

# Colehillclarion

Local news from Colehill Parish Council

## Welcome to the latest news from the parish

## News in Brief

My first 6 months in office have been the busiest that I can remember since joining the Parish Council ten years ago. The **Window on Colehill** event was a joint project with St. Michael's Church. It gave local people the opportunity to find out what's going on locally and for clubs and societies to encourage new members. In August, on a perfect summer's day, we held the first ever **Colehill Country Fair**, which was a successful event for the community and incidentally made £1,000 for The Reef rebuilding project.

At a meeting held at EDDC, County Council officers submitted the results of their post-installation audits on the **Traffic Calming** and faced questions from the public. At a public meeting on the **Colehill Allotments Project** most people were in favour of what should be a significant community asset.

We have also obtained competitive tenders for new play equipment at Oliver's Park and have now chosen a design (see article below). Local children can look forward to putting the new equipment through its paces in the New Year! Also during this busy period the Parish Council has liaised with the District Council and agreed to raise £200,000 to part-fund the **Colehill and Wimborne Youth and Community Centre (The Reef)**. Whew! And it's still only Autumn!

**KD Johnson, Chairman**

## Play Park gets new equipment

The children of Colehill will soon be benefiting from a fabulous new piece of equipment that is being installed at Oliver's Park, replacing the worn-out multi-play activity unit. The new activity unit is being part-funded through Dorset County Council's Playbuilder Programme and half the £20,000 grant has already been received, with the final instalment following in March 2010.

As part of the consultation process, which started in August, local children were presented with 4 different designs. The children, some as young as 5 years old, were given coloured stickers and asked to vote for their favourite piece and for their favourite feature on any of the drawings. 45 children voted in the survey on the 26th September when a clear favourite emerged. Playdale Playgrounds have officially been awarded the contract to supply the multi-activity unit and work to install the equipment will probably take place in January 2010.

Many of the children were accompanied by their parents, who were not eligible to vote, and it gave the chairman of the Parish Council the opportunity to explain the Council's plans to thin, crown-lift and coppice some of the tall trees in Churchmoor Copse that overshadow the park. This will allow more light and sunshine into the play area, particularly during the winter months, making it a much more pleasant park for children and families to enjoy. This work will take place on the 17th, 18th and 19th of November, prior to the installation of the new equipment (see illustration on following page).

## New Cycle Path

To be delivered under the Safe Routes to School programme by DCC

## Traffic Calming

Love them or hate them, the controversial reversed chicanes have worked

## Regional Spatial Strategy

Latest update on plans for housing development in East Dorset.

## Exception Sites

Land on the edge of the green belt could be identified for affordable housing

## Dream Gets Closer

Funding stream for The Reef makes the re-building of Youth Centre a reality

## Allotments

Parish Council to apply for planning permission

## Local Government

Parish, District and County. Who does what?

## General Election

Exercise your franchise, make sure you are registered to vote

Not in My Neighbourhood Week  
2nd to 6th November



Get involved!



[www.nhwdorset.org.uk](http://www.nhwdorset.org.uk)

Keep up-to-date with events in Colehill  
[www.colehill.gov.uk](http://www.colehill.gov.uk)

## Airport Noise Action Plan



Residents have been expressing concern over the noise levels of aircraft taking off and landing at Bournemouth Airport. The potential for development and expansion at the airport as the economy picks up has resulted in close consultation between Colehill Parish Council (CPC) and the PR and Commercial Manager at Bournemouth Airport, Sally Windsor.

The prevalent take-off path is East to West with aircraft often banking over Colehill. The Parish Council has asked if this route is inevitable and if the airport would be willing to conduct a noise survey at Colehill for a period to establish the impact. Permitted noise levels at Bournemouth Airport are capped at 3100DB but are currently standing at 820DB. CPC has asked if the permitted levels will be reached in 2010 with the increase of use and if not, when they expect the levels to be reached. Bournemouth Airport has a policy in favour of aircraft with quieter engines and with new operators joining, the Council has asked for reassurances that this policy will remain in force.

CPC has also asked for reassurances regarding night flight restrictions, particularly take-offs between 10pm and 8am. Although this is a noise action plan only, the airport has been asked to look into air pollution as well but it is expected that this will easily be offset by the reduction in road travel to airports such as Heathrow and Gatwick.

Colehill Parish Council is inviting a representative from Bournemouth Airport to attend a Parish Council meeting where the views of the Parish Council and residents can be expressed.

