

RAVENSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Ravenshead Shopping Precinct – Car Parking

In my Parish Council article in April I raised the issue of difficulty in car-parking at the Milton Court Shopping Precinct. I have since been contacted by a number of residents again raising the problem of a full car-park and them having to drive around and around waiting for a space and eventually being deterred from shopping there and either driving to Sainsburys at Larch Farm or giving up altogether. This has long been a problem, with restricted parking at the precinct and many parking bays occupied, seemingly throughout the day, by vehicles which appear to have little connection to people actually using the shops. The Parish Council is regularly contacted about this issue and I have explained before that the shopping precinct and car-park are privately owned and managed by a company called Freeman-Mitchell on behalf of those owners; as such the Parish Council has no control over how the car-park is operated. Not so long ago the agents introduced a system of parking which was meant to allocate so many bays to businesses operating from the precinct, whilst trying to keep other bays free for shopper only traffic. This has patently failed, with some people using the car park for all day (and night) parking, including staff from the businesses (retail and non-retail), which leaves very few spaces for prospective shoppers. The Parish Council has contacted the agents on several occasions highlighting this problem, but with little success in terms of achieving a positive outcome. There was talk at one stage about parking enforcement being undertaken by the agents via a parking enforcement company, which would deter the 'all day parkers'. However a word of caution 'Be careful what you wish for' if this system was put into place then invariably it will be local people who will get caught up in the issue of parking enforcement notices and fines, as indeed has proved the case with speeding enforcement on Longdale Lane. However should residents feel strongly enough on this subject, might I again suggest that they make personal contact with the agent's representative Maureen at mail@freeman-mitchell.co.uk or write to Freeman & Mitchell 28 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DW. Perhaps if sufficient representations are made, then something will finally be done to ease the situation.

Street Name Signs

In my June article I made reference to many street/road signs in the village showing signs of wear and tear, some because they are simply past their sell-by date and have either rusted/weathered or been damaged over the years, others because they have become difficult to read owing to deposits from overhanging trees and/or hedges. I made a request that residents consider adopting their own road signs and if the road name sign was outside, adjacent or opposite to your own home/premises and you were physically capable of carrying a bucket of soapy water and a sponge, then a quick clean on occasions would be really helpful. I would just like to thank some of those residents who have taken up this suggestion, specifically (but not only) on Tideswell Close, Mavis Avenue, Doverbeck Close and Milton Crescent. The results are impressive with clean and readable signage and I would urge other residents to take up the challenge.

Ravenshead Commoners

As some of you will be aware the Parish Council acquired some land on the approach to the Leisure Centre site from Swallow Crescent and at the top of Woodland Rise just below Milton Crescent. Former resident Phil Brown, working with a team of volunteers planted out and maintained these areas of common land on behalf of the Parish and they flourished with natural trees and flora. Unfortunately Phil has now moved from the village and although local resident Chris Onions, together with Parish Councillor Jon Carnelley has taken on the task, they could really do with some additional help. So if you were one of the original volunteers, or would like to be a new volunteer, and you have a bit of spare time on your hands and you want to put something back into the community, please contact us at emma@ravensheadpc.org.uk or Belinda@ravensheadpc.org.uk or 01623 490035 and we can add you to our list.

Armistice Day Commemoration

As residents will be aware on the Friday prior to Armistice Day Sunday we have traditionally held a short service in the Ravenshead Shopping Precinct at 11.00 am to commemorate the fallen in the World Wars of 1914 – 18 and 1939 – 45. The Royal British Legion parades the colours and the Vicar says a short prayer and we respect a minute's silence. This is a well-attended event, including by children from Abbey Gates and The Ravenshead Church of England Primary Schools, who also entertain us with songs from the time. Originally we then retired to the Library for tea/coffee and further songs from the children. Unfortunately the numbers proved too great for the library and we moved this part of the event to The Centre at St Peters. However this has proved too far for the children and indeed many of our mature residents to make and sadly, despite the excellent reception at The Centre, very few residents have made the trip in recent years. So this year we are proposing something a little different, with the service being held in the Memorial Arbour at the Village Hall and hopefully the children then joining us afterwards in the village hall for songs and refreshments. The village sound system will help the Vicar to be heard, the hall will provide refuge if the weather is inclement and nobody has to walk very far. I do hope that you can join us for this event at 10.50 am on Friday 8th November 2019, which will also commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the outbreak of WW Two.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Another quick date for your diary is the Annual Christmas Lights Switch-On which will be held on Saturday 7th December 2019, again at Ravenshead Village Hall. It will be preceded as usual by the Christmas Lantern Parade from the Sherwood Ranger PH, led by Santa Claus. The tree will again be very kindly donated by residents Mr & Mrs Shaun Joyce and decorated by Stephen Reddish, and I would remind readers that Shaun will as usual be selling fresh Christmas Trees from his premises on Main Road, adjacent to the Little John PH, in the run up to the Christmas period.

Chris Barnfather