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Parish Council

THE PARISH PUMP

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EDITORIAL

Why "The Parish Pump?" We thought long and hard over a suitable name for this new exercise in communication between your Parish Council and yourselves.

The ideas which were floated were many and varied but we wanted our name to feature prominently. However "Croxley Green Parish Council" is a mouthful in itself and the addition of "Newsletter" was thought to be too much.

Croxley Green is a historic place and it is known that the best source of news and gossip in a community used to be the place at which water, a prime necessity of life, was drawn. We then set out to discover where water was drawn, in the past, for use by the villagers.

Unfortunately, we very soon discovered that there was no single source but a number of pumps and many wells in individual properties. The people of the village were very lucky but it was not so lucky for us.

Not to be deterred, we put it to the vote and so, as this is the central source of news from the Parish to the parish it has become as you see "**The Parish Pump.**"

As most village pumps were Victorian in origin and based on the age of cast iron, so our imaginary pump is based on such designs. But however imaginary this illustration and its derivation is, the purpose of this newsletter is in no way fanciful. We want to use it to communicate with you and we want you in turn, to write to us to communicate your thoughts and feelings to us.

This is an experiment and as such it is impossible to say how regular this newsletter will be published but we hope to have enough to say to make it possible to make an issue at least three times a year.

We must stress that this is in no way a rival to the "Resident" but an additional form of communication, our regular contribution to this well read and long established publication will continue.

The Parish is split into three wards, represented by just sixteen Parish Councillors, all elected by you, and however hard we try, we cannot possibly totally guess what the majority view will be on any particular issue so please let us

know, it will not even cost you a stamp; until the Parish Office is built just pop your letter in our box in the reference section of the library in Barton Way. There is an even more simple way, the councillors are listed, in wards, complete with their telephone numbers, under the handle of our imaginary parish pump, and every one of them will be pleased to hear your views.

John Hedges
Chairman Publicity Committee

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is now almost six years since Croxley Green Parish Council was established. When the council was first elected in March 1986, we all made something of a leap into the unknown. All of us were new to local government and all of us were volunteers, united only in our wish to serve the people of Croxley Green. Our lack of knowledge was offset by our enthusiasm and commitment, but we did start with some problems. Firstly we had no premises and so there was nowhere to use as a Parish Council Office. Secondly we had no money - just a first year precept set by Three Rivers District Council.

What have we done over the past six years? A very valid question because we have had a generally low profile and unless you are yourself very active in the community, you could be forgiven for not even knowing of our existence. Much of the first two years or so was spent getting to know the system, establishing contacts, setting up our own methods of working; there then followed a period of consolidation and planning. But even during those early years there were some activities which were noticeable. The Croxley Green Clean-up days, repairs to the War Memorial, planting bulbs on Scot's Hill verges and the reclamation of the horse trough at All Saint's Church corner. There was also planning opposition to the proposed Imperial Machine Company's site, redevelopment and possible overdevelopment on both the sites of The Orchard and Applegarth & Pefka on the Green. We introduced the first dog bins and dog control scheme in S.W. Herts and last but not least we took over the management of the grass cutting on the Green.

But now we are entering into a new phase in the life of the Parish Council. Having now accumulated some funds, we can at last really start to do things. We have already introduced a pilot bus service for the senior citizens of the village - it may be limited in scope at present but it is a start. The area around the library is being tidied and a sturdy new seat installed. In the first half of this year we will be opening a Parish Office so that you, the residents of Croxley Green, can contact us more readily. Progressively during 1992 we will be starting several other initiatives all designed in one way or another to make Croxley Green a better place in which to live.

COUNCILLORS

North Ward

Peter Foster 779841

John Hedges 222715
Chairman-Publicity

Alison Wall 777340
Chairman - Planning
& Development

Joe Wesson 239000
Vice-Chairman-Council

Ray Withers 819102

Croxley Green Ward

Ernest Burdis 770559

Graham Frost 777589

Muriel Good 771840

Heather McMaster 772317

Margaret Pomfret 720088

A.N. Other

South Ward

John Brind 228785

Phil Drury 720701

Bill Hassey 775231

John Larter 253806
Chairman-Council

Lawrie Mathews 243420
Chairman - Environment
& Amenity

Clerk to the Council
Derek Fineberg 220329

Croxley Green Parish Council • Founded 1986

The early 1990's are likely to see considerable changes in Croxley Green - the redevelopment of the Durrant's School site, a possible new rail link and changes in government structure and financing. The Parish Council will be deeply involved in all of these things and we need to be kept up to date on your views. This brings us to **The Parish Pump**. This newsletter has a very simple aim and purpose - communication. **The Parish Pump** will keep you advised on what the Parish Council is doing in Croxley Green and for Croxley Green. But hopefully it will also prompt you into sending us your views and suggestions - we always welcome proposals and ideas from the community and we really do value your opinions. So please help us to make this a two-way communication.

