

# Parish council report

THE COMMON, 3 MAY 2012



ANDREW  
YARWOOD,  
CHAIRMAN

## Olympic Torch, Fête and Carnival

As I put pen to paper, or rather fingers to keyboard, it doesn't really seem that it's over two months since the Olympic flame came through Newport. Despite the rain the crowds were huge, flags were waved, and people cheered (and Newport got onto the TV thanks to Jamie Oliver being a torch bearer). Newport also had a Carnival procession for the first time for many years which ran smoothly, straight after the torch, and despite more rain the efforts of those who took part making floats and costumes could be seen by us all.

The Carnival and Fête were a great financial success for Newport too with funds totalling £5,600 being raised for village



clubs and organisations, whilst the bands played. Thanks to Mike, Elaine, Mark, Neil, Sharon, Alan, Ken, who with myself made up the organising committee. And to all the groups who helped us by getting involved in the run up, suppliers of vehicles, marquees and all the volunteers on the day.

And the Newport History Group ran a historical event that marked the end of the Olympic period.

## Development in Newport?

2012 will go down in my memory as the year when Uttlesford District Council defined its development plan consultation and galvanised many people into action, including one pressure group, 'Save Newport Village'. The Parish Council also conducted a consultation (to which 366 residents responded – thank you), to ascertain public opinion. The results of this made it abundantly clear that the vast majority, though accepting that some small development may be acceptable, do not want large numbers of homes to be built in Newport.

It was clear though that a 'minimum of 370 homes' proposed by the district council was **NOT acceptable** to Newport Residents who responded.

Members of the council, together with several residents have attended meetings at Saffron Walden, and left feeling distinctly unimpressed with the whole experience.

The Parish Council made it clear that we wanted the views of residents to be taken into consideration, though we are yet to see the evidence of this actually happening. We will continue to put forward the views of the residents of Newport.

## Flooding

Earlier this year saw a large amount of flooding in the village, especially London Road, and bottom of School Lane (see photographs). Howard Bowman, helped me clear obstructions down the river, at the Common and Bridge End. And my son Matthew, and particularly one resident, Peter Arscott and helped me at School Lane. The floods emphasised that the village water system cannot really cope with current weather problems, and would much less cope with the effects of a large number of homes that would add to the problem at the existing "pinch points". This was also not helped by the amount of debris that we noted when clearing; it was actually cut vegetation that had obviously been left near to the river courses in several locations.

## Affordable Housing development

We are still waiting for a date for a public meeting when plans of this proposal are due to be made available. We continue to press Hastoe Housing Association for a date for this, and have put forward the views of residents to the company at the council meeting in August.

The council would like to have an indication of the number of residents currently interested in renting or buying a share of an affordable property. If you are interested please write to the parish office Newport, or email, [newportparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newportparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk).

## New Pedestrian Crossing at Belmont Hill

For the last six years the council have been working with ECC on a new pedestrian crossing. This has finally been approved and installation is planned for October.

## Garden Waste Collections

Garden waste collections next year will continue from the Spring to Autumn (dates to be confirmed), using the current arrangements, though now your Parish Council must meet the cost. This is expensive, but we listened to those who asked that we maintain the service.

## The Parish Office is Moving

The Parish Office is moving across the road to operate from the shop at Saggars. The move will happen in the New Year, with phone and email details remaining the same.

## Break-ins at the Recreation Ground

It was sad to note that there have now been a number of break-ins at the recreation ground. Theft and damage has caused much pain to the volunteers who run the activities there. Please can users of the rec. be observant and report matters to the police if you see something.

## Thank you and Welcome

Thank you to Denise Morris, Richard Deamer and Tristan Rose, who have recently resigned from the Parish Council. We have appreciated your input and effort. Also to Julia Peachey who resigned after 3 years as Treasurer.

Welcome to Jessica Bowen who replaces Julia as Treasurer, and Joanna Parry, who was co-opted to the council.

Thank you also to: Malcolm Sell and Derrick Giffin, for helping the council repair and maintain the playground in Gaces Acre; Duncan Priest for making a new rubbish bin and installing this at the Croat; Neil Hargreaves for painting the railings on Belmont Hill, and; All residents who helped the council by completing questionnaires and engaging with us during the consultation period of the Uttlesford Development Framework.

And thank you again to Mike, Elaine, Mark, Neil, Sharon, Alan and Ken for making the Carnival and Fête happen, and Ben, and Anthony (amongst others) from the Newport History Group for organising the Heritage Open Days Weekend. **NN**

FLOODING IN THE CROAT, APRIL 29 2012



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