



Issue No 52
Autumn

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A lot of water has flowed under a lot of bridges since I last wrote in the Herald and a lot has been going on, mainly on the planning front. Sorry if planning is not your thing, but it is important to Hepscott.

The Barratt 'Stobhill South' public inquiry was concluded in July and the latest is that the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, is due to give a decision on the 400 houses on or before 15 December. Don't hold your breath. Planning in the Morpeth area has been thrown into disarray by other decisions. First the Inspector gave the go ahead to Bellway to build 200 houses at Loansdean, a site which drains to the Catch Burn, a head water of the Hepscott Burn and which we opposed on the grounds of increasing flood risk to Hepscott. Next, Northumberland County Council (NCC) gave outline approval to a site at Fairmoor for 250 houses on land earlier earmarked for employment land by the County. Disappointing as this was, at least it is in the north of the town. Without a Local Development Plan/Core Strategy from NCC in place there is no doubt a planning vacuum exists and developers are of course aiming to fill it.

So where is the Northumberland Core Strategy? Last we heard is that its latest draft is due to go out to public consultation in December; don't expect to see the final version of the Strategy for at least 12 months. This has been frustrating for NCC who, to be fair, has many problems of their own, but even more frustrating to those of us hoping to draw up a Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) that includes Hepscott. With an MNP in place our job of opposing developers like Barratt would have been considerably easier, but MNP has to be 'in general conformity with the Core Strategy', difficult when you haven't got a Core Strategy.

So where is the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan? We have decided to complete what we can, including a further public consultation in January, by 31 March 2015 and 'park' that draft with NCC and wait for the Core Strategy. We will ask them to informally review our draft and hopefully it will form a document that at least can be given material consideration at a planning hearing. Our efforts (and yours) so far will not have been in vain and when the Core Strategy emerges we hope to review and amend our draft and continue with the Plan process to completion.

On a more local level the Parish Council successfully opposed an overlarge development on a sensitive site in Fieldhouse Close. We also put in strong comments on your behalf recently on the SHLAA process (awful isn't it? It stands for Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, and is kind of what it says on the tin—a strategic map that government policy demands saying where might there be land available for housing. Unfortunately when NCC identifies that land next to you it gives you an unpleasant feeling. There are at least 3 in Hepscott Parish). The Parish Council is consulted at far too late a stage in this process.

In an effort to prevent speeding on Barmoor Bank mobile speed cameras are to feature, so you have been warned.

Don't forget, if you want a more frequent update of parish council issues by email newsletter just email me at philipashmore@hotmail.co.uk and I will put you on the list.

Can I say finally an enormous thank you to your Parish Councillors and everyone in the Parish for their support, especially during the Barratt Inquiry, it really was a tremendous help.

Phil Ashmore, Chair HPC

A thank you to the Parish Council

My husband and I have been battling for over two years about the planning application for a large radio mast which now resides close to our house. During this time we have been supported and advised by Hepscott Parish Council and the Chairman and Vice Chairman in particular. So a big thank you to the Parish Council for their care and concern for individual village problems.

Now bigger planning issues are looming over our village. The Parish Council are having to pass on the views of our community to administrators above them for very far reaching decisions which will affect the Hepscott parish for generations to come.

There is the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, which will affect four surrounding parishes also, the Barratt development of 400 houses at Stobhill roundabout (in Hepscott Parish) and the proposed development of 200 houses at Loansdean. This last planning application could have terrible repercussions on the village due to drainage going into the Catchburn and then the Hepscott Burn and causing flooding in the village. All of us in Hepscott Parish must consider our position in this tidal wave of new developments. As was said in the Sunday Times recently, small communities are soft targets, easy dumping grounds for housing quotas and other inconveniences that planners want to shift from their desks and developers want to convert into dividends. This is where the Parish Council is vital to the future of our Parish as well as Hepscott village. Councillors give up their time to work voluntarily for the parish. They are the eyes and ears of the area, working to improve and sustain local character and quality of life. The recent Sustainable Communities Act 2012 has given local communities a new "bottoms up" process whereby they can drive central government actions and policy to protect and improve the local area. We have a dedicated, caring and knowledgeable Parish Council in Hepscott so we must support and inform them of our views on these new and potentially life changing developments in our parish.