John Larter, Chairman.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Seven members of the Parish Council sit on the Planning and Development Committee. Our concerns focus on Town Planning, public transport, road safety and sign posting.

Parish Councils have a right to be consulted on local planning applications. We receive a list from TRDC of the most recent applications, the submissions are kept on file in the reference section of Croxley Green library. We discuss each application and minute our views. We have to comply with planning law, without expressing individual opinions on a particular proposal. Our objections are forwarded to TRDC and included in the agenda for the District Planning Meeting. District Councillors take our views seriously.

Please contact us or the Parish Clerk if you are concerned about a particular planning application, we need to know your views if we are to represent you.

We aim to attend District Planning Meetings when appropriate, we can then address applications directly. Recently we attended the meeting which considered an application for "Applegarth" on the Green. This was a second application on this site, this time for a block of flats to replace the large existing house. Some time ago an application for this site together with "Pefka" next door, went to appeal. This was for between eight to ten houses to replace the original two. We are pleased to say that the inspector listened to the views of the Parish Council and others and refused the appeal. This time round we were able to quote the inspector's report in our objections and we were delighted when it was unanimously turned down.

The Croxley Rail Link is an important proposed development. We are concerned that we should have a voice on a future working party. The last issue of the "Resident" included two articles on this proposal. We will do our utmost to represent the views of Croxley Green residents.

We realise the importance of communications between different bodies e.g. The Friends of the Green, Residents' Association, the District and County Councils, London Transport, Luton and District Bus Company etc., we liaise with different groups as much as possible.

A member of the Planning Committee also represents us on the Croxley Green Road Safety Committee. We have recently completed a "Road sign appraisal" of Croxley Green. Numerous recommendations have been made and forwarded to the Road Safety Committee.

We are meeting with Croxley Green Camera Club in order to compile a comprehensive photographic record of Croxley Green. This will take the form of photographs of different areas illustrating the various characters and styles. As a Planning Committee we are concerned that developments should fit or enhance this style and character.

We have made ourselves familiar with the District Plan Review. This lays out a particular plan for an area and covers the whole of Three Rivers. The District plan is structured in line with the County Plan and the whole is approved by the Secretary of state, thus proving to be a useful document. It mentions the possibility of using the disused Watford-Rickmansworth BR line as a cycle track, which interests us and we will be pleased to receive any views on this proposal.

Finally I would like, on behalf of the Planning and Development Committee, to wish all local residents a very happy new year. May we all work together for the good of our community.

Alison Wall, Chairman Planning and Development Committee.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The F & A Committee is the senior committee of the Parish Council. The membership consists of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the council, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each of the other two standing committees and the Chairman of any other committee which may be in operation at the time.

The work of this committee is primarily related to budgets and - as the title suggests - administration. This includes the Parish Office, the work of the clerk and bank accounts. But of course the F & A Committee can only recommend it does not decide, the full Council is the only body which can make final decisions.

Recently this committee has spent a considerable time on the budget for the next financial year which commences on 1st. April. The budget which has now been agreed by the full council sets out some ambitious plans for 1992/93 - but these will all be funded without the need to increase the precept. This means that the cost to you, as a Community Charge payer, will be the same as this year - and very much the lowest of all the Parish Councils in the Three Rivers area.

John Larter, Chairman.



ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE

Following restructuring of all Parish Council Committees, the Environment and Amenity Committee was given responsibilities for playing fields, The Green, open spaces and trees, leisure activities, landscaping proposals, foot-path maintenance, litter, conservation and re-cycling, war memorials and such other things which the council may refer to it from time to time.

Against this obligation and during this last year or so, we have tried to do a number of things.