## Village Street Lights

Streetlights are being replaced by the County Council throughout Dorset to bring the lighting up to new mandatory standards: the current improvements in Colehill are very welcome. However, the Parish Council still remains responsible for 25 lights and a recent offer from DCC to take over responsibility for maintenance and energy costs simply couldn't be refused. The Parish Council will draw on its reserves to pay for the replacements. As interest rates are so low at the moment this decision halves the net cost over the next 5-year period: after that the cost to the Parish will be nil. Thank you, County!

## Pedal Power Rules! New Cycle Path for Colehill

A new cycle path is to be delivered under the Safe Routes to School programme by Dorset County Council. The cycle path will provide safe and direct passage for walkers and cyclists from Middlehill Road, through Kyrchil Corner and Triangle Wood to the entrance to St Michael's School.



Head Teacher, Paul Nation, is keen that pupils can walk and cycle to and from school and actively promotes the cycling culture within St Michael's. Active travel is recognised as being most appropriate for short journeys, because it reduces traffic congestion and promotes healthy lifestyles. We are all well aware that the school experiences acute car traffic problems and this scheme should encourage more parents to allow their children to walk or cycle to school.

During the summer a suitable route was identified with Colehill Parish Council's Cllr. Joe Kingsmill, formerly of The Forestry Commission. Dorset Wildlife's ecologist produced a report on local habitat present in the wood and is recommending how it can be protected and promoted by the path. The ecologist has also been in contact with teachers at St. Michael's, so that the report can be expanded to include educational elements for the benefit of the pupils.

The proposed path will be approximately 2.5m wide, varying as it turns through the trees. With a tar-bound base, the path will have a gravel-dust surface and will be edged with logs. The path will be laid after the New Year, before the bird nesting season in March. There will be improvements to the two existing crossing points over Wimborne Road and Colehill Lane.

## Ghosts and Ghoulies, it's Halloween!

Lots of people like to dress up and have fun on Halloween but for some people, especially the elderly and those living on their own, it can be quite distressing. Have fun but here's some advice from Colehill Safer Neighbourhood Team.

- Make sure that a parent or guardian knows where you are – trick or treaters should always have adult supervision
- We recommend that you only call on friends, family or neighbours and ideally this should be arranged in advance
- Respect the rights of those who do not want to take part
- Do not accept money and be grateful for any treats
- We recommend that you do not play tricks on people – these can be frightening and could even be a criminal offence



Finally, Dorset Police will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour



Hey, let's play!

## Raising The Roof of The Reef – Funding Success Brings Reality Ever Closer!

In a funding partnership between Colehill Parish Council and East Dorset District Council, the project to rebuild The Reef Community Centre for Colehill and Wimborne is set to receive a £200,000 BOOST!

Colehill Parish Council has agreed to borrow £200,000 from the Public Works Loan Board and East Dorset DC has now finalised the terms for repayment of the sum over a 50 year period. This support from EDDC, in the form of a binding agreement, will mean that the cost of the loan will be met in full by the District Council. The funding committee of The Reef, chaired by local businessman David Topping, will now be in a position to apply for grant funding to enable it to reach the £½ million building costs. David said, “External funders have been reluctant to commit funds until over 50% of the total had been reached. This loan, together with the £80,000 that The Colehill and Wimborne Youth and Community Centre charity has already raised in donations and pledges, means we are well placed to secure the balance to get this project underway. This is a great day for the youth and wider community of Colehill, Wimborne and surrounding areas.”

Colehill Parish Council has been a vociferous supporter of this project since the outset. As well as its annual grant to The Reef, Colehill PC recently made a further donation of £20,000 to the rebuilding project. Chairman, KD Johnson, said the Parish Council was delighted that a solution had been found to the funding issue relating to The Reef. “To have this wonderful, purpose-built facility in our community will be a fantastic asset for all of us who live here and in particular for the young people of Colehill and Wimborne.”

The final stage is that the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils now has to make an application for approval directly to the Secretary of State. Once approved, which could take a further 8 weeks, the project can start gathering some real momentum. It was recognised as long ago as 1989 that a purpose-built centre was needed for the young people of Colehill. The Reef, run in the former caretaker’s bungalow adjacent to St Michael’s School, is at capacity. After an exhaustive search for a suitable plot it was decided to re-develop the current site and the plans for the 2-storey building were drawn up. The new building will have separate access to both floors, increasing the opportunity for the whole community to use the wonderful facilities that will be available.

County Cllr. Janet Dover said, “I am so pleased that all the hard work by the Parish and District Council, young people, volunteers and the community will mean that the new building will become a reality, hopefully in 2010”.

After more than 20 years, a few more months are well worth the wait.



