

WOODHALL SPA PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Issue 3 2008
Community Website: www.woodhallspa.org

THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE GOT IT...! You'll almost certainly have heard that at last the £1.54m investment in Jubilee Park has been confirmed. It's all thanks to YOU for turning out to the public meetings to back our fight and to record your views on the shortlist of options for the park's future prepared by the Friends of Jubilee Park. If you need a reminder of the options - full details are on the community website: http://www.woodhallspa.org/groups_fojp.html

Sadly we can't do everything you voted for immediately with this sum, but the first step – investing in the pool and changing rooms – will begin in the autumn. Thanks to the research of the FOJP, we're likely to have a new state-of-the-art steel pool liner and deck level gutter system. Costing only marginally more than traditional tile lining systems, it offers at least 25-30 years life with very low maintenance costs, top water quality with less chemicals and improved heat efficiency. The café, which has been on its last legs for some time, will come down. The aim is to eventually replace it with a building much more in keeping with Woodhall Spa's character, an attractive community space that will become a dining/visitor attraction in its own right - along the lines suggested and so well received at the Annual Parish Meeting. This is likely to take at least another year. The FOJP has already begun researching possible designs and styles and looking for funding – any ideas and suggestions gratefully received, especially if you have experience in accessing grants! The Parish Council will do everything it can to help this along...

During the review of Jubilee Park's future, ELDC made an operational decision (nothing to do with FOJP) that the caravan site, which has been in decline and is losing money, would be closed- occupancy rates have been around 25% across each of the last five years, and this April hit a low of just 5%. Both Erskines, the consultants who conducted an in-depth review of the Park, and the Caravan Club who were also approached, concluded it was too small to be viable in respect of the additional investment needed, and there's no room to expand. ELDC and FOJP will be working together to explore alternative uses for the site. Although there are now many more caravan sites around Woodhall Spa, the loss of this central location has caused considerable concern among the local business community, who have raised a petition to save it. The Parish Council has agreed to pass these concerns on to ELDC and we have asked them to look again at alternative operators. . We await their response.

LIBRARY..THE FIGHT GOES ON. A Friends of Woodhall Spa Library has now been formed to support our library and work for its long term future- more members welcome. The next meeting on 17th July will hear from Ann Love who runs the service locally, further details from David Clarke 01526 354330. In the meantime the Parish Council is still seeking more information on the logic behind the decision to cut our hours in the first place, we also want to know when we are getting the two hours back, as promised after the public meeting. This looks like an issue that will run and run.

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COMES TO WOODHALL SPA With a string of successful events behind us – the 10k run, Triathlon and Country Show among them, there's another big event to look forward to - on Tuesday 13th August at 2.30pm the Lashings XI, made up of world class cricketers, visits Woodhall Spa! Our Cricket Club is one of the most successful in the county, with an active youth programme and promising players representing the county and the North of England. Hundreds are expected to support this fund raising event (£5 adults, £2 children) which also features hospitality marquees available for business sponsorship- and tables are going fast. If you're new to Woodhall Spa, whether or not you're a cricketer, remember you can pop in to the cricket pavilion at any time in the evening and enjoy a social drink. The club is self-supporting and takings at the pavilion help to maintain its success. For more details of the Lashings event or the club, contact Matt Haslam on 01526 352748 and look out for the posters around the Spa.

CORONATION HALL..LOOK AGAIN...If you haven't been past lately, then you're in for a surprise – new roof, new windows, new floor, new boiler, refurbished toilets.....in fact its been transformed into a super new community space complete with a new board of trustees to run it. So to book it for your club or event contact 01507 522482. We also have a plea from the **Youth Club Management Team** for parents and volunteers to help with this busy club. If you can spare even a little time to help contact Bev Cox 01526 352565.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE.. We are in the second round! Next inspection during July. We've used our entry as a springboard for a good clean up and to help identify the trouble spots for more in-depth action. Thanks to the groups, mostly young people and children, who have helped with the litterpicks, to Britain in Bloom who are trying to brighten up Woodhall Spa with flowers, the people who have volunteered to water the containers and everyone who has helped in any way – there's still plenty to do, so if you're sitting there saying 'why don't they...' pick up the phone and volunteer- we need you! Contact the Parish Council Office 01526 352461. We're also working on improving the planting and design of the gardens at Royal Square, a DIY initiative in co-operation with ELDC, who have to maintain it. Couns Daphne Robinson and Joanna Nelstrop have been leading the initiative. If you'd like to help too contact 01526 352461

TREES...AND MORE TREES...On the subject of volunteers, the Woodhall Spa Tree Preservation Committee are asking people and organisations to come forward now for a special tree planting event this autumn. You will join an estimated quarter of a million likeminded individuals from across the country who will all be taking advantage of National Tree Week to make a difference to their environment. Trees don't last forever and we need to make sure the next generation are growing up to help us keep our special wooded environment.. If you'd like to help, but can't plant, you can donate a tree to the initiative. Further information is available from Coun Daphne Robinson (01526) 354385 and on the Woodhall Spa website,

THANKS FOR CARING..The huge turnout at the Annual Parish Meeting shows once again how much you all care about Woodhall Spa. The busy and varied agenda proved popular, with the Parish Council giving information on the many hot issues and new initiatives that will affect us all in the coming months and successful appeals from us, and other groups and bodies, for volunteers for a range of important tasks. Together we can – and do – make a difference.

NEW CLERK. Some of you will already have met our new Clerk, Amanda Bushell, who we were delighted to appoint in May. Amanda is fully qualified (CiLCA – Certificate in Local Council Administration) and already experienced as clerk to Hemingby Parish Council. She lives in Horncastle with her husband and young son. **NEW OFFICE HOURS-** You can speak to Amanda in person at the Parish Office on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30-5.30 and Thursday mornings from 9.30-11.30....She will also take messages from the answering service on the Parish Office number 01526 352461 or by emailing the Parish Council on woodhallpc@tiscali.co.uk

TRIBUTE. Finally we were all shocked by the sudden death of Sheila Roy in May. A Parish Councillor for more than 34 years, Sheila has played a huge part in helping to shape Woodhall Spa and protect and preserve its character. Her experience as a County Councillor and former District Councillor were invaluable in our deliberations and she could always be relied on to represent Woodhall Spa whenever volunteers were needed to meet with other bodies and put across our point of view. Our condolences to Gordon and family, Sheila may no longer be with us but her legacy is all around us.

Although the work of the Parish Council, its committees and action groups will go on, please note the next full meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th September**, not the week before. After that the meeting will revert to the usual first Tuesday of the month.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Amarylis Midgley	353533	Neil Storey	351433
Gillian Baker	352997	Joanna Nelstrop	354107
David Clarke	354330	Audrey Pestell	354898
Patricia Franklin	353026	Daphne Robinson	354385
David Hill	353070	Elsbeth Mace	353548

CLERK

Amanda Bushell 352461

OFFICE

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