



The Langford Life

The Newsletter of
Langford Village Community Association
Issue 13 - October 1997



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The next meeting of the Community Association Committee is on Monday 27th October at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. These meetings are open to all Langford Village Residents and your input is most welcome.

This year saw the start of a Community Association Forum hosted by Cherwell District Council. Three representatives from the LVCA committee attended the first meeting in July and we hope to send reps again in November. The Forum acts as a focus for good ideas and representatives can learn from the experiences of their counterparts in other community associations managed by CDC as well as receiving direction from CDC officials. Among the subjects covered are Policy Advice, Training, Finance, Legal Responsibilities, Community Links, Useful Contacts, Playschemes, Youthwork, Building Maintenance, Running Costs, Committee Organization, Environmental Issues, Liaison with Councillors, Newsletters.

CDC in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council and Bicester Town Council are proposing to embark on a major £0.5m development project at the Courtyard Youth Centre, Bicester and intend to ask for assistance from the National Lottery. It is intended to create a venue primarily with an arts focus for the young people of the town. There would be a wide range of facilities from cafe, social area, function space, craft showcases, spaces for electronic music recording, computer based arts, studios for artiststhe list goes on. If anyone wishes to see the full list give me a ring on 241361 and if you wish further details these can be provided by Leisure Services at CDC. To obtain the Lottery Grant, CDC needs to demonstrate wide community support for the project so I will be sending a letter of support on behalf of LVCA. CDC are keen to attract "offers of other forms of support". If you can help in some way contact without delay D Ian Davies, Head of Leisure Services at CDC.

The Village Hall has recently had a facelift inside with a redecoration. I'm sure you will appreciate the improvement. Please help us to keep it in good condition. The Hall is used most days and evenings by our regular user groups. However there are some free slots for additional one-off bookings, especially at weekends. Contact Linda Lawrence on 241361 for details and competitive rates. We need helpers to join a rota to lock/unlock the hall for weekend bookings. If you can help, ring Linda on 241361.

We have had a number of complaints from village residents about inconsiderate children. One elderly lady was knocked over by a child on rollerblades tearing along one of the footpaths. The carparks next to the flats are another hazard area. This is probably a lack of thought but some groups of children (mainly in the area of the recycling bins but also around the lake) have been abusing passers by with bad language and this is clearly deliberate bad behaviour. Please ask your children to consider other residents. I'm sure you wish to keep Langford Village as a pleasant place to live and not develop into a no-go area for some folk.

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CHICKEN FARM PLANNING UPDATE

As some of you may have noted in the paper, the application by Faccenda Chicken Ltd to develop the battery chicken farm at Ambrosden was thrown out by the CDC Planning Committee. We have received a letter of thanks from Councillor David Markham for our support in the form of letters and signatures on the petition. However, that is not the end of the story. CDC have informed us that Faccenda have appealed against the ruling and there is to be a Public Inquiry by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Inquiry starts on Tuesday 11th November 1997 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury and may last up to 3 days. Those concerned (that includes residents of Langford Village) are invited to be present or be represented. If you wish your views to be known and cannot turn up, you are encouraged to write. Letters should be addressed to:

The Planning Inspectorate, Room 10/02, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ.

Letters should be received before 28 October 1997 quoting: Planning Inspectorate Reference App/C3105/A97/279203



'Back to Health' Fitness Classes

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Autumn classes commence Mon. 13th & Thur. 16th October

£3.50 pay as you go or *PAYABLE BY ADVANCE BLOCK-BOOKING (INCLUDES REDUCTIONS)

All queries contact: 01869 - 342203 or just turn up!

Sally Evans

Chiropractor DC (OCC) BAAC (MEMBER OF FITNESS PROFESSIONALS LYMCA RSA)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

In the last issue (July 97) I reported that the railings at the end of Jubilee Lake were about to be repaired or replaced: the orders being raised by Thames Water as I wrote. I am sure that many of you will be aware that nothing has yet happened. Thames Water inform me that Cherwell District Council are waiting to include the work with other orders!? Come on CDC - do we have to wait for someone to fall through before you take any action?

Lack of action from CDC is not just confined to railings in a dangerous condition. Many if not most of the combined cycle/foot paths are overgrown reducing the width considerably. To make matters worse it is usually the already too narrow footpath that bears the brunt of the problem forcing those walking into the wider cycle track. This problem has been the subject of countless letters and conversations between the Environmental Committee and CDC with little gained but broken promises. If you feel strongly enough about this why not contact CDC yourself. The more individual complaints the more they get worn down into submission. Don't forget we pay our taxes to have these services provided. The cracks that have appeared in a number of the paths do come under a different department, and we have been assured that repairs should be made in the not too distant future.

Before I leave the subject of the cycle/foot paths it is more than apparent that a little conflict exists between some of those on foot and those on cycles. Although a number of youngsters do behave irresponsibly, some even riding (and roller-blading) on the dedicated footpaths, the biggest culprits appear to be the pedestrians who spread themselves over the combined paths, blocking the way of cyclists (and others) complaining bitterly when they do get past. Even where the paths are overgrown there is plenty of room for all if we behave with consideration and leave room for others.

