
PRIDE IN PORTBURY

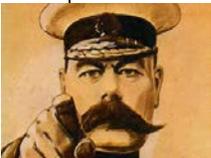
PARISH NEWSLETTER NO.2 – OCTOBER 2015

We need your e-mail address!

The response to Newsletter number one was all very positive, **BUT** only a few people have given us their e-mail details to receive future editions. We therefore felt that it was worth spending some further funds to keep you all connected. We can't keep doing this however; it would cost over £1000 a year to do so. We'd really like to keep as many as you as possible connected in with what is going on in the Village.

Please therefore do take the time to give us your e-mail details at the address below –

Contact@Portbury-Council.com



You can also get more regular updates on Facebook by joining the Village Notice Board. There we post fresh information about things such as road works notices and any crime briefings that affect the village.

Using e-mail or posting on Facebook allows you to let us know directly what is concerning you.



As an example in September there was a plague of wasps in a bush near the Village Hall and parents were getting concerned about children getting stung on the way to school. A quick post on Facebook meant that everyone was warned, and in addition volunteers from the Parish Council went along and cut back the flowers that were attracting them.

That's people power!!!



We've also collected a lot of information about the car break-ins that has been passed on to the police.

Please read on to find out what else has been happening since July.

Road repairs

At last we've had a further batch of road repairs; by the time you read this newsletter I'm hopeful that much of Station Road and High Street will have been tackled, on top of the spot repairs done earlier in Priory Road. There is a lot more to do, and we are noting all the comments received by those of you who are connected.



We are pressing now for Forge End to be tackled and also some of the worst pavements, at High Street Mill Lane junction and along the east side of the green.

Traffic Calming

Other Facebook posts have been very strong on the matter of speeding cars through the Village, especially at the Caswell Lane end where there is no footpath.

Residents are calling for some form of traffic calming throughout the Village and we are pressing North Somerset directly on this matter.



Right now we can't be sure if we are going to get any quick action, budgets in North Somerset are very tight, but our local Councillor, Nigel Ashton, is fighting very hard on our behalf. So keep your comments rolling on Facebook, it's a powerful way of making the point when I meet up with "the Authorities" in Weston.

Car Crime

Many of you will know from unsettling personal experience that we've had a spate of car break-ins over the last few months, throughout the Village.



I'm afraid we are quite a vulnerable spot, being near to the motorway, and not very far away from areas where crime levels are more like "inner city" areas. When economic times are hard we often see an increase in crime of different kinds in Portbury. Happily just now house breaks are rare, it seems that quick hits to steal saleable goods or food is the pattern.



It goes without saying therefore that we mustn't make it easy for criminals. Don't display anything valuable and always lock your car and of course your outbuildings whenever they are unattended.

The Parish Council is in touch with the Police on a regular basis and we are exploring ways of deterring this sort of opportunistic crime.

Whilst on the subject it's worth mentioning the security of your houses too. Make sure that all your downstairs windows are secure and lockable if possible. Use 5 lever locks or better. I can personally recommend also the use of a burglar alarm. The presence of a bell box does seem to ward off unwanted attention.



Dog Poo!!!

I'm really sorry to have to tell you about a bit of a plague of dog poo in the Village. We all very much hope that this isn't a villager who is responsible. Over a period of many days piles of this foul stuff has appeared on the playing field and on the back footpath to it from Priory Road.



There isn't much that can be done unless we catch the individual concerned.

Rest assured however that we will take action if anyone can identify anyone who is responsible for leaving dog poo around. There are enough bins!

Just a reminder too to those who do use poop bags, but leave them in a bush for later. I'm sure this is just forgetfulness, but please do take this litter home or drop it in the designated bins.

Tidy up campaign



The previous item leads us on nicely to the matter of smartening up our lovely village. I'm sure you've all seen by now the lovely display of flowers that has been created on the Village Green by the WI.

We very much hope that this is only the start of a number of things that we can do to make our village look good. Litter is a bit of a problem here and there, we could all do a bit to pick this up outside our own houses. The worst day for this is Wednesday after the recycling run, and if it's been windy. Of course it would be great if nothing got spilled, but that would be impossible. So it would be good if you could do what you can to keep the street frontages tidy.

At the same time we are identifying the forgotten areas of the Village that get untidy for a number of reasons, maybe no-one owns the area or it's just that it gets forgotten. We'd like to spend some Parish Council funds on these areas to make them look better.

So let us know if there is an area near to your house that could do with a touch of "Ground Force". We can't promise to provide an instant solution but if we know about it we'll keep it logged in for Council attention.



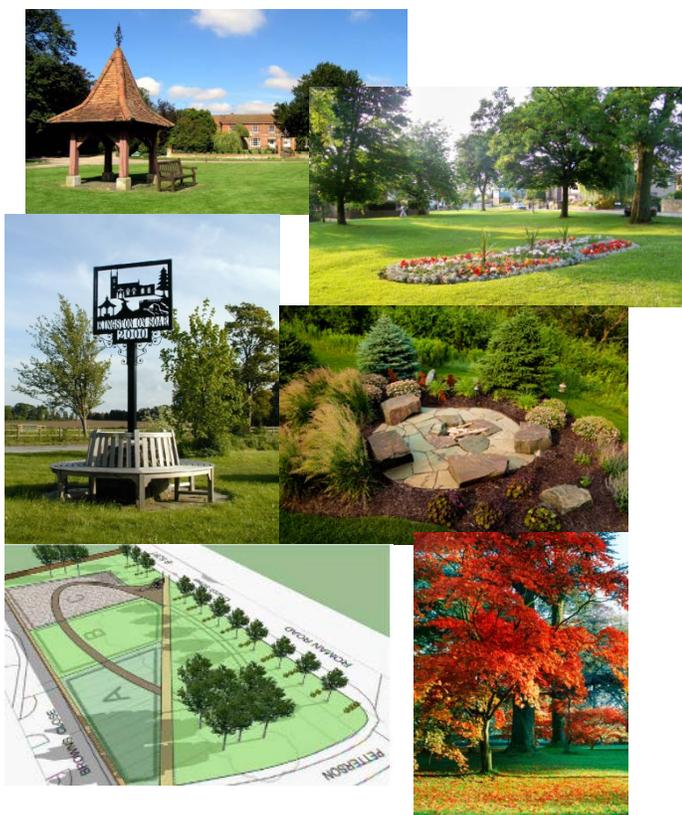
And as a reminder – our address is

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Green Force

You may recall that we'd like to do further work on our lovely green to make it a really nice, colourful space. The grass is already looking great, as are the flowers in the new flower bed.

Below are just a few images of things that are giving us ideas about what can be done. Let us know if you'd like to get involved in this and what your ideas are. If we had a "Green Force" of volunteers we could do quite a lot with very little expense.



Defibrillator Initiative

Very soon we hope to install a defibrillator at the Village Hall near the front entrance. These devices are becoming relatively common on High Streets these days in order to provide on the spot care in the event of anyone suffering a serious heart problem. The Parish Council is funding this equipment in partnership with Bristol Port Company and Portishead Lions.



To put everyone's fears at rest about using one of these devices; if anyone discovers a situation that might need a defibrillator it is apparently very easy to use. No expertise is needed. Once the box is opened the user is given voice instructions in whether the device is going to be needed and what to do. It's as simple as that. The only thing you have to do is go get the device from the box and follow the instructions.



Let's hope this is never needed, but it's nice to have the reassurance that one is in the Village. We plan another one in the future over in Sheepway

And Pylons



No news yet I'm afraid

Mike Phipps
Chairman – Portbury Parish Council