



Colehill Clarion

Issue 8 Spring/Summer 2012 Tel: 887786

Local news from Colehill Parish Council



New Pedal-Power for our Local Police

Local Police Officers and PCSO's recently took delivery of their new bikes, which will enable them to continue their bicycle Patrols of Colehill, Wimborne and surrounding areas. This was all made possible by donations made by Colehill Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch, Wimborne Town Council and local cycle shop owners, Mark and Andrew Samway.

Pc Steve Brett, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, said they were all very appreciative of the continuing support they receive from the community.

In this edition
Allotment Gardens

Page 3

NO to Gypsy and
Traveller site at
Uddens

Page 4

Open Gardens

Page 8

Canford Bottom
progress report

Page 10

Housing - update
on Strategic Plan

Page 12

Library to be run
by Community

Page 13

Open Learning
Centre at Priest's
House Museum

Page 14

Support The Reef

Page 15

Big JUBILEE Bike
Ride & BBQ

Back Page

www.colehill.gov.uk
www.twitter.com/colehillnews

Message from the Chairman



David Mitchell

2012 has got off to a brisk start for Colehill. We have been unintentionally 'cut off' by roadworks and been given much cause for thought in our own backyard with Dorset County Council proposals for a possible gypsy and traveller site at Uddens. This idea has been vehemently opposed by Colehill Parish Council and the Council has received full hearted support from East Dorset's Environmental Theme Action Group, Dorset Wildlife Trust and the many residents who use the area for walking, riding, cycling and general appreciation of the countryside. In taking this stand we have joined with the residents of Stapehill who would find themselves on the front line if the plan were to succeed.

Quite apart from the many ecological and environmental reasons that make the idea a nonsense, the social impact for us all at Colehill and Stapehill would be enormous. So watch this space! We will be tackling the idea head-on on behalf of many people who have an opinion that must be heard. Do not be afraid to make your own feelings known by writing to the Planning Officers at East Dorset District Council who ultimately will have to make the decisions.

On a happier note we are making progress towards the Colehill Library becoming 'The Colehill Community Library'. The business plan required by Dorset County Council has been submitted and we have good reason to hope that it will have been favourably received when considered on 7th March. To back up that plan, and as a step to making the idea a reality, a management team has taken its first steps towards what we would hope could be a smooth transition from Council control to Community control. It is hoped that in due course the many volunteers who stepped forward can be invited into the running process which could see the library not only continue to thrive but to expand into a useful community hub for all residents.

On a final cautionary note can I please ask all residents to be vigilant on behalf of the older and vulnerable amongst us? With the

