

BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Elected to represent the residents of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Stead and Burley Woodhead

Newsletter No 8

June 2008

Introduction

Burley Parish Council has now been operating for two years. I wish to pay a very warm tribute on behalf of the Council to Caroline Jones whose commitment and hard work have done so much to establish the new council. Her capacity to understand and manage the range of issues on which the Council works has been greatly valued. The major part of this issue is given over to her report. I am privileged to take over as Chair for the coming year and to working with Keith Dale as Vice-Chair and the Council team. We hope to achieve satisfactory outcomes on Burley House Field and the Grange during this year. While the Parish Plan provides a guide for our actions we are always keen to add to this as new issues arise. Please bring issues to our attention by contacting Jo or any of the councillors or coming to the Neighbourhood Forum on June 19th. As we go to press we are very pleased to report that the work has started on the renovation of the Lawn.

As usual we express our thanks to the team of volunteers who have distributed this newsletter. The new version of the Burley Handbook will be delivered in July. May I also thank the volunteers who work on the village green on the last Saturday of the month - newcomers always welcome - and the 15 residents and the group of Scouts who joined the litter pick on May 16th.

Sylvia Tilford
Chair, Burley Parish Council

Neighbourhood Forum

The next Neighbourhood Forum is on Thursday 19th June 2008 at the Queens Hall, Burley at 7.30pm.

This is your chance to find out about projects and plans for Burley and to give your views and opinions on any local issues to representatives of Bradford Council and your Parish Council.

Included in the next forum will be:

- Report from Youth Services and Early Years and Childcare Services at Bradford Council about current/future work in the village
- Update from Burley Trojans Jnrs Football Club on the Changing Room project for the Recreation Ground on Iron Row
- Information on the work of the Friends of Ilkley Moor
- Report by Neighbourhood Policing Officers
- AGM of Burley Community Council
- Brief reports from local groups
- Update from Burley Parish Council
- Open Forum when YOU can raise concerns and issues

Burley Handbook

Publication of the new Burley Handbook will be in July. The handbook will be bigger (and it is hoped more informative) than ever and to ensure that all information is as up to date as possible it was decided to allow an extra month for checking and proof reading. A copy will be distributed free to each household. If anyone would like to assist with distribution then your help would be gratefully received. Please contact Jo for further details.

**Annual Meeting of the Parish
held at Burley Oaks on
Thursday 17th April 2008**

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish, Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Caroline Jones gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. Her report is printed over the following pages:

Annual Report of Burley Parish Council 2007-2008

We are now approaching the end of our second year. It has been a very busy year, although there are still a number of issues that we would have dearly liked to resolve, notably:

The Grange: We worked hard last year to try and find a way in which this building or part of it could be used for further education. We also pursued the idea of using it for some type of social housing or a combination of uses. As it turned out, none of these were viable options. We then met with a number of property developers and by August we had come up with a proposal for the college whereby the majority of the Grange was to be turned into apartments. The other part of it was to be bought/leased back to the parish council to serve as meeting rooms with an office and ancillary facilities – which could be used by the parish council and also for further education. The college responded by saying that they would market the building anyway, and we could re-present our offer at that point. Interestingly, The Grange has not yet gone on the market, although every time we inquire as to when this is likely to happen we are told that it is imminent.

The Burley House Field; Last Summer we had discussions with Bradford Council regarding the lease that we had been promised. Since then, despite several reminders we have heard nothing further about the lease. However, ‘The Commons Act’ of 2006 opens the way to a third application for registration as a ‘Village Green’ which would save the field in perpetuity. It was agreed by the BCC that they would pursue this. The application has to be made by the Burley Community Council as that was the body that made the original applications. The application is being led by John Gundry – we are all indebted to him for his considerable work on this.

The Lawn: The work should start very soon to turn the main building into apartments for private sale and to build 15 apartments on the site of the old stable block. These 15 are to be social housing dedicated to occupation by people over 55. The parish council was very

pleased at this outcome and the increase in social housing provision.

