

Itchenor Society defend Village Design Statement

Like many other objectors, the Itchenor Society registered its objection to the recent planning application 07/03799/FUL for the erection of a boat storage barn near Bluegates on Shipton Green Lane.

The Society objected on the grounds that the application went against the guide lines contained within The Village Design Statement regarding important rural gaps. It also stated that to permit commercial development in this location would be contrary to the spirit of the VDS, and would have a detrimental affect upon the whole area.

We have recently been informed that the application has been withdrawn.

Speeding on Village roads

Your Society continues to lobby for safer roads with lower speed limits in Itchenor. We are all aware of the 'white van man' who races through Itchenor or the builder who is late for work on the latest housing project etc. However we must also do our bit and make sure we drive at a safe speed. After enrolling the assistance of Ed Hurn of Northshore to make sure his staff were not exceeding the speed limit we were disappointed to learn from Ed that the Northshore buses are regularly overtaken by Itchenor residents. We are grateful to Roger Smith for illustrating the point *Peter Arnold* Hon Sec



Village tree planting projects

Shipton Green, the shrubs are growing well, although I have to say so are the weeds but we can deal with them later. We are going to make some alterations. We have received an excellent suggestion from Brain Cawley together with the drawings, thank you Brian. The plan is that we increase the width of the grass pathway to about 2 metres.

This plan will:

1. Improve the general appearance of the site.
2. Make it easier for grass cutting and general maintenance.
3. Give the shrubs and opportunity to grow without the need for an early trim.
4. Improve the sight line when driving into the village.

Your committee has agreed to adopt this plan but as always, have asked the conservancy for their opinion and advice. Alison Fowler of the Harbour Conservancy thinks it's an excellent plan and we can re-plant the dislodged shrubs further back but we should not attempt the work until the later part of the year when they have stopped growing. Some dates will be suggested later.

The planting of trees and shrubs near the lay by (the ex. telephone box) area and around the electricity sub.stations should have a further trim. Once again we need a working party and dates later.

The committee have received some correspondence about the dangers of the plant Ragwort. We are advised that it is only harmful to grazing animals and not dogs and cats, it normally survives on open land and does not usually grow in the hedgerows, If the plant is pulled up, it should not be left on the ground as it becomes more harmful but removed altogether an destroyed .For more information, there is an excellent web Site: www.ragwortfacts.com

Some tree related dates for your diary:

An Apple Affair, 13—14th October, West Dean Gardens, Chichester.

Working Party, for the above, village maintenance during week beginning Monday 26th November.

National Tree Week 21st November—2nd December.

Your society supports this, as it's an ideal time to plant more trees, of the right type in the right place.

I will make contact with members and willing helpers in November. *Peter Dean* Tree Warden

Itchenor ' Knits and Knots'

A new society has been formed in Itchenor called ' Knits and Knots'. This is a weekly get-together at the Memorial Hall from 2-4 p.m. each Monday to enable people to meet for sewing/handiwork/knitting etc., with a cup of tea and biscuit and a natter for company and friendship. It is for all inhabitants and friends of Itchenor as we have few 'community' activities with no shop, school etc. Everyone is welcome. The first few meetings have been well attended, friendly and good fun. Any inquiries to Liz Fox (512828) or Di Cawley (512661)

Dates for the diary

This year The Itchenor Society Winter Lunch will be held on Sunday, 3rd February, 2008. Please note the

new venue – Chichester Yacht Club. Unfortunately we cannot use Itchenor Sailing Club as the dining room and kitchens are being refurbished; this can only be good news and we look forward to sampling the delights of the new look club in due course. *Peter Arnold.*

The Itchenor Society AGM will be held on 16th November at the Village Hall when the speaker will be the distinguished diplomat Sir Jeremy Thomas.

Harvest Hymn 2007

We drive around and scatter the carbon in the air.
Our cars are fuelled and watered – with what we don't much care.
Let's build another by-pass, for we hate traffic jams;
We'll close our ears and minds to the coughing of the lambs!

*We love four wheel drive cars; they make a lovely noise!
For we don't care, no we don't care; we just like shiny toys.*

Our holiday's a package; but there's no need to fret:
So cheap is carbon trading, it all can be offset.
The atmospheric carbon, six tonnes or slightly more,
Will do no harm to us for we'll dump it on the poor!

*All good things around us were sent for us to waste.
But we don't care, no we don't care; by this we're all disgraced.*

We read about emissions, for that's what airlines do.
And foreign parts, like China, but it's not me and you.
The TV set's on standby; the Aga's nice and hot.
The air-con's running full blast, for going green's all rot!

*We've got loads of money; we save with Northern Rock!
We do not hear, we do not hear, the ticking of the clock.*

Let's all go down to Tesco, to see what we can buy.
There isn't any meat or fish, so what else can we try?
They're queuing up for milk there; is that a line for flour?
The shelves are nearly bare; let us wait ... another hour.

*All good things around us could only last so long.
We didn't care; we didn't care; so soon our lifestyle's gone.*

Thanks to my friend John Francis of Lamberhurst for allowing us to use his topical version of a well known hymn. *Editor*

Clothes Wanted for St Joseph's

Have you grown tired of the contents of your wardrobe? Fancy a new look? Maybe you find that some of last years clothes appear just a little tight - I find mine shrink in the wardrobe! Do you have old or unwanted bedding? If any of these is a possibility then perhaps you would consider donating the unwanted items to the hostel for Homeless People – St. Joseph's, Hunston Road, Chichester PO20 1NP. St. Joseph's Night Refuge, which takes both women and men, never has less than six occupants on any one night and can take up to sixteen people. There is always a need for clothing, bedding and basic toiletries. If you would like to give me a call I would be only too pleased to collect items and deliver them for you. *Peter Arnold.* Tel: 513721

Torrid tales from the pond

Mayhem madness and murder, can this be Itchenor? Well, yes actually, if one lives near the Church and its adjacent pond:

This week three local residents were killed by a hit and run motorist, the week before another two. Their feathers were later caught by the light wind and taken close to the porch of the church. Rather fitting under the sad circumstances. Itchenor is a great place to walk, to, from and around. Being a country village the roads are narrow and often congested with walkers: mothers and prams, cyclists and of course children. If this year's current crop of mad motorists don't start to slow down to the speed limits that are clearly signed throughout the village it might not be long before a human tragedy occurs and the writer will take no joy in then saying "I told you so", that is of course before then machine gunning all the motorists who speed through the village with their bouncing trailers and squealing tyres.

The pond itself has had a strange year; the feathered wildlife initially came early and then took time out elsewhere returning only in late summer before breeding again and then being run down.

Meanwhile below the surface the two resident carp remained on patrol growing in stature whilst traversing the waters all week from end to end. But what of all the other fish? Although clearly visible during late February and early March they all but vanished from view during the months of April - May - June - July - only reappearing at the very end of August. I realise that we experienced a poor summer with at times tumultuous amounts of rain but why did the fish basically bottom for a season?

Was it just a coincidence that such intensive farming was going on close by, had perhaps so much unexpected rain taken from the fields an excess amount of fertiliser and had this perhaps passed through the pond creating adverse toxic conditions?

The fish reappearing now seem to suggest that this may well be a strong possibility. The village might like to take this question a little further, I in the meantime will continue to risk all on my routine visits to the pond providing of course I am not run over by a selfish speeding lunatic. *Philip Edwards*

Articles for the newsletter

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue, if there is anything you would like to report on that is happening in the village please contact the Editor on 514279.