

TIVERTON PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2002

Chairman's Letter

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 12th February at 7.30pm at Tiverton Village Hall. The meeting will commence with an open forum for any public concerns.

The Village Hall committee are aiming to make a Lottery Bid for finance to renovate and enhance the hall. It is hoped to create a disabled access and toilet. Anyone wishing to assist in this venture would be greatly welcomed by the committee.

Plans for the Jubilee Celebrations are now progressing well thanks to a small sub committee, again, anyone wishing to help should make themselves known. Let's make this a special day!

Janice Farrall
01829 732855

Tiverton Homewatch

The Chester Division of the Police have recently introduced their Project Rural Matters, which some of you may have seen reported in The Chester Chronicle under the headline "Fancy being a village bobby?". In fact the scheme is a safety initiative aimed at promoting wider community involvement in addressing issues of community safety throughout the rural area of Chester. The scheme seeks to provide greater reassurance and support to communities and enable residents to work with local police officers, responsible agencies and each other to tackle crime and quality of life issues. A high visibility "people carrier" vehicle has been acquired solely for this initiative and is used to offer a high profile presence, and provide a point of contact for community safety advice at local events or functions and to promote Homewatch. The vehicle will regularly be staffed by a police officer, together with a community volunteer. The scheme is very much in its infancy and a number of organisational and legal issues remain to be resolved, but it is a worthwhile attempt to promote a greater involvement by the community in helping not only ourselves but the police in responding to the safety requirements of an increasingly demanding society. It will not mean that the "volunteers" will become some form of police officer, but as and when we are satisfied with the scheme, hopefully we will be able to recruit from the residents volunteers who are able to give just a little of their time to what will essentially be an enhancement of Homewatch, and work alongside the police on this initiative. As and when more information is available details will be issued at Parish Council meetings and on the Village Notice board. One thing is paramount the volunteers will not be "village bobbies" that will still be the function of the regular police officers.

Derek Marshall.
01829 732217

Tiverton Gardening Club

The Gardening Club Open Spring Show will take place on Saturday April 13th. All enquiries to Bill and Audrey Povall on 01829 733520 or Jean Brown on 01829 781577.

Beeston Area Transport Needs Assessment

All of you will have seen the questionnaire distributed in October of last year to every household in the parish and are probably wondering what has happened?

The first pass of analysis has been completed by local efforts and the results spreadsheet is now with the Rural Transport Partnership who sponsored the survey, for further analysis and drawing up a final report. Due to changes in staffing, we will be using the Crewe Chester rail line if a local stop existed, 36% would use it for business although the majority of these (2/3) would use it only for occasional business travel. Furthermore, 95% of respondents with 2 or more cars thought they would make regular leisure use of such a rail link (at least once per week).

However, we can offer a preview of the results for Tiverton, based on the number of cars in the household. Interestingly, only 5% do not have cars (or did not answer the question) with more than 50% of households in the parish having access to 2 or more cars.

In terms of issues with transport, there are few initial indications that households in Tiverton face much of a problem. Getting to work is achieved by car for ¾ of the respondents who answered the question, with only 1% reporting they have resolved their immediate transport problems with very little reliance on public transport help from friends or neighbours. So there is little possibility of help from friends or neighbours to their problem. The question of getting to work by car is a high priority for many or would be meeting the immediate needs of any but a very small proportion of village's households. However, these households are interested in access to the rail network via a local station for leisure use.

Although 38% of the households have children at home, the survey underlines the small proportion of village's households with children at school. For shopping, only 7% indicated a problem in getting to shops again with only 1 household relying on public transport (bus).

We now await the full analysis from the Rural Transport Partnership to see whether these findings for Tiverton are replicated across the larger area surveyed (Taporley, Alraham, Beeston, Spurstow, Peckforton, Burwardsley and Bulkeley). We will, of course, keep you informed as the analysis unfolds.

Steve Armitage