/continued page 3

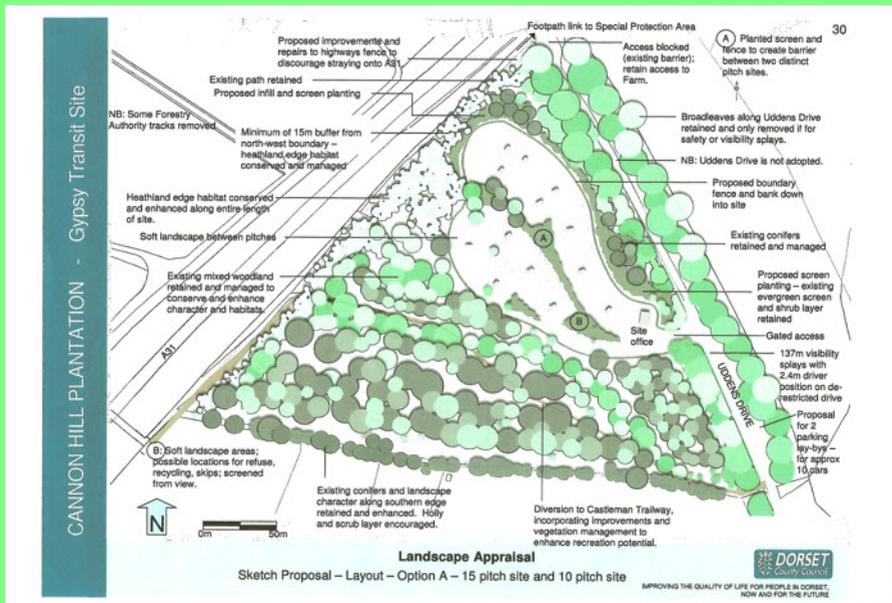
Gypsy & Traveller Site at Uddens

Dorset County Council is keen to establish another transit site for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People. It already operates three sites at Thornicombe (Blandford), Wareham, and Enterprise Park (Dorchester). The existence of such sites enables the Police to move gypsies and travellers on from unauthorised locations under Section 62A of the Criminal Justice Act without resorting to the Courts, which takes a considerable time. Baker Associates, working for the seven councils in Dorset, has identified eight possible sites in East Dorset all of which are incidentally in the Green Belt. The one favoured by DCC is Uddens (Cannon Hill) Plantation in Colehill and Stapehill parishes.

More than 250 residents gathered at the Memorial Hall, Colehill, on 17 February to hear of the grounds on which they could rationally object to the proposed plan. These were very clearly set out by Hilary Chittenden, leader of the East Dorset Environmental Theme Action Group (ETAG). Principally, there is the question of **Sustainability**: whether the site has been properly considered with respect to the amenities of the local residents as well as the intended occupants.



Gypsy & Traveller Site at Uddens



In addition there is the **Suitability**: there are no schools, medical facilities, shops etc. in the vicinity. Thirdly, there is the loss of **Open Green Space**, which is widely used by the local population for recreation. And lastly there are **Environmental and Ecological** factors: the adverse hydrological conditions, the proximity to heathland – which itself is protected – and the impact on the many varieties of flora and fauna.

Residents are strongly urged to write to the East Dorset District Council with reasoned arguments for opposing (or supporting) the proposed development. Notwithstanding Dorset County Council's interest in the site it will be the District Council's decision whether it will be included in the Development Plan Document for Consultation in July to September 2012. Following this, and any amendments to the DPD, there will be an Examination in Public by a government inspector in November 2013. Clearly, there are many opportunities for residents to make their views known.

You can write to Steve Duckett, Head of Public Health & Planning, EDDC or email sduckett@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

Community



Colehill Pharmacy on Middlehill Road has been an essential part of our community for 20 years and is owned and run by Geoffrey Tan who recalls taking his 3 month old daughter “to work” when he first opened the pharmacy in 1992. Long-standing customers still go into the shop and ask “how is your baby daughter?” and she’s now 20 years old!

The pharmacy offers a FREE collection and delivery prescription service, particularly useful for those who are unable or too infirm to pick up their medicines themselves. It is very simple for you to arrange with your GP practice to have your prescriptions automatically sent to Colehill Pharmacy for dispensing or you can take your repeat prescriptions into the pharmacy itself, and a couple of days later your prescription will be ready for collection.

Mr Tan offers a variety of services such as one-to one smoking advice, chlamydia tests, health checks including blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol tests and medication use reviews. The warm, friendly service that Mr Tan and his staff offer is invaluable to our community. To ensure that we continue to enjoy this vital service in Colehill please support this small, family run pharmacy and with FREE parking it’s so much more convenient to “shop” locally.

If you need any help or advice please contact Mr Tan on 01202 888001 or email colehillrx@gmail.com

Put a spring in your step

If you are a keen walker or cyclist and would like to share your enthusiasm with others, why not consider becoming a Volunteer Health Walk or Cycle Leader? As part of the Activate 1000 scheme, Moors Valley is very keen to start up some Health Walks and Cycle Rides in Colehill



and offer FREE training courses for all leaders. If you are interested in helping the people of Colehill get fit and enjoy the delights of the local countryside, please contact the Rangers on 01425 470721 or email activate1000@eastdorset.gov.uk

Vandalism - see anything suspicious?