It has been brought to our attention that a number of established trees have been removed by residents as well as contractors. This can not be done legally without planning permission, similar action in the past resulting

in prosecution and fines. Possibly more important, the loss of trees and hedgerows is the source of great concern and annoyance to many people as our countryside is constantly eroded away by thoughtless actions.

In the July issue we gave the telephone number and contact for problems with contractors working out of permitted hours, commenting that although it might not cure the immediate problem, it would help for the future. Since then we have been informed that the local police have the contact telephone number for the duty out-of-hours CDC Environmental Officer. This is for complaints with any Environmental Problem (noise, smell etc). If you have a problem when the CDC offices are closed, call the Bicester Police Station (Bic 320919). Out of hours calls go through a central control from the local number. Give details of the problem and ask for the duty Environmental Health Officer to attend. Unfortunately, it has been known for people calling in with a problem to be told to call CDC on the next working day. Should this happen we have been advised to get the officers name and number, explain that the police do have the duty Environmental Health Officer's contact number, and lodge a complaint should the duty EH Officer not be called.

In the past month or two, the committees have received various complaints regarding litter, litter bins, traffic, the state of the balance ponds etc. The committee members continually approach the authorities (CDC, Thames Water etc) with your complaints and problems, and although many departments are helpful and responsive some are not. All act best to those who shout loudest, especially when funds are short, and we need to fight hard for our fair share of those. To this effect, your direct help in the form of complaining directly to CDC etc will help us get results. If you let us know when and to whom you make your complaints (and what about) we can use this as ammunition when making our formal approaches. Should you want information regarding who to complain to please feel free to call me and I will do my best to help.

John Warman
Environmental Committee Chairman

TREE WATCH

Contrary to local rumour, and confirmed by a Westbury Homes sign at the junction of Redwing, Mallards and Bramblings, it appears that the land to the north of Langford Village has now been acquired by the developers.

Many are aware of the cavalier attitude of the builders when it comes to hedgerows and trees, many being blatantly up-rooted even when there is a preservation order in force. Once gone, it is generally too late to do any thing, so it is up to everyone interested in preserving the bit of countryside that should be left after building to keep an eye open and take immediate action as appropriate.

At the time of writing I do not have any details of the final proposed plans, or what trees and hedge rows are to be left in situ. However, I believe that all but one tree and the relevant section of hedge at the junction of Redwing, Mallards and Bramblings are supposed to remain on that boundary. Over the next few weeks we will endeavour to obtain full up to date details of the plans.

Please contact me direct (tel 369526) with your views and concerns.

John Warman Environmental Committee Chairman

HEALTH & BEAUTY in LANGFORD VILLAGE

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Julie - 01869 320552.

REFLEXOLOGY

The ancient technique of treating the whole body using reflex points in the feet or hands which may improve general health and well being.

Ladies, for more information, or to book an appointment in your own home, contact:

Carol (ITEC MIPTI) on 0585 471242.

200 Club - Langford Lottery Update

Draws take place on the third Tuesday of the month and can be witnessed at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We have 85 members at present. New members are always welcome and we would like to break the 100 mark by the end of the year. The cost is £1 per number, per month payable by cash, cheque or standing order for a minimum of 6 months. The more members (up to a limit of 200), the bigger the prizes!

The following are the winning lottery numbers:

July	1st Prize	Number 37	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 25	£10.62
Aug	1st Prize	Number 46	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 77	£10.62
Sept	1st Prize	Number 51	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 38	£10.62

Applications for membership are available from the School Office or by contacting Laura and Ian House on - tel 243731

1st LANGFORD VILLAGE SCOUT GROUP

We had an exciting end to the summer term when 20 Cubs, 2 Beavers and 6 Leaders and Dads joined 4000 other members of the Scout Association at the County Camp at Cornbury Park, Charlbury.

The Cubs camped in small groups and the Beavers shared their tents with their Dads. For many it was the first time away from home so teddies came too!

On Saturday the boys had the opportunity of taking part in hundreds of different activities including cooking, climbing, drama, quad bikes, model planes, crafts and water slides.

Everything stopped at lunchtime for the biggest picnic Oxfordshire has ever seen. At tea time we had a fly past from the Red Arrows on their way home from Fairford. The day was brought to a close with a wonderful campfire.

The Chief Scout paid us a visit from his Belfast home on Sunday and Greg and Lewis, our Beavers, were lucky enough to meet him for a chat.

The boys had a great weekend and can't wait to go again. Our thanks go to Holmer Green Scouts for the use of their equipment which made it possible for us to camp!

As you can see, both the Cub Pack and Beaver Colony provide a full and varied programme of activities for the boys of Langford Village. As the Group continues to grow, we again appeal for more adult help. If you or your son wish to join in the fun, then please give Ellie a call on 322425.

Finally a Whinge

Come along everyone; isn't it time we kept Langford Village cleaner and tidier. The area around the shops is particularly scruffy. The Cubs once more had a sponsored litter pick collecting 23 bags of rubbish in an hour - 7 more than last year. It is a good money spinner for us but shouldn't really be necessary if everyone did their bit and put their rubbish in the bins provided.



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