

Swanland Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2008

A Message from the Chairman:-

So much is happening at the moment it is difficult to know where to start.

We have finally got a decision on the contentious issue of the footpath around the school from the East riding of Yorkshire Council. It has only taken 15 years and finally they have decided that the claim made by the Ramblers Association was not valid and therefore the public right of way does not exist. Needless to say there is a section of the village community that is disappointed but the matter is not resolved because the Ramblers Association has the right of appeal as it was one of their members that made the original claim. It would have been better if the notices for the claim could have been issued and then a decision could have been made once and for all on this matter which has divided opinion in the village for so long. We may now have to wait many more months before the outcome of the deliberations of the Secretary of State and the Inspectorate is known.

A survey of households in the village by the team at county hall looking at School Safety Zones found an overwhelming response in support of measures to improve safety on the roads in the village. Many of the replies referred to areas of the village which had nothing to do with the immediate problem of the quantity and type of cars delivering children to school every morning. The result is that very large flashing yellow signs have been erected in the conservation area, which is contrary to the views of the residents when the last survey was done for the Village Design Statement by the SVA when there was a perceived need to reduce the amount of street clutter and signs. We are all aware of the problems of traffic in the village and the lack of parking for the shops together with the speeding of some vehicles. I am not sure that these problems can be solved by putting up signs without a change in perception of drivers to the danger they are creating and the antisocial nature of some of their actions. For example, how many ignore the double yellow lines at the corner by the post office?

Good wishes for 2008

Geoff Chapman, Chair Swanland Parish Council

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SWANLAND COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Three years ago, Swanland Parish Council prepared a comprehensive list of the skills and equipment that were available within the village, in case there was ever an emergency here that necessitated us having to act for ourselves, before outside help could reach us. The response to our request was very good and we should like to thank all those who supplied us with information.

In addition we asked parishioners to let us know, in confidence, if they would need help if an emergency were to occur and, at the time, nine households gave us their details. If you are infirm and rely totally on electricity for your heating and cooking and there was a prolonged power cut in cold weather - could you cope? If you are worried about this, please let us have your details - better to be safe than sorry!

In addition to the above, we should like to hear from people who can help with the following:

Do you own a Citizen's Band Radio? If power lines and mobile masts are down - you may be the only people who have contact with outside Swanland.

Are you a Radio Amateur enthusiast? You might be able to set up a local communication network.

Do you have a vehicle borne radio - eg Taxi drivers, Public Utility Engineers, etc.?

Do you have any of the following that the Emergency Team could use if needed:

Power saws, Cutting equipment, Winches, Tarpaulins, Rope, Generators, Gas cylinders, Lighting equipment, Heaters - free standing, Snow clearing equipment, Portable water pumps, JCBs. etcetera.

Four rest centres have been designated for use if people need to be evacuated from their homes : St Barnabas Church, Christ Church, Swanland Village Hall and The Scout Hut. If gas supplies to the village were cut off, we should need portable heating and cooking equipment in these. Would you be able to loan these - or cook for others in your own home?

We are not likely to have a train crash here nor to have flash floods but your Parish Council feel that we should be prepared to cope with any emergency, should it ever occur in Swanland. Please help us to help you.

So, if you can offer help or would need help, please give your details to any ward councillor, or drop them in to Mere House (opposite the pond). We need to know your name, address, telephone number (+ mobile if possible) and what skills and/or you could offer or what help you would need.

Thank you, in advance.

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Environmental Issues

The Pond

The Parish Council is making progress on the development and improvement of the pond. The water has been very low recently but the green colour has now disappeared for the winter. In places you can see the bottom, which is not a pretty sight when so much rubbish is put into the water or blows in from the road. In principle we want to introduce more plants, which will improve the balance of the environment so that the pond, in the longer term, will become more self sustaining.

Hedges & Wildlife

We would like to remind you that between March 1st and September 30th bird's nests should not be disturbed, and that birds and their nests **MUST** not be harmed or interfered with during the breeding season [Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981]

Also please take extra care to check for wildlife when doing any work on hedges trees etc.