

Lancashire Constabulary

Sgt Brown and PC Evans attended a Heapey Parish Council meeting and explained the new beat arrangements. A further Community Support Officer is to be appointed in the near future.

Crime continues to be very rare in Heapey. However there have been some thefts of stone and reports of juvenile nuisance on Heapey Chase. Speeding motorists continue to cause concern on the A674 and also on the country lanes which are used increasingly for short-cuts.

Parking is now the responsibility of the local authority and several tickets have been issued around the village centre by traffic wardens.

If you see any crime report it to Crimestoppers on:

0800 555111

Contact local Police on

0845 1253545

Noticeboards

Parish Council noticeboards are located in the War Memorial Grounds (visible from Kenyon Lane), the junction of Blackburn Road with the A674 and the end of Coppice Lane (by the junction with Hollin Lane).

Parish Councillors

Janet Ross-Mills
(Chairman)
01254 832298

Dave Berry (Vice-Chairman)
01257 274900

Joan Geddes
01254 831522

Diane Greenhalgh
01257 277695

Raymond Smith
01257 277663

Alan Platt (Clerk)
Can be contacted at:
9 Ambleside Avenue

Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX

01257 234003

e-mail:

heapeypc@btinternet.com

website

www.heapeyandwheelton.org

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in alternate months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov), in The White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Chapel Lane. See the Parish Council noticeboards for dates and times.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Heapey Parish Council Newsletter

August 2006

Local Elections 2006

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the Parish Council elections took place in May. Five existing councillors were elected unopposed, with the remaining vacancy being filled by co-option at the Council meeting at the end of June (see below). Borough Councillor Marie Gray was also returned to office in the Borough Council elections held on the same day.

The vacancy arose as a result of Eunice Riding not standing for re-election due to family commitments. At the Parish Council's Annual Meeting the then Chairman, Joan Geddes, paid the following tribute to Eunice " I would like to record my thanks to Eunice for all her work over the past 12 years. She was a valued member of the council with her commonsense approach to issues and her attention to detail. If discussions were getting too airy fairy, Eunice would bring us down to earth with a bump. If we were trying to spend too much money, she would make us think twice. She would often ask a simple, but relevant, question at a crucial time."

The Parish Council would like to thank Eunice for her efforts and wish her well for the future.

New Councillor

At the meeting held on 28 June 2006 the vacancy which had arisen from the local election was filled by co-option.

Until the necessary paperwork and legal requirements have been observed it is not possible to publish the details of the new Councillor however, should things go to plan, Heapey Chase will, for the first time, have representation - something the Parish Council has been trying to achieve for a considerable time.

Details of our new member will be available on Parish Council noticeboards following the September meeting, and in the next newsletter.

Chairmans Message

Have you ever...???...stood at the edge of the Top Lock's beer garden on a warm summer evening and smelled the honeysuckle? If not then you are in danger of missing one of the best treats of the season. A giant plant has grown undisturbed in the old sand quarry and recently burst into flower after the wet spring we had. Its fragrance is guaranteed to delight the senses!

It is for experiences like this, provided (free!) by the rural landscape that makes living in Heapey such a pleasure. Can we ensure that our landscape is protected and enhanced? According to CPRE we can and should. They are encouraging Parish Councils to prepare a Landscape Character Statement as a useful tool to guide planning and development in rural areas. This can help to ensure that any development is appropriate to the character of the locality. With increased pressure from tourism and leisure demands and a decline in traditional farming there can be no better time than the present to take stock of what we value most in our corner of the planet and take steps to define the key features that make Heapey and the surrounding locality distinct.

If you would like to suggest your favourite features for inclusion in a Landscape Assessment to be published in the Autumn please contact the Clerk, Alan Platt or any member of the Parish Council.

Janet Ross-Mills

Green Belt

Work on preparation of a new Local Development Framework (formerly the District Plan) continues at Chorley Borough.

So far the focus has been on the Town Centre and Sustainable resources. Of possible concern to Heapey is a suggestion that more windfarms may be introduced. As parts of Heapey and the surrounding area are exposed to wind this may be a controversial issue in future. The Parish Council will monitor the situation closely.

The Parish Council intends to ask for a redrawing of the Green Belt Boundary at Gale Moss so that the M61 and the A674 form an obvious barrier beyond which no development would be allowed. This follows the Inspectors Report from the Public Inquiry into the previous District Plan that the current boundary is not very sensible.

Village Hall

Things are happening at the Village Hall recently, essential repairs have been carried out to the structure of the building, plans to re-organise the toilets to include facilities for the disabled are nearing completion and it is hoped to re-decorate the main hall in the near future BUT there is a long way to go and the Committee needs your input.

A grant of £5000 was received from Awards for All towards improving the outdoor facilities and equipment, and the Committee intends to submit an application to the Big Lottery Fund for further improvements but, before it can do this, there needs to be a clear vision of what is required by the community. Your views are essential. How do you want to see the building developed? What events and activities would you like to see take place?

Could you spare time to get involved with managing the building and its development and/or organising events - If so, you would be very welcome.

GET INVOLVED!!

**IT'S YOUR VILLAGE HALL –
HELP SHAPE ITS FUTURE!!!**

Send your views to the Clerk (contact details on back page)

Weapon of Mass Distraction threatens local democracy!

Developers may have come up with a devastating method of obliterating the voice of local opinion and stifling opposition to their schemes - Libel Laws!

Did you know that you could be hauled through the Courts without even putting pen to paper if someone decides **you** are responsible for their planning application being refused? It is not unusual to run up a bill of over £10,000 in lawyers' fees and a defendant could easily lose their home trying to prove their good intentions.

Next time you see a notice from Chorley Borough Council asking for comments on a planning application, think carefully about whether your house insurance covers you for legal expenses. There are a number of ongoing cases and obviously we have to be careful what we publish about this issue but we will bring you more detailed news as events unfold.

Any representations about planning matters can be made through Heapey Parish Council in strict confidence.