Local Development Framework: In recent months the LDF has occupied us. This is an initiative from Bradford Council in response to demands from national Government to identify land for building in the next 20 years. Bradford has to identify land for 2700 homes per year. We studied the four options presented and decided that none was appropriate for Burley or, indeed, the district. Our full response may be found on the website but broadly it flagged up:

- Concerns about identifying land for 54,000 houses in the Bradford District based only on current trends. We asked for assurances that the situation would be kept under constant review.
- That 1 in 4 houses in Burley had been built in the last 10 years without any capital expenditure on infra structure.
- Particular concerns relating to infra-structure – notably education, especially secondary, and trains and roads at peak times.
- The Parish Council was concerned that significant building in the Wharfe Valley had an impact on the infra structure as a whole. For example, if 5000 houses are built in Ilkley it would impact on the availability of secondary school places for children in Burley.
- The cogent need for Bradford Council to work with neighbouring authorities in this area e.g. we are very aware of the impact on our roads and trains of building in Leeds.

We also pointed out that we were concerned that a priority order for the development of building sites should be applied, so that property developers can not come and ‘cherry pick’ sites for their fiscal benefit without addressing the needs of the whole district.

That particular phase of consultation has now finished, but this issue will remain high on the agenda for a long time to come. The outcome will affect us all and I would urge that everyone take note of this and ensure your views are heard as the opportunity arises.

The Handbook; The Parish Council is about to publish the eleventh edition of this august work. We are pleased to be following in the fine tradition started by the Burley Community Council. Besides the printed version – a copy of which will be delivered to each house, the information pages will be published on the website and hopefully kept up to date.

Flooding: Following the flooding in the village in June last year and again this year, we have been in discussion with Bradford Council regarding clearance of drains and gulleys. You will be pleased to know that at last the Housing Association has raised the height of the wall running alongside the beck by Grange Road Flats.

Parking and traffic: We have had consultations with Bradford over the new parking restrictions and the widening of the footpath under the railway bridge creating a chicane. These works are now imminent and we will note carefully the effect that these have. The police have been most co-operative in helping with the enforcement of safe parking on Prospect Road.

Water Feature: We received a nasty shock when we discovered that the electricity bill had been estimated for a great many months and when the chickens came home to roost we needed to take action. Hence the number of hours that it ran in the winter months was drastically reduced. We are committed to ensuring that the water feature plays for a longer time during the lighter evenings. However the Parish Council is investigating the possibility of alternative power sources.

Fair Trade: The Parish Council voted to work towards turning Burley into a Fair Trade village. We are very fortunate in that a number of businesses were already 'signed up' to this and all being well we should be accorded the accreditation shortly.

There have been a great many other issues that have been given attention, to name but a few:

- **Footpaths** there have been several occasions when we have dealt with rights of way matters.
- **The Police contact point** is still not open as often as we might hope, but equally it is not used as much as we might have anticipated.
- We have been consulted on the replacement of some of the **street lights** on Main Street to ensure that some of them will be fitted to take Christmas light fittings and hanging baskets.
- We are also required to create **contingency plans** in case of an emergency. This initiative is still in an embryonic state.

The Neighbourhood Forums which we run in conjunction with the Shipley Area Panel of Bradford Council have continued to be well supported. We are also pleased to welcome residents to our full council meetings on the 2nd Thursday in the month where there is a time dedicated to public participation.

Along with full council meetings we had meetings of the planning committee twice a month. **The Planning Committee** is diligently chaired by Peter Jenkins. We have considered and made recommendations on more than 90 planning applications this year. The list of applications under consideration is publicised on the websites and on the agendas posted in the library notice board. The full detailed plans are available to be viewed on Tuesday mornings or by arrangement - at least for the time being. Unfortunately Bradford Council is trying to introduce a new method of communicating the plans to us - letting us have them electronically only. We are not equipped to cope with this and along with most of the other parish councils in the district we are trying to find a satisfactory resolution to this proposal.