This year’s Colehill Country Fair raised £1,000.00 for The Reef. Chairman, Cllr. KD Johnson is seen here donating a cheque to David Topping, centre. Also present are (L-R) Norma Aitcheson, John Spatchett and County Cllr. Janet Dover.

## Reversed Chicanes- They have Worked!

Love them or hate them but the controversial “reversed chicanes” have definitely slowed the traffic down. Surveys were carried out in June 2009 at the same 7 sites, during the same week as in June 2007. At all 7 sites the speed of traffic has significantly reduced with the number of vehicles travelling within the 30mph speed limit up from 28% in June 2007 to 41% in June 2009. Another benefit has been the overall reduction in the volume of traffic using Middlehill Road and Smugglers Lane.

There are still some areas of concern and Dorset County Council has acknowledged that these need to be addressed, mainly the visibility of signs and distance between calming features.

A number of residents have also raised again the issue of a pedestrian crossing near Howell House. This wasn’t included in the scheme as pedestrian numbers were considered too low. However, the Parish Council has asked for this to be reconsidered and there may be the opportunity to link a crossing point on Middlehill Road with the new cycle path.

There is no doubt that the traffic calming has made a positive contribution to road safety in the Parish and its effects will continue to be monitored. With the new cycle path due for completion by March 2010, Colehill will be a much safer and even more pleasant place to live. Some irresponsible drivers still think it is acceptable to travel through our village at over 45mph: it isn’t. As motorists, we have to take responsibility for the way we drive our vehicles and the speed at which we travel.

## The Colehill Blog!

Have your say: we would like to hear your views on local issues, events, fund raising, personal achievements. We also want to give a voice to the younger members of our community so age is no barrier! Name and address must be supplied: we will not consider anonymous correspondence. Contact the Editor at [info@colehill.gov.uk](mailto:info@colehill.gov.uk) or write to CPC, 1 Hornbeam Way, Colehill, BH21 2QE Tel: 01202 887786

**Editor:** Susan Davies

**Editorial Committee:** Keith Baker, KD Johnson, David Packer

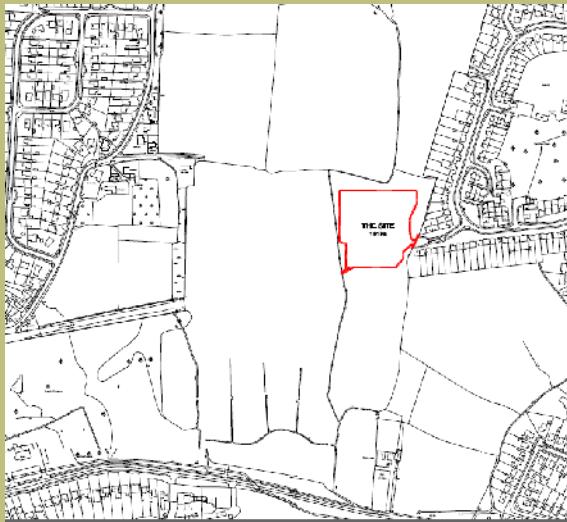
**Parish Clerk:** Tracey Paine

# Allotments planned for By-the-Way

At a public meeting held in the Memorial Hall in September, the Parish Council had the opportunity to explain its plans for allotments on the north-east side of the land known locally as By-the-Way.

Under the 1908 Land Act, the Parish Council has a statutory responsibility to consider providing allotments if more than 6 people have requested them. Colehill currently has 54 people on the waiting list, 38 of them resident within the Parish with the other applicants from surrounding areas. Over the last two years the Parish Council has looked at numerous plots of land that were thought suitable for development into allotments but came up against many difficulties. Most of the land available is owned by developers or other institutions and all proved reluctant to sell or offered short-term leases that made them non-viable from the outset. It was East Dorset District Council that suggested the land at By-the-Way and the small plot under consideration has been offered to the Parish at a peppercorn rent.

Two ecological surveys have been carried out on the proposed site and there are arguments for and against developing the area. Although the site lies within the green belt, it is not part of any conservation area and until 10 years ago was productive farmland. The Parish Council is determined to work closely with EDDC and will take advice from experts on the local flora and fauna and the least disruptive way of developing the allotment gardens.



Many residents have expressed concern about access onto the proposed site, particularly those with properties backing onto the area. In recent years, local residents have had their lives interrupted by travellers gaining access to the land from Leigh Road but this problem has been addressed by EDDC. These concerns will be taken into consideration should the development go ahead, with height restrictions on access, locked gates, banks and ditches built to prevent vehicular access and the car park available to permit holders only.

