

**PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL      April 2009**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 6th May 2009  
7.30 p.m. in Poringland Community Centre

**Dear Neighbours,**

This is the Annual Report of your Parish Council for 2008/09 and to all new residents and businesses may I welcome you on behalf of all your Councillors.

**Your Parish Council**

Another challenging year has passed and every member of the Council has contributed to the work of the Parish Council and is a team you should be proud of.

The following is a brief summary of activities over the past year

Visit the New Parish Council website - [www.poringlandparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.poringlandparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Unitary Status**

At the time of this report we are still waiting for the outcome of the recommendations from the Boundary Commission concerning the unitary status review. Will it be one, two or three divisions? There is also concern of Great Yarmouth trying to include Poringland within its boundary proposals. Until we are notified of the preferred options no actions can be taken. However we will certainly be looking at the proposals very closely.

**Planning**

The Parish is divided into planning segments with a Councillor being responsible for planning matters within each segment. Each of the Councillors' continues to attend training provided by South Norfolk District Council. During the year your Council has considered 36 planning applications at the time of writing this report. This is a reduction from the previous year.

**Amenities**

The Amenities Committee, led by Jenny Ellis continues to work hard in the continued provision and maintenance of local facilities including the cemetery, pond area, bus shelters and tree preservation. The Playing Field has its own management committee led by Mike Easter and Ann Garton and includes Council representation. I would like to thank all members of these Committees for all their hard labours.

**Drainage**

Drainage matters are always a high priority. There has been a survey conducted within Poringland and the Framinghams relating to drainage and John Henson agreed to represent your Council. As always, there is funding to determine the problems (as if we did not already know the issues) but little left for subsequent actions to make good and improve the problems.

**The Five + Villages**

We would like to thank Dave Gudgeon and George Shearer for their continued success of The Five + magazine. This continues to provide a wealth of local information and urge you to support with any additional contributions. This now includes Bixley with Arminghall following their inclusion within the Strategic Group.

Arising from this group is the **Community Speed Watch** – currently 4 volunteers from Poringland, hoping to join with Stoke Holy Cross in order to set the scheme in motion. In addition, the setting up of a **Community First Responder Scheme** is well on its way. A Community Emergency Plan is also being considered through the Five Plus.

**Police**

The Council places on record their thanks to PC Sarah Cubitt, our Police Liaison Officer and our Community Police team and our thanks are extended to her for all the work being undertaken. Sarah recently passed her Sergeant's exams and will leave Poringland in April to take up her new duties. During the year we welcomed Sergeant Mark Aldis to Poringland Police Station.

Please ensure that you continue to report any incident or suspected incident as soon as possible.

## **Young People**

Your Council continues to be concerned about the activities of young people and the effects on the local community. We have placed aside finances to assist with youth projects and are actively involved with other local initiatives.

Your Council has supported the need for a youth group and were pleased that sufficient support and facilities have enabled the re-establishment of the Youth Club at the Village Hall.

## **Community Centre/Police Beat Office/Library**

The new Community Centre and additional facilities has taken up a large amount of the time and effort of the Council.

The Library has proven a major asset to the community.

The Community Centre has been the main item dealt with by Councillors and Clerk and RFO. Bookings are steadily increasing, more regular hirings as well as party bookings. The bar takings are increasing and the air conditioning and blinds will be an asset, especially during the summer months.

Four Members of the Management Committee, Lisa Neal, Lisa Gooderham, David Hwer and Caroline Milton attended a training course concerning Safer Activities for Everyone and have successfully attained recommended standard to promote SAFE - Norfolk Local Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children Programme.

The community cinema proved a great success and the provision of the blinds will enable an extension of the season.

As always these activities do not run themselves and your Council wishes to thank all those who have helped in whatever way to ensure the continued success of the Centre.

## **Parish Employees**

The Council places on record its thanks to Caroline Milton and Anne Barnes for their continued hard work in linking with the parishioners and keeping the Council members up to date and informed. Also Joanne Fox and Lisa Gooderham for all their hard work at the Community Centre.

Also I would like to thank Mr Minns and Mr Spruce for their continued work in trying to keep litter down and the bus shelters clean.

## **Conclusion**

Another year which has been full of activity mainly related to the Community Centre and Library provision. Your Council meets together at least 11 times during the year and there are a number of occasions when additional meetings have taken place. There is also involvement with other meetings such as the Finance and Governance Committee, Planning Committee, Community Centre Management Group, Amenities Committee, Playing Field Committee, and meetings of joint local Councils including South Norfolk District Council. These plus training, as well as reading all the documents provided for consultation make up the work of each of your Councillors. The Councillors give of their time freely and I would thank them all for their work in trying to provide a service to you. More importantly I would thank their partners and families for allowing them the opportunity of contributing to the community welfare of our Village.

David Hwer, Chairman, Poringland Parish Council.