and cyclists, which would fit in with existing plans to provide a Coastal Footpath and the Southport to Preston Section of the National Cycle Network currently being developed by Lancashire County Council.

It's far too early to start talking of dates for this proposal. Indeed it may be a case more of if than when, but schemes to get people out of their cars and walking or cycling instead do have political support and, with any luck, there might be further developments to report.



Proposed Morris Homes Development on Alty's Site : Community Survey

- I am in favour of this proposal
- I am against this proposal
- I have no preference on this proposal

Simply tick the appropriate box and return it by post to The Clerk or you can hand it in at the SPAR shop on Chapel Road or Top Shop Newsagents. Please return your completed forms by 31 December 2004.

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council

Newsletter

Issue 1 December 2004

Hello and welcome to the first edition of what we hope will be a regular Newsletter for all the residents of Hesketh-with-Becconsall.

As part of our commitment to gain accreditation as a quality parish council (more of which in the next issue) we plan to produce a Newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep you informed of our activities and any developments and proposals affecting your community.

Incidentally we think that 'Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Newsletter' is hardly a snappy title and so we're looking for ideas for a better one. A prize of £20 is on offer for the best suggestion, so why not have a go? You can pass on your suggestions via telephone, e-mail or snail mail (post) to:

Steve Kirby Tel: 01772 812137

50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank PR4 6RD

Email: kirby@skirby.freeserve.co.uk

Your Parish Council

At the Parish Council elections held in May of this year 18 candidates were nominated for the eleven places and the following were elected to serve on the council for the next four years.

**CHRISTINE FARRINGTON IAIN ASHCROFT RICHARD PLANT JOAN WITTER NORMA GOODIER
LESLEY STANDISH-GORE PAUL SERGEANT STEVE TRIPPIER HILARY TOMPKINS TONY MURPHY
STEVE KIRBY**

At the first meeting of the Parish Council Richard Plant was elected as Chairman. Under his leadership we hope to improve the way we conduct the business of the council and we aim to engage more with the local community in our efforts to ensure the delivery of the services that you have identified as important.

The Chairman's contact details are:

Tel: 01772 814798,

Email: richard.plant1@btinternet.com

Address: The Rectory, 1 Silverdale Hesketh Bank PR4 6RZ

Clerk to the Parish Council

Our Parish Council Clerk is Ian Cropper and he is a key source of information on all Parish Council matters.

His contact details are

Tel: 01704 506795

Fax: 08712 428089

Email: clerk@heskethwithbecconsall.org.uk

Address: Providence Place, 40A Glenpark Drive, Southport PR9 9FA

Keeping You Informed

As well as reading this newsletter you can keep abreast of what's going on within the Parish Council in the following ways:

Notice Boards

Details of any important events affecting the Parish are posted on the official Notice Boards. For anyone who doesn't already know these are to be found:

- At the junction of Moss Lane and Station Road
- On Shore Road at the Recreational Field Car Park
- At Hundred End at the junction of Hundred End Lane and Boundary Lane
- On the SPAR Shop Car Park at the Junction of Chapel Road and Station Road

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of each month. The meetings are open to the public except for any confidential items which are discussed in private at the end of the meeting. Prior to the meeting there is a short surgery session beginning at 7:10pm when members of the public can discuss any matter on the Agenda on a one to one basis with one of the Parish Councillors. The meetings begin at 7:30pm with a 15 minute public forum session when members of the public have the opportunity to address the meeting with any concerns and questions they may have. So why not come along and let us have your views?

Website

Although by no means all of our residents will have access to the internet, many of you will, and if you do use "T'Internet" then you can visit the Hesketh Bank Website. Anyone who already has will know that it is a great source of up to the minute local news and on it you will also find the minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings.

The Website is run by Local Resident -Mark O'Hanlon and the website address is www.heskethbank.com Why not check it out? If you don't have a computer of your own you can always use one of the twelve freely available computers at Tarleton Library. All you have to do is join (No charge) and the staff will be happy to help to get you surfing.

Quality is the Quest

At its meeting in August 2004, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the intention to seek Quality Parish Accreditation. So what does this mean for the residents of Hesketh Bank?

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme is a Government initiative aimed at helping Parish and Town Councils to develop and improve their role in representing the local community by laying down certain minimum standards. To gain accreditation as a quality council we have to demonstrate that we:

1. Have been democratically elected
2. Have a qualified Clerk
3. Hold regular well attended meetings, allow public participation and publish minutes.
4. Communicate with, consult and actively involve the local community
5. Produce an Annual Report
6. Maintain accurate accounts and transparent financial arrangements
7. Have formally adopted a Code of Conduct

We already meet some of the above criteria. Others we are working towards. When we feel that we can meet all of the standards we will apply for accreditation. We will keep you posted on our progress. Watch this Space!