Jocelyn Stephenson, Willowburn House, Hepscott

Views from County Hall

Glen Sanderson: County Councillor for Hepscott Village

The main issues for me in the village recently have been around housing, and doubtless these will be covered elsewhere in the Herald. I would thank the Parish Council and its Chairman, Phil Ashmore, for all the work that went into countering the Stobhill application over the past year, and hope that the result is the right one. Other battles potentially loom, however....

Meanwhile, I returned to the subject of the NSRI speed camera vans again at last week's Council meeting when I tabled a Question asking for more details about how many times they had been deployed in the county over the past 6 months, at which locations, how many speeding tickets had been issued, and, most important I feel, what criteria had been used to choose each location.

In a full response, it seems there are some well used locations including the disused garage site near Fairmoor and at Clifton. They have now been deployed on parts of the A697 as I have previously requested but it seems to me that a review is needed to make sure the aim is to reduce accidents and not to be seen to be merely catching the motorist driving at 35mph in a 30 zone - important though some of those sites might be. For example, the sites at Clifton and Fairmoor resulted in more recorded offences over the past six months than any other single site anywhere in Northumberland - yet there is no speed related accident record over recent years for either.

However, I was encouraged that the Council did agree to relook at where the vans are deployed. I highlighted a recent speed survey that I asked for to be carried out at Barmoor following complaints I received from residents about speeding traffic there. These showed that there is an issue, and I have asked that the speed camera vans are deployed there soon.

glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk or 07730 979737.



Ian Lindley: County Councillor for Stobhill Manor

The start of September has been cast into gloom for me - due to knowingly false personal attacks on my integrity by the Leader of one of the main political parties at NCC. Purpose - childish political point scoring - which merely depresses normal people. This is why I am and will remain Independent of all political gangs.

More positively here is a brief list of my current main priorities for the area, in no particular order:

- Ensure individual problems are resolved quickly
- Ensuring the world premiere of our Community DVD 'Voices of Stobhill' (supported by the Duchess) is a roaring success and people consume the remarkable product in droves (DVD is being sold to benefit our local schools - only £1.50)
- New streetscape for key roads in my Division based on best practice ('Civilised Design') I am very hopeful we will be selected as a pilot area for the County. I have been grinding away at this since 2008 but at last have funding commitment
- Redeveloping the Railway station as a small business incubator facility whilst improving passenger amenities
- Ensuring the St Aidan's community hub is developed (replacement for current church hall)
- Ensuring affordable housing for rent is developed on the current hall site
- Developing high quality community outdoor facilities including play etc on the desolate field adjacent to the community centre on 9th Avenue
- Ensuring the Centre itself is well-used and appropriately refurbished
- Continuing to work with Groundwork NE to improve all Stobhill green areas and involve as many residents as possible in their environment
- Combatting isolation amongst our older residents by ensuring our Ageing Well project develops effectively
- Ensuring a good range of activities for all our young people by supporting Bad Apples, Barnabas and the County Youth Service
- Working with ISOS and Johnnie Johnson housing to improve our social housing
- Supporting local businesses
- Building solidarity and involvement generally by means of Stobhill Community Forum and its newsletter and activities
- Supporting Community Link's range of services (Handyman gardening, computer training, employability, allotment)
- Working with local employers to gain funds for Stobhill and work experience/jobs for young people
- Drive forward the development of Tourism and Leisure in Northumberland via building a new integrated structure and action plan agreed with business

Please contact me anytime about anything - especially if you have ideas to improve things or need help:

Ian Lindley 07833293718 01670 622619

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

After a relatively quiet time mainly because of the summer holidays the hall is starting to buzz with activities again. We have an array of wonderful shows coming up.

As I said in the last newsletter Mervyn Stutter from the Flying Pickets is to perform for us and a date, Sunday 12th October has been confirmed. Tickets for this show are selling already.

Probably before this newsletter hits the streets we will have had Bill Ridley's wine tasting. This is one event that needs no advertising as people are knocking on the door and climbing the drainpipe for tickets and all are sold with 3 weeks to go. No doubt everyone had a great night.

I would like to take this opportunity, as Bill is moving from the Village, to thank him for all the wonderful entertaining nights he has presided over. He will be greatly missed. Best wishes go with him and Angela to their new home.