For the second time this year the parish noticeboard on Leigh Lane has been vandalised. The original glass panel was smashed and replaced just a month ago with a perspex one. This, too, has been broken resulting in a second replacement having to be purchased.

Rather disturbingly, the bench on the Parmiter Estate at Leigh Road has been seriously damaged and will have to be removed as it is unsafe for anyone to sit on. It is suspected that a person or persons unknown may have tried to steal the seat for the ironwork and the bottom spars were cut through.



All these repairs have to be paid for out of your money, the precept you pay to Colehill Parish Council. If you see anything suspicious or have any information regarding these incidents please call Dorset Police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

Adopt-a-road scheme



Would you and your neighbours be prepared to "adopt-a-road" and help keep the paths and hedges litter-free? Despite the best efforts of EDDC's street cleaning team, they can't always reach the rubbish that gets lodged under garden hedges. The Parish Council can loan groups litter pickers so if you'd like to smarten up your corner of Colehill, please let us know.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Applications are invited from any person who wishes to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council. Forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs T Paine

Tel: 01202 887786.

Closing date for applications: 4 May 2012.

You will be invited to an informal discussion on 8 May

Colehill Gardens Gadabout

After the long, dull days of winter, albeit a reasonably mild one this year, what could be nicer to look forward to than a weekend dedicated to the wonders of gardening in Colehill?



Keen gardener and member of the Hardy Plant Society, Barbara Gooch, came up with the concept of Colehill having its very own "open gardens" scheme. Many fellow garden enthusiasts stepped up to the plate and Colehill Gardens Gadabout was born. Barbara and her team of "show gardeners" decided to use this fabulous event to raise funds for The Colehill &

Wimborne Youth & Community Centre, known more familiarly as The Reef.

Tickets are just £5.00 each and will cover visits on both days. Each visitor will be given a list of participating gardens and a location map, so not only will you be able to enjoy the secret gardens of Colehill you can also have fun on your very own magical, mystery tour of the village.

Refreshments will be available on both days and can be purchased from St Michael's Church Hall and from Colehill Memorial Hall. Free Parking will be available at both St Michael's School, Colehill Lane and at The Memorial Hall, Cannon Hill Road.

If you have a garden you are particularly proud of and would like to add it to the list or would like to help with the refreshments, please contact Barbara Gooch on 01202 882590 or email bgooch@talktalk.net

Tickets can be purchased on the day from The Reef Youth Centre, Colehill Lane or from Colehill Memorial Hall, Cannon Hill Road. If you would like further information please go to the website at www.colehill.gov.uk or telephone 01202 882590



COLEHILL GARDENS GADABOUT

SATURDAY, 30th JUNE
& SUNDAY, 1st JULY
from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

16 gardens to enjoy
£5

for both days (under 16s free)

Refreshments

Plant sales

Free parking

Tickets from The Reef Youth Centre, Colehill Lane BH21 7AB
or Colehill Memorial Hall, Cannon Hill Road BH21 2LR

in
support
of



See www.colehill.gov.uk
or tel: 882590

Canford Bottom Progress Report

A31 Canford Bottom junction improvement scheme

Work to improve the A31 Canford Bottom junction between Fern-down and Wimborne in Dorset is progressing well and is on schedule to be completed in June 2012.

One of the busiest junctions on the A31, Canford Bottom has historically experienced significant congestion at peak times and weekends, resulting in long traffic queues on the approaches to the junction. This scheme aims to reduce congestion both for the A31 and local roads, to improve traffic flow, and to make the junction safer.

The introduction of traffic signals and creation of a section of dual carriageway through the centre of the roundabout will maximise capacity and optimise traffic flow at the junction. Pedestrians and cyclists will benefit from a toucan crossing which will be installed through the centre of the junction, linking Wimborne Road West either side of the A31.



The main work on the scheme began in October 2011, and involved site clearance activities, earthworks to reduce the level of the roundabout, and work to divert all services for electrics, water, telecommunications and gas supplies.

