

# Swanland Parish Council Newsletter July 2010



## Chairman's Letter Summer 2010

Well it's all over for the time being. We are now free of election fever (or is it a sigh of relief) for some time. For the Parish Council though it all starts next year when we are all up for re-election. I hope that this time there will be more enthusiasm for the work of representing the village and there is actually an election because more people have come forward than there are places on the council. The Parish raises money from households through the community charge for projects in the village and there are a number of schemes currently that require financing. As usual there is not enough money to go round and so it is up to your representatives to prioritise by bringing to the table the views of the community. This is essentially what the Parish Council is about and although some of the discussion may seem slightly trivial at times, we do influence strongly the way in which the village develops. The Parish Council is the only way in which the formal views of Swanland can be fed into the debates at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on many matters. I am writing this in the hope that younger people from the village will come forward next year to give us access to a wider range of views of residents in the village. It is easier to give time if you are retired but that is only one section of the whole community. Think about it and if you are interested contact any one of the current members. Their names and e mail addresses are on our website.

I have been away and like many others take my holiday reading with me. This time I happened to have a copy of the autobiography of Barbara Castle, a highly controversial figure in British politics from the past, and someone who was involved the last time we had a minority government. However, the thing that struck me was the work she did as the first female minister of transport and who famously said when appointed "but I cannot drive" which was true. However, we still accept many of the decisions today that she made, such as the imposition of the 70mph speed limit on motorways, the compulsory wearing of seatbelts and the introduction of the breathalyser. All these decisions were vigorously opposed on personal freedom grounds at the time and yet are accepted largely today as common sense. In the 1960's the accident rate on British roads was over 8000 killed when there were a fraction of the cars we have today. This figure compares with 2500 today. It is obvious to those of us that used to drive cars from those times (and some of us still do), that modern cars are far easier to drive and safer. It must be this feeling of invincibility and isolation that enables people to drive in the way that they do and also park just where they feel like without any regard to other road users or pedestrians. It is infuriating to see a driver of a £50,000 car with their mobile phone clamped to their ear exceeding the speed limit at school times when it is obvious that there are children about who are likely to do the unexpected.

There - rant over but we do still have traffic problems and it is almost a year since I wrote about this issue which comes up at Parish Council meetings on a regular basis. If you think that you fit the above description, please take heed and slow down, think of others and even if you are in a hurry, try to park your car where you are not obstructing others who would want to leave their house.

Geoff Chapman