Other events are:

- 31st October Halloween night all are welcome
- Lee and Sam's Holly Wreath Making Night is on Tuesday 25th November.
- Friday Dec 5th Trio Gitan a musical group are performing a Christmas show. This show is not to be missed
- This year we have changed the day from a Saturday to Sunday for the Mulled Wine and it is to be on 14th December I hope everyone can pop in for a chat, sing song and of course a mince pie with a glass of wine.
- As last year's New Year's Eve Party in the hall was such a hit we are having an other this year again all are welcome.
- This brings us into January and we are hoping to book a jazz band a definite date has not yet been confirmed so keep an eye on the board outside the hall for this and all other events, times and prices.

We have had a few complaints regarding the car parking at the hall and surrounding area. I am glad to say I think this has been resolved. As the hall is so popular we are making arrangements for additional car parking hopefully to everyone's satisfaction We still have lots of coats etc. if no one wants them I will put them in the charity bag

Katie McDonald 514031

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Annoyingly, considering all the time, effort and money spent in their creation, hanging baskets have been stolen from all parts of The village over the summer months along with garden pots and even large rockery stones. Someone has taken a short cut to a lovely garden! Similar thefts occurred in the village some years ago when the remedy was to make things difficult by simply chaining, tying or padlocking the basket to the bracket. Not in the village, but recorded on CCTV, were two middle aged women working industriously at 3am to dig up 100 leylandi trees planted in a garden the previous day. Almost unbelievable. No connection with the village is implied and all middle aged women reading this can relax.

The opportunistic door knockers still work our village selling dusters, usually on a Thursday. One elderly resident was alarmed when after dusk, two called at her house, one at the front door and one to the rear. The best way to discourage them is by not purchasing and, if intimidated, call the Police- 999.

But nowadays the real crime seems to be internet or phone based. The scams are many and varied. Currently a common phone trick is from a caller "representing your ISP" who has identified a problem on your computer and can sort it remotely-----I've had two such calls from the same guy, who had clearly forgotten his previous call. On line there are a growing number of "phishing" emails with attachments to open. Don't open them! Worryingly some appear to be from government departments where one would expect to be safe. Don't trust anybody unknown or anything unsolicited.

And finally, at this time of year when the clocks go back, remember not to leave your house in darkness. A light on in the hall or upstairs could avert a burglary. Also this is the season of thefts from cars, locked or unlocked. Please do not leave items or valuables on show.

Julia Macphail 516309

Hepscott Women's Institute

"Murder at Morpeth Manor" staged by the St. George's Community Players was well supported and the identity of the mysterious murderer detected by two teams; retired policeman, Ken Reed, proving that he had lost none of his professional skills!

Members showed their photographic talent in June and were delighted when David Illingworth, of Morpeth Camera Club, returned to judge the entries and complimented them on the improvement in the composition and use of light in their photographs.

In July, Morpeth resident Philip Tallon gave us a very enlightening talk about local place names. He explained how they evolved over the centuries and early names were related to the landscape and those associated with it; thus "Hepscott" referred to Hebby's mean hovel or "cot" - a far cry from the prosperous village of today!

We were thrilled that member Kay Allan had been awarded the Royal School of Embroidery Diploma and Hilda Watson Prize for "Silk Shading Embroidery" ; her masterpiece is currently on display at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park.

In August members, friends and families enjoyed a summer party with a tempting array of food produced by the committee. Table quizzes enlivened the evening, although the final question - to guess the total age of the committee - required both tact and charity!

The new season of meetings begins with "Let's Dance" in September followed by a W.W.I. evening, a craft session and culminating in our Christmas party.

We welcome visitors and new members so please join us at a meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

For further information contact
President Linda Wadge on 01670 504909.

Tau Tong School of Tai Chi

The Tai Chi Class that runs every Monday 6.30-7.30pm is going well with 5 new people this September! So if you are thinking of joining, but are worried that you will be joining an established class where everybody is more experienced than you, then now is a good time as we are going right back to basics. Also, the way I now do things seem to suit all levels of expertise! We all do the same exercises for the first part of the lesson where beginners are just getting to grips with the movements and basic co-ordination, with the more advanced adding in the finer points of practise. Then we all copy the long sequence called the Form which takes many years to learn off by heart. There's time for everyone to work by themselves for 10 minutes or so with me helping each person as required, and then we all come back together for practise and consolidation again for the last part of the hour.

If you would like to come along, please just turn up, or contact Amanda on 01670 820464 07885 682078 for any questions or visit my website for more information www.tautong.co.uk

NEW FOR THE AUTUMN!