Since the beginning of February work has involved constructing the new dual carriageway, diverting the drainage systems, and modifying the level of the existing roundabout carriageway to enable the new dual carriageway section to be constructed through the centre of the junction.

During this part of the work it has been necessary to close the four local roads where they meet the roundabout. These closures

Canford Bottom Progress Report

have been phased and the closure period reduced to minimise disruption as far as possible. These closures are due to finish on 23 March. The remaining work will involve installing the traffic lights, completing the landscaping and finishing the footpath work on the junction.

Since the work began, the A31 has remained open during the day and, during February, traffic travelling on the A31 through the junction has been using the new section of dual carriageway. There will continue to be some overnight closures of the A31 as the work progresses; these will be publicised in advance.



Two local councils have taken advantage of our road closures to carry out work they have planned to help the local community. Ferndown Town Council has refurbished a bus shelter on Wimborne Road West (Ferndown side), and Dorset County Council is installing a new cycleway in Ham Lane.

Project staff would like to thank the local community for their patience during the work. For further information about the scheme please visit the project page on the Highways Agency website: www.highways.gov.uk/a31canfordbottom

Dorset Police

Wimborne Police Station has been saved from closure but the opening hours have been considerably reduced. The enquiry office will now be operational on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1000 - 1800, closing between 1330 and 1430. Ferndown Police Station will be open Monday to Friday, 0800 - 1600: closed Saturday and Sunday.

Core Strategy/Housing & Planning

There is a need for East Dorset District Council to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) now that the Regional Spatial Strategy imposed by the previous government some 6 years ago is null and void. Without it the district could be prey to developers who could win their planning applications by Appeal, and this would be the worst of all worlds. In contrast the LDF, and Core Strategy behind it, is based on local requirements and aspirations, not some regional myth or purely commercial advantage. It includes considerations of employment, transport etc. and an updated estimate of the need for affordable housing.

A considerable amount of work has gone into the Core Strategy, starting with a consultative paper on **Issues & Options (2008)** and **Options for Consideration (2010)** – with over 3,000 and 21,000 individual responses being received. The latest document is the **Draft Core Strategy**: draft because it is the vehicle for further consultations.

The District Council took the opportunity on 1st February to hold a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in public at the Barrington Theatre, Ferndown. Twenty members of the public, representing a wide variety of views, addressed the committee, before it took the decision to recommend the **Draft Core Strategy** to the main Council. It has to be emphasised that the recommendation was only that the document was fit for the purpose of consultation. At a Special Meeting of Council on 5th March 2012 the **Draft Core Strategy**, amended in the light of public comment, was endorsed and again put out for consultation with the public from 2nd April to 25th June 2012. To make your views known to the Planners see the Draft Core Strategy document at www.dorsetforyou/348323 and, in particular, the pro-forma for submissions. Copies are also available at the local libraries and council offices. We urge you to respond.

Following feedback from the consultation period a **Submission Document** will be prepared and will be subject to further debate before being submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2012. It is expected that there will be an Examination in Public by a

/continued page 13

Colehill Community Library

Library gets the green light

In the last "Clarion" we asked you to help save Colehill Library. And you answered in the affirmative, which gave the Council the go-ahead to increase the council tax precept to fund running Colehill Library with volunteers.

The Business Plan was prepared and a Colehill Community Library committee set-up, with John Gooch as chairman and David Ward as vice-chairman, with assistance from the chairman of Friends of Colehill Library, Derek Henderson. On March 7th, Dorset County Council approved the programme. There is a great deal of training to be done, starting in May, and much to be learnt before the volunteers take over the Library probably from September 2012.

Colehill Community Library committee sends a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the library and look forward to meeting as many as possible at the Library Launch event on March 30th.

Throughout this difficult time our librarians, Angela and Kathryn, have continued to be helpful to all who use the library and ensure that the environment is pleasant and appealing. We were all delighted when they were presented with the Dorset Pride award for Outstanding Customer service and will be sorry to have to say good-bye to them later this year.