While we have a duty to provide allotments, they should also be seen as a project for the whole community to enjoy. They will promote a healthy lifestyle, bringing people together and encouraging children and young people to take an interest in how their food is produced and how best to look after the environment in which they live. In a straw poll taken at the public meeting, the overwhelming majority were in favour of the allotments at By-the-Way. The Parish Council will be making a planning application in the New Year to develop the site.

**Comment:** The By-the-Way fields occupy a large area and should be enjoyed by all of us fortunate enough to live here. The site proposed for development occupies a very small part of this vast field and whilst residents have concerns, the Parish Council has offered every assurance that the site will be developed sympathetically and residents consulted along the way. There is plenty of space for dog walkers, local residents and children to share the land with someone who wants to grow a few vegetables!

## Regional Spatial Strategy

Probably no other issue has raised so much concern in Colehill as the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West. It was eventually due to be published at the end of June 2009. So where is it? The Regional Assembly first issued a draft in 2006, after which there were more than 35,000 objections to the proposal for more housing in South East Dorset. A legal challenge was made by the East of England region and on 20th May 2009 the High Court ruled that some of the proposals in their RSS were chosen without looking at alternative options. A precedent had been set.

Ministers were forced to ask whether the SW RSS was soundly enough based to withstand a challenge and it was announced on 25th September 2009, through the Government Office of the South West, that they would look again at the Sustainability Appraisal of the SW RSS. The new Appraisal is expected to be completed early in the New Year.

Government still insists that the draft RSS proposals are a material consideration in judging planning applications. There is a danger that developers could try to step into this vacuum and push their plans. For this reason the District Council is preparing its own Core Strategy and in the meantime, the Council has made clear its continued opposition to the very principle of the urban extensions. A change of strategy after the next general election could be on the cards: we shall just have to wait and see.

## Exception Sites, what are they?

Although there is a presumption against development in the Green Belt, a proven local housing need means the Council can look at the suitability for development of a particular site on the edge of villages. The sites are typically for no more than 6 – 8 dwellings, providing housing for local people needing to be close to their place of work. They would generally be purchased by a housing association and the dwellings managed as rented accommodation: they would not be allowed to be sold on the open market. The emphasis is to provide homes for local people only, with strict criteria having to be met. No Exception Site moves ahead without a great deal of local consultation. These small, sympathetic developments must be the way ahead for the expansion of our villages. Families, young people and the elderly should be given every opportunity to retain ties with their local community.

## Are you registered?

East Dorset District Council is currently carrying out the annual canvass to the register of electors. To date they have received back 75% of their canvass forms. Reminder forms will be sent in mid October, followed up by a door-to-door canvass to those properties who have not returned a form by the beginning of November. It is important that forms are completed and returned to the Elections Office as soon as possible for inclusion on the new register, which is to be published on 1st December 2009. If there are no changes to the details printed on the form then you are able to use the free-phone or internet service. Full details of the service are included on your form.

### Why Register?

If you are not on the Register then you will not be able to vote. By law, a general election must take place by 3 June 2010. You will have to be registered ten working days before the date of the election to be able to vote. This deadline also applies to people wishing to apply for a postal vote. To ensure you are registered and don't miss the deadline please register now. Information on registering or postal voting can be found at [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) or call the Elections Office direct at East Dorset District Council on 01202 639061 who will also be happy to confirm your registration.

The Register can also be used to confirm your address if you apply for a mortgage or other forms of credit. Even if you have a good credit score you could be refused if you're not registered.



## Fly Tipping, don't dump your waste in our back yard!

If there's one thing that really pushes up the blood pressure at Parish Council meetings it's the number of incidences of fly tipping. Washing machines, fridges, televisions, bikes, mattresses, bathtubs, old clothes, garden waste – the list just goes on and on!

Under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act, it is a criminal offence to fly-tip and we have a duty to report incidences and to be prepared to act as witnesses if we are to see these anti-social individuals successfully prosecuted. EDDC has a team on the road every Monday clearing dumped household rubbish. Why should local tax payers money be used to clear up the rubbish that people think acceptable to dump on our roadsides? This rubbish is unsightly, a lot of it is hazardous, attracts vermin and has a detrimental effect on the environment. The dumping of garden material spreads diseases, encourages growth of invasive species and disturbs the sensitive ecology of our native woodlands. It must stop!