The Real Deal

As elected representatives of Hesketh with Beconsall we have to make plans for the provision of services and amenities that you the residents want. So how do we try to ensure that our proposals do in fact reflect the wishes and priorities of the local community? By consulting you of course! This is where the REAL Project comes in. REAL stands for Rural Evaluation and Action in Lancashire and with the help of a REAL Project Coordinator funded by an organization called Community Futures Hesketh Bank, like many other rural communities has already been surveyed to establish those issues that are important to the local community

In February 2003, 3,000 questionnaires were delivered to all the homes in the Parish. The object of the Real Project survey was to identify those issues which the local community views as important and to **EVALUATE** them in order to determine priority areas for **ACTION**. The response rate, at just 7%, was a bit disappointing. Nevertheless the 209 people who did respond highlighted the following as high priority issues:

1. Traffic and Road Safety
2. Local Sports and Leisure Facilities
3. Facilities for Young People
4. Crime and Safety
5. A Voice for the Elderly

The evaluation phase of the REAL Project was relatively easy. The action phase is altogether more difficult, and this is where YOU may be able to help. The evaluation phase revealed five high priority issues as listed above. For each of these issues a group of volunteers was then sought to define the aims and to put forward suggested solutions on how to achieve these aims with a view to formulating an Action Plan. (You can view the aims and suggested solutions for each issue on the Hesketh Bank Website).

Councillor Hilary Tompkins, who was heavily involved in the Project from the start, picks up the story: "The REAL Project is not a Parish Council initiative, although it does, of course, have the support of the Parish Council. Anyone can be involved. Unfortunately, we did not get many volunteers for the working groups to carry forward the aims and suggested solutions into action plans. However, although the project has been a little slow in getting off the ground, we now have a few more volunteers and we are looking to re-launch it, but we would really welcome more involvement from local people" For the re-launch to succeed we need some volunteers. If you would like to have a say in the future of the village contact Hilary on 01772 811040.

Where Does Your Money Go?

The Parish Council has a duty to account for any money that it approves to be spent. This involves the Clerk producing detailed Financial Accounts which the Council must approve and which are subject to Audit.

However, if you want to know how your hard earned money is being spent by your Parish Council but feel drowsy at the mere thought of wading through a balance sheet then here is a brief rundown, which also gives us a chance to let you know what exciting and wonderful things we have provided, or plan to this year. The projected overall Budget for the current year (1st April 2004-31st March 2005) as at October 2004 is almost £61,000. The spending is broken down into three main headings:

Council Expenses

Just under £20,000 is expected to be spent this year on Council Expenses (not Councillor's expenses - there is no attendance allowance for Parish Councillors. (We do it for love !). These expenses are fees and charges mainly associated with simply keeping the Parish Council running e.g. Insurance, Audit, Legal Fees, Hall Rental, Election Expenses etc. Another significant element is the Clerk's salary and expenses.

Concurrent Expenditure

Expenditure under this heading counts for almost £45,000 (of which we hope to get £9,000 back in Grants this year). Of this, £11,500 is earmarked for maintaining the Play Parks and Sports Fields that belong to the Parish Council. Most of the rest is planned to be spent on:

- A programme of revamping the three play areas we own on Glenpark, Shore Road Recreation Field and Station Road near the Beconsall, total estimated cost -£22,500.
- Repair or replacement of street seats. £1,350 has been allocated
- Replacement Bus Shelters at a cost of approximately £7,000 (these are all now in place)
- In addition we are pleased to announce the long awaited provision of a Youth Shelter to be sited behind the Village Institute at a cost of approximately £9,000

Other expenditure

This much smaller budget heading of £4,200 covers other one off expenditure, mainly in the form of Grants, e.g. £1,000 earmarked for the local Youth Council and £2,000 to Tarleton High School towards the cost of the new Community Use Sports Hall. So there you have it. The next job for the Parish Council on the financial front is to agree the Budget for 2005/2006.

Developments at Alty's

The site of the former Alty's brickworks has played a key part in the development of Hesketh Bank and, although long since abandoned as a brickworks, the site continues to be the focus of major development proposals which could have a considerable impact on many aspects of the village.

It was no surprise then that All Saints Church Hall was packed to the rafters with local residents one evening last August when a special meeting was called by the Parish Council to seek views on the latest proposal for development on the site submitted jointly by Henry Alty Ltd and Morris Homes.

Needless to say, all of the many views expressed by local residents were in opposition to the proposal to build 83 residential dwellings on the site. When a show of hands was taken the result was a unanimous thumbs down for the proposal. The Clerk to the Parish Council formally conveyed these views in a letter to West Lancs District Council dated 8th September 2004 pointing out the particular concern that proposals for the site were being submitted in a piecemeal fashion as opposed to a complete plan for the whole site.

So where in fact are we with the various proposals for this huge site of enormous potential that lies at the heart of our village?