/continued from page 12 - Core Strategy

government inspector in about May 2013 and possible adoption in the autumn of 2013.

There is no doubt that many of the proposals are far-reaching and therefore controversial. However, it must be remembered that the Core Strategy and the LDF are attempting to set comprehensive planning strategy and policies for the period up to 2028. It could never be a recipe for the status quo. There is ample opportunity for the public to engage in the consultation, road shows and exhibitions. It is the future of your local area that is at stake.

Priest's House Museum

New Learning Centre Opens

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Priest's House Museum & Garden in Wimborne Minster. On the 31 July 1962 Hilda Coles opened the museum with Wimborne Historical Society. It was a Tuesday in July when the public were treated to displays of archaeology, unsold shop stock from a stationers, a penny-farthing bicycle previously owned by Lord Wimborne and agricultural tools.

This spring the museum will be opening its new Open Learning Centre (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, charitable foundations, local councils and the generosity of many local people). It will house collection stores, a multi-functional learning space, a



new tearoom and visitor facilities. The new centre will house the museum's collections - a unique resource that is used to deliver lifelong learning and community engagement programmes. It will ensure that the collections are cared for in the right environment. There will also be opportunities for

members of the community to engage with caring for the collections, to receive training and to develop new skills.

The museum wishes not only to provide improved accessible storage, but also to make available more space for the museum's award winning learning service and to improve visitor facilities. This in turn will ease pressure on the main building, as well as freeing up space within it to develop new galleries and to re-interpret the historic building.



The museum works closely with all sectors of the community. The museum currently has over 150 volunteers, whose ages range from 14 to over 90! The Trust particularly wishes to develop stronger links with young people, and people with physical and mental disabilities. It sees the enhancement and development of community participation in the museum through volunteering, learning and family activity programmes as the greatest benefits of the project.

/continued page 15

Parish Precept/Support The Reef

Parish Precept

The Parish Council has made a small increase in the precept for 2012/13 of £1.00 per year or 4.3% making the precept for a Band D property £24.50 per annum.

Following the recent survey of local residents about the library, it has been agreed that an annual charge of £3.50 per household will be made to support it to the sum of £10,500 per year. Therefore, the annual charge to residents in a Band D property will be £28 in this next financial year.

The library received overwhelming support in the recent survey and the Parish Council is delighted that the future of Colehill Library has been secured.

/continued from page14 - Priest's House Museum

The Open Learning Centre will allow the museum to become a cultural centre for Wimborne and the district. It will bring people of all ages, abilities and from differing social groups together. The official opening of the new Learning Centre is in the planning stages but the Museum will be holding a 50th Birthday Party on the 31st July, when invited guests will be able to celebrate this important conservator of our local history and heritage.



The Reef

Despite a setback with a recent funding application, the committee at The Reef is determined to press ahead with plans to build a new youth & community centre in Colehill. Officers at DCC are looking at possible funding streams to see if the final tranche of money can be secured but in the meantime local people can take part in fund raising activities planned for this year.

Two major events taking place locally are the Colehill Gardens Gadabout and The Big Jubilee Bike Ride and BBQ where you can try and raise "£60 for 60".

Details of the Big Jubilee Bike Ride are on the back page.

For further information on the collections or on volunteering, telephone 01202 882533 or email priestshouse@eastdorset.gov.uk



The Big JUBILEE Bike Ride

Sunday 8th July

Raise 60 for 60 in 2012!

**in aid of The Reef Youth Club,
Colehill Lane, Colehill**

Two routes 25miles/10miles

11am leaving from The Reef

Entry Fee: £5.00 adults Under 16's FREE

Reg.Charity: 1120361

£10 to register on the day!

Make a day of it and come along to The Big Jubilee BBQ, a great event for the whole family to enjoy and in support of the rebuilding of a superb community facility

Go to www.virginmoneygiving.com for application form and sponsorship and enter 'Colehill' or 'Reef' in the charity search or email njdavies1@btinternet.com