If you contract a firm or individual to remove your waste it is your responsibility to ensure that the person holds a Waste Carriers license. You could find yourself being prosecuted if you use an un-licensed contractor who then fly-tips your rubbish. From October, Dorset County Council is relaxing the restrictions on contractors and individuals using local authority tips, with some commercial vehicles and vans being allowed access to these sites. To report fly-tipping please ring EDDC on 01202 886201 and ask for Technical Services: you can also call the local police. Fly tipping is a CRIME punishable by up to 5 years in prison!

## Local Government, who does what?

We are often asked the question, "What do you actually do?", so here goes. There are three levels: **Dorset County Council**; **East Dorset District Council**; **Colehill Parish Council**, all looking after the interests of your local community. Now for the "science bit".

**The Parish Council** is the part of local government that is closest to the community it serves. More urban councils are known as town councils and will have a mayor at the helm as in Wimborne. Colehill civil parish is classed as a semi-rural area and although larger in area and population than our near neighbour at the bottom of the hill, has a council chairman, rather than a mayor. There is no difference in authority or powers and members are elected as councillors from the local populace and serve for a period of four years. The main advantage of this level of council is that members live within the community, have real local knowledge and understand residents' concerns about things that affect the quality of our lives. The work of the Parish Council is financed by the precept levied through the district council. It is not affiliated to any political party and anyone can stand for office: Parish Councillors are unpaid and work on a strictly voluntary basis.



The next tier of local government is **East Dorset District Council** and the elected members stand under a political party banner or as an independent: the majority party leads the council. District Council is responsible for control of building regulations and local planning, social housing, tourism, refuse collection and environmental health, to name just a few of the services covered. District Councillors are elected every four years and receive payment and expenses for their work. They are quite separate from the paid professional officers who work under the directorship of the chief executive.



The third tier of local government is **Dorset County Council**, based in Dorchester. It covers an area 270,000 hectares and has a population of over 700,000 people. This area includes land for public access, recreation and general amenity purposes; over 3,500 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways; over 2,000 bridges spanning rivers and streams. The County Council is the region's link with central government, which provides capital from general taxation to help finance the work of the County Council. The County Council also receives funding from local taxation, the council tax. The County Councillors stand for election every four years under a political banner or as an independent. County Councillors are dependent on the paid professional officers who supply advice and information based on their experience and knowledge of the region. They receive payment and expenses for their work.



# Dates for your diary

## November Events

**7 Fireworks**, St. Michael's School

**8 Remembrance Parade** 10.15am

St. Michael's Church to War Memorial

**14 Wimborne in Bloom Charities Fair**

Allendale Centre, 10am - 4pm

**28 Christmas Tree and Lights** 5pm

St. Michael's Church

**Christmas Market** 5pm – 7pm

St. Michael's Church

**Christmas Lights, Wimborne** 3.30pm

**Barn Dance** 7.30pm – 11.30pm

Allendale Centre in aid of The Reef

Tickets from Square Records or Minster

Parish Office £7.00 in advance with supper,  
£6.00 on door, dance only

## December Events

**12 Christmas Parade, Wimborne**

2.15pm in aid of Save the Children

**13 Carols around the tree** 5pm - 6pm

St. Michael's Church

**16 Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs**

Tivoli Theatre until 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**18 Carol Concert** 6pm

Cornmarket, Wimborne

## February Events 2010

**5-7 Rumpelstiltskin Panto CoMad**

Colehill Memorial Hall

## Parish Council Meetings

### 2009/10

#### November

**3** Highways & Plans

**10** Finance

**20** Chairman's Reception

**24** Highways & Plans

#### December

**8** Council (Precept)

**15** Highways & Plans

#### January

**12** Highways & Plans, Finance

**26** Council

#### February

**2** Highways & Plans

**23** Highways & Plans, Finance

#### March

**9** Council

**16** Highways & Plans

#### April

**6** Highways & Plans

**13** Finance (Grants)

**20** Annual Parish Meeting,  
Council

**27** Highways & Plans

**Public welcome at all meetings**

## Colehill Country Fair 2010

### Sunday 15 August St. Michael's School

The first Colehill Country Fair held this August was so successful that we've decided to do it again! The fair, held in the grounds of St. Michael's School, attracted over 800 visitors and bought together all sections of the community in a celebration of the best of Dorset produce.

We want to build the fair into an annual event with the reputation of promoting ONLY arts, crafts and food that is made, produced and grown in our beautiful county. If you are a genuine artisan and would like to show your products to the people of Colehill and surrounding areas and to the many visitors to our region, please contact the organisers on

**01202 842311 or email: [countryfair@colehill.gov.uk](mailto:countryfair@colehill.gov.uk)**