The Green. It is not easy, ever, to please all of the people even some of the time. Some say do not touch the Green at all whilst others would like to see a well-cut, perhaps manicured and tidy area. There has been much discussion and controversy about how and

when the grass should be cut, the vagaries of the climate also inhibited us somewhat. The year 1991 was not a good one, we were not satisfied that the grass was cut properly and timely; indeed the number of cuts fell short of the agreed contractual obligation, something we have pursued with the contractors vigorously. To improve matters for the year commencing 1st April 1992 we are negotiating a contract which will give us more flexibility and will split the Green into three distinct areas, each requiring different treatment. The areas will be the old cricket pitch or area where the Revels are held, Stone's Orchard and the rest of the Green. Lifting the grass after cutting is included, where appropriate, as well as a certain amount of strimming. We will be consulting Friends of the Green from time to time to ensure a measure of agreement and general approach.

Still on the Green; some two or three years ago TRDC started to cut back encroaching tree and hedge growth but for reasons not clear, perhaps cost, stopped with only the area between All Saint's Church and New Road being cleared. We hope work will recommence this winter as some areas, particularly that one around Stone's Orchard up towards Parrott's Close, are about 15 feet overgrown from the old boundary line. It is not our intention to savage the hedgerows, merely to apply some good husbandry and tidy up some areas which have been very much neglected for years and years.

Bulb Planting. No doubt many people will have noticed, last spring, the 600 daffodils which we planted the previous autumn on Scots' Hill. Another 2500 daffodils were planted on the banks on Scots' Hill this autumn so we are looking forward to a really good show next spring.

Gardening/Landscaping. We made a start outside the Library in New Road this autumn. As part of a first phase, shrubs have been tidied up and some daffodil bulbs and other flowering plants have been planted. Should Herts County Council and the Librarian agree and subject to Parish Council's approval we would like to see phase two provide some paving, more seating and shrubs around the Library gardens. We shall also try to identify other areas in Croxley Green which could benefit from similar treatment.

Competitions. In line with encouraging improvements in our general environment we hope to run some competitions for the best gardens, shopfronts etc., during the spring and summer of 1992. Look out for publicity material.

Dog Control. The poop-scoop scheme was successfully launched some three years ago and we continue to spend money on clearing the dog bins which are in strategic positions around the village particularly recrea-

tion grounds. Children's Play areas around the swings have also been fenced off to deter dogs from fouling. Regrettably some dog owners continue to allow their animals to foul areas of our recreation grounds and there is a growing opinion that we should ban dogs altogether from such places. Other open spaces, verges and footpaths are also fouled even though the law quite clearly makes it an offence for any owner to allow a dog under his/her control to foul in a public place. We are considering relaunching the poop-scoop campaign in an attempt to improve matters, but individual prosecutions could be considered as this is too important an issue of public health to be neglected or ignored.

Trees. Sadly it seems as though the oak tree by the war memorial on the Green has died though we still fervently hope that it is not so. However, in case the opinions we have received prove to be correct, another oak tree has been planted nearby and it is also likely that a second oak tree will be planted to the other side of the old oak.

Not all the trees which were planted in Stone's Orchard two years ago have survived and so we are considering replacing them as well as identifying other areas in the village which would benefit from planting.

Village Clean-up. The annual clean-up took place in April last year. The amount of litter we collected was not so great compared with previous years, especially in the area of Croxley Hall Woods and around Rickmansworth School, the latter being mainly due to the cooperation and efforts we have received from the staff and pupils of the school. We would like to see more people turn out for the clean-ups so that we could concentrate our efforts on a wider front than just the woods and the Green itself. The Green of course benefits greatly from the additional litter clearing by Friends of the Green but areas around shops and parades and the numerous alleyways and footpaths also need attention to supplement the efforts which TRDC make. Perhaps a competition or two will encourage shopkeepers and residents to take pride and clear up outside their own premises on a regular basis. Although some would disagree there is a limit on the number of litter bins that we can place in the village as too many in themselves make the place untidy.

Croxley Rail Link. This continues to be an item on the agenda for all council meetings and we are urgently seeking to be represented on any joint working party between London Transport, TRDC and residents so that we can consider more fully any proposals when they are completed and presented for consideration. Only then can due consideration be given to the viability and desirability or otherwise of such a link. If the rail link does go ahead this committee will be concerned about

the likely effects of the work both during and after building and will seek to achieve the best possible results in environmental terms.

Other Issues. These have included such matters as bottle banks, used clothing containers, street lighting, village appraisal and a myriad of other items affecting the general environment.

Costs. To deliver any plans rather than just empty promises costs money. This committee like any other has to justify its current expenditure and forecasts and is not always granted as much as it would like. Similarly TRDC suffers from the current recession and this directly affects some of the work which it carries out on our behalf. The problem then is to establish and agree our priorities and carry out as much as we can within our limited resources.