Allotments and Maintenance Committee
Following the transfer of the allotments to the Parish Council on 1 April last year we formed this group. This meets about four times a year and is made up of Parish Councillors and two representatives of the allotment holders. It has been a steep learning curve for us to master the management and we are grateful to the allotment holders representatives for their valuable input.

Maintenance Group - meets on the final Saturday of each month. We have been delighted with the response and have a number of volunteers who turn out regularly whatever the weather - we are very grateful for this support. The work is mostly concentrated on the Village Green but we have also cleared the walled bed at the back of the church on Cornmill Lane. As always we can always use more help - if you would like to join us please just turn up on the Village Green at 10.a.m. on the last Saturday of the month.

The Parish Plan- This working document may be found on the website and we review progress and update it regularly. We review a section each month to ensure that we do not lose focus on what is deemed important. It also means that we are able to cross things off our list occasionally!

Duck Race

Finance; Copies of our approved budget for next year are available from the clerk. This indicates that the precept we have sought from Bradford is £8.40 on a Band D house which is the same as last year. We are continuing to hold the capital sum received from Ilkley intact. We are keeping this sum to be spent when we find a suitable permanent meeting place and office for the Parish Council.

All our contact details and all minutes and agendas are on the Burley in Wharfedale website. There is also an email link to the parish clerk; she or one of the parish councillors is also available to meet residents on Tuesday mornings between 10 a.m. and 12.00 at The Parish Centre on Station Road. This is an opportunity for people to talk about their village concerns and discover more about what is going on. We continue to publish our Newsletters four times a year and we have received a good deal of very positive feedback. At this point I would like to thank the parish councillors who organise the distribution and all the deliverers – they do a very valuable and much appreciated job. Next time we will have the new edition of the handbook to deliver and so the task will be a little more onerous – thank you for that in anticipation!

The councillors also represent the Parish Council on a number of other bodies; notably The BCC and The BWCT, The Chamber of Trade, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Governing Bodies of both Burley Oaks and Burley and Woodhead C.E. Primary Schools, the Police Ward Tasking Group, Rural Transport, Shipley Area Panel, The Wildlife Group, WRUG (rail users group) and the Yorkshire Local Councillors Assoc.

Next month I am standing down as Chair. It has been a tremendous honour for me to Chair the Parish Council for its first two years. I am extremely grateful for the support I have received and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parish councillors most especially Sylvia – our Vice-Chair - for all their hard work. I wish my successor all the very best for the coming year. I cannot let the moment pass without also thanking Jo Griffiths, our Parish Clerk. She works tremendously hard for the benefit of the village and the parish council and we are all indebted to her for that.

Cllr Caroline Jones
Chairman, Burley Parish Council
17th April 2008

Sunday 15th June is the date for this year's village Duck Race. Run by Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust in aid of amongst other things, the Christmas Lights. The race will start from its usual spot on the River Wharfe at 2pm. Tickets are now being sold and if you would like tickets or any further information please contact Tom Sumner on 862940. The Duck Race will be followed by Teas on the Village Green.

How to contact the Parish Council

If you have an enquiry about the work of the Parish Council or wish to raise any matter relating to the Parish please contact the Parish Clerk, Jo Griffiths. Telephone number: 07971 772181 or email: parishclerk@burley-in-wharfedale.org.

Every Tuesday morning from 10am-12noon, Jo or a member of the Parish Council will be available at St Mary's Parish Centre on Station Road to answer any queries you may have.

Burley Parish Council is made up of nine councillors and they may be contacted as follows:

Sylvia Tilford, Chairman	863218
Keith Dale, Vice Chairman	862662
Kathryn Forrest	864097
John Horton	863438
Peter Jenkins (Chairman of Planning Committee)	863131
Caroline Jones	863857
Matt Palmer	863790
Peter Riley	862916
Mike Walker (Chairman of Maintenance And Allotments Committee)	430329