Breathe & Relax! 7-9pm Friday 17th October at the Parish Hall

On the 3rd Friday of the month why not come along after a hard week and take the strain off! Bring a soft mat, a blanket and a pillow (and your teddy bear if you wish!) and listen to relaxing music & sounds, guided breathing techniques and creative visualisations among warm cosy surroundings! Enjoy a chat over a cuppa afterwards and feel ready for the weekend. Only £7 per session. Contact Amanda on 820464 or 07885 682078 to book your place as space will be limited and you wouldn't want somebody snoring in your ear!

Top 5: Ways to save money on your heating oil

With over 11,000 homes off the gas grid in Northumberland, many families in our community use oil to heat their homes. If you're on oil and looking to make a saving on your next order, check out our useful tips for smart, simple ways to cut down your costs!

1) Buy in bulk

Did you know that several small orders of heating oil will generally cost you more than one large order. Instead of topping-up your oil levels on a regular basis, fill-up in one go to cut-down on delivery costs and get a great bulk-buy price.

2) Compare prices

By shopping around, or using an instant, impartial comparison service such as BoilerJuice, you'll always get the best quote for your oil.

3) Order early

Set a reminder, mark it on your calendar or simply plan ahead to avoid costly emergency deliveries and take advantage of cheaper delivery options.

4) Group buy

Buying as a group is the best way to get a discount on your oil, but did you know that you can do it online? Websites like BoilerJuice automatically group your delivery with others in your area, to help you qualify for group discounts every day of the week.

5) Spread the cost

While payment schemes often mean an expensive contract with a specific supplier, signing up for a monthly payment plan with an impartial site gives you the ability to spread your oil costs, while guaranteeing you the best quote from a range of suppliers across the UK

HEPSCOTT HERITAGE GROUP EXHIBITION WARTIMES in HEPSCOTT

Saturday 18 October
10.00am—4 .00 pm
Parish Hall—All are Welcome

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT at HEPSCOTT STATION

Contact David Scales:
01670—513968
OR Ian Storey:
01670—519647

Parish Council Contacts:

Chairman:	Philip Ashmore	01670 516726
Vice Chairman:	David Cowans	01670 516397
Village Ward:	Ken Reed	01670 513017
	Merle Heppell	mheppell@btinternet.com
	Fred Dye	01670 514871
Stobhill Manor Ward:		
	Philippa Raper	01670 503436
	Hollie Ross	07974 002446
Parish Clerk:	Sylvia Johnson	01670 503883

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

**Someone is failing to do so and
there is a nuisance in some areas**

Hepscott Herald is a community newsletter provided by Hepscott Parish Council. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the council or the editors. Whilst every effort is taken to check accuracy of the information contained herein, no responsibility can be taken for errors or omissions.

Regular activities in the Parish Hall

Mondays

Quilting Class	10.00 a.m.
Tai Chi	6.30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Bridge Classes	10.00 and 2.00
W.I. 3 rd in month	7.30 p.m.
Village Tea	
Last in month	2.00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Yoga Class	7.00 p.m.
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Thursdays

Art at Hepscott
9.00a.m. – 12.15 p.m.

Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.
Parish Council	6.30 p.m.
3 rd in month bi-monthly.	
Bridge Class	7.00 p.m.

Friday

Keep Fit	10.30 a.m.
Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.

Saturday

2nd in month
Chatterbox Quilters 9.30 a.m.

Sunday

1st and 3rd in month 6.00 pm
North East Mandolin Band

SPECIAL EVENTS

OCTOBER

**Bill Ridley's South
American Wine Tasting**
Friday 3 October 7.30 pm

Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 7 October 6.30 pm

**An Evening with Mervyn
Stutter**

Sunday 12 October 7.30 pm

Halloween Party
Friday 31 October 7.30 pm

NOVEMBER Hepscott Heritage Group EXHIBITION

Wartimes in Hepscott
Saturday 15 November 10 - 4.00

Holly Wreath Making
Tuesday 25 November 7.00pm

DECEMBER

**Trio Guitan
Christmas Music**
Friday 5 December 7.30 pm

Mulled Wine Event
Sunday 14 Dec. 4.00—7.00

Hepscott Herald DEADLINE
Friday 30 January 2015

Editors: Anne 518888
Kate 515504