Ernest Burdis, Environment and Amenity Committee.

A NEW BUS SERVICE

Following cuts made to local bus services by Luton and District Bus Company, particularly the W21 and W22 bus services, many elderly residents in Croxley Green complained to the Parish Council. In particular the residents of Hanover Court and Cherwell Close were angry enough to petition the Parish Council to do something.

After discussions with Luton and District Bus Company which proved fruitless it was obvious that we should have to do something ourselves. Subsidising a bus service would prove very expensive but enquiries showed that hiring a bus for specific journeys was not unreasonable. As an experiment therefore, we did just that and ran a bus on the two Fridays before Christmas picking up at Chalmers Court, Hanover Court/Cherwell Close, Grove Crescent and the Red Cross Centre; setting down in Watford town centre and returning two hours later.

This trial proved very successful with the bus running nearly full on each occasion. We have therefore decided to continue this service every Friday until 28th February.

The results of this experiment will need careful examination to ensure that the service is efficient and not too much of a drain on our resources. We shall be looking at the frequency, the picking-up points and the cost so that a reasonable but not exorbitant charge may be made to ensure that this is not a "one-off" experiment but will be a continuing service. Detailed plans will be in place before the end of this trial period. We will welcome your views and will do all within our power to extend this service to all senior citizens within our village. Please drop us a line, posting it in the box in the reference section of the Library or contact one of us direct.

Graham Frost, Vice-Chairman Planning and Development Committee

PUZZLE PAGE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The picture above of the Red Cross float at Croxley Revels was taken by Dick Hassell of Croxley Camera Club and is reproduced with his permission. The copy below contains 10 small alterations.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

1. Twig between **FOR** and **ALL**
2. The letter **B**
3. Tractor exhaust pipe
4. Necklace
5. Flower on hat
6. New watch
7. Badge on apron
8. Apron shoulder strap
- 9.
10. Entrance no longer **FREE**

WORD SEARCH
CROXLEY GREEN is the place and the roads are in two categories:
Roads named after castles: CANTERBURY, DOVER, HASTINGS, KENILWORTH, LEWES, LINCOLN, LUDLOW, NORWICH, RICHMOND, ROCHESTER, WARWICK - Roads named after schools: DULWICH, FULLER (Watford Boys Grammar School was originally Dame Fuller's School), GIRTON, LANCING, MALVERN, OWENS, REPTON, RUGBY, SHERBORNE, WINCHESTER.

Walking round Croxley Green you will find these local houses of refreshment:

1. SPORTSMAN
2. ARTICHOKE
3. COACH AND HORSES
4. DUKE OF YORK
5. RED HOUSE
6. FOX AND HOUNDS
7. TWO BRIDGES

ALL MIXED UP ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH

The grid below contains the names of 21 roads and where they are. There are 10 of one type and 11 of another. What do they have in common? If you know your way about you will understand.

C L O G N I C N A L E A R N G
R A H N H E L L O A S H E N R
O I N O S C M U M N S U R E E
X D D T E P I S E P E L I C E
L C O R E D S W A R W I C K N
E H C I W R O N L E E K H L K
Y A R G O O B F F U L L M I E
E S E G L M O U S E D D O N N
R T T E D U L L R N O O N M I
W I S R U T S L U Y V V D A L
K N E L L O L E G G E E S L W
E G H I S H E R B O R N E V O
E S C O T I S H Y N O T P E R
N L O C N I L E O U E E R R T
D Y R E T S E H C N I W I N H

ALL MIXED UP

Visiting the following places could give you a muddled head. If your head is clear you should be able to unscramble them.

1. STORM PANS
2. HOE AT RICK
3. CRONES HAD CHAOS
4. OF KORKY DUE
5. USE HORDE
6. HAND FOUND SOX
7. GET BROW SID

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Parish Council

The council meets in full session on the last Thursday of every month, all meetings starting at 8.00 pm.

Members of the public may address the meeting at the Chairman's invitation before business commences and we are pleased to say that this is a regular occurrence. One or more of our district councillors are generally in attendance and we always welcome their detailed background knowledge and general helpfulness.

Planning and Development Committee

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, meetings start at 8.00 pm. A large part of each meeting is taken up in considering individual Planning Applications and the public are welcome to air their views.

Environment and Amenity Committee

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, meetings start at 8.00 pm. Again members of the public are welcome.

Finance and Administration Committee

The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month and considers the work of the Council and its finances.