

Eccleston Parish Council

Newsletter

March 2013

Council Tax

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Parish Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, commencing at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

A part of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues - come along and have your say!

Despite a 4% reduction in the Council Tax base, (the base figure on which the parish precept is worked), due largely to revisions to the Council Tax Benefit Scheme, the Parish Council's budget for the next financial year has been set with no increase in the cost of the Parish Precept to residents. The cost of the Parish Precept to Eccleston residents is virtually the same as it was in 2003!

At the January meeting the Council approved a reduction in the Parish Precept of £1640 (around 4%) for 2013-14, despite putting aside funds towards a major project to construct a path around the Recreation Fields (see p. 2).

Ordinarily, this would have resulted in a similar percentage reduction in the parish part of residents' council tax however, due to the reduction in the Council Tax Base, residents will pay the same as last year, with the average Band D council tax payer paying £26.34 per year. The effect of the reduction in Council Tax Base has also been reduced by Chorley Council passing on a small portion of its increase in income from the new Council Tax Support Grant, provided by Central Government.

Services provided by the Parish Council, from the Parish Precept, include the Village Caretaker and Lengthsman service. The Caretaker looks after the play areas and our other open spaces, and attends to minor repairs to council property, and the Lengthsman, picks litter from the major routes and estate roads.

The Council is also responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Fields and Changing Rooms, the Drapers Avenue and Hawthorns Play Areas, the Skate Park and car parks, the Millennium Green, and the Village Green. Mowing of the Recreation Fields, Millennium and Village Greens and the two pieces of land at entrance to The Hawthorns is also carried out by the Parish Council. The Council also provides the Christmas Tree and lights, lighting for the path between Drapers Avenue and Richmond Road, wayside seats, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant insurance cover.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities. Noticeboards are located inside the Carrington Centre by POA and on the path by the Changing Rooms, off Drapers Avenue.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to display A4 sized posters to publicise forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk.

£225k Boost

Lancashire County Council has allocated £225000 in its 2013-14 budgets for the complete refurbishment of Eccleston Young People's Centre.

Many people have been worried by the inaccurate rumours regarding the future of the Centre which have been circulated and it is hoped this news, which is a clear demonstration of the County Council's commitment to the Centre, will clarify the situation and bring the rumours to an abrupt end.

Eccleston Parish Council does not accept any responsibility for items contributed by third parties.

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Chairman's Message

The Parish Council met on twelve occasions during 2012 to discuss matters relating to the village of Ecclestone.

Our finances remain strong to meet the further needs of the village. As such Ecclestone Parish Council has decided that there will be no increase in the cost of the Parish Precept to residents for the next financial year. Robust financial management and careful budgeting has allowed this freeze, with no loss in the services provided to residents by the Parish Council. The Parish Council was very keen, given the current financial climate, to do what it could to make sure the burden on council tax payers would not be increased this year.

This has been achieved not only by the hard work of Councillors but also our Clerk, Alan Platt, our Parish Caretaker, Mike Marsh, and Parish Lengthsman, Malcolm Hayes. Mike and Malcolm do sterling work in all weathers. Our village is certainly a more pleasant place due to their efforts and this was reflected in the comments of the Judges from the 'Best Kept Village in Lancashire' competition.

The Parish Council has two very active Committees. The Open Spaces Committee currently has plans to improve both the Millennium Green and the Recreation Areas as well as producing a leaflet on walks in Ecclestone. The Village Activities Committee was responsible for the very successful Diamond Jubilee Celebration and more events are planned for this year. Watch this space! If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see take place in the village, please advise the Clerk.

Bill Mason

Major Projects

The Parish Council has been working on two projects which, we are hoping, will come to fruition during the next financial year.

Members of the Young People's Centre have been busy visiting various all weather ball courts around the borough to put together the specifications for the sort of facility they would like. Parish Councillors have been liaising with Centre Members and Borough Councillor Henry Counce and the final specifications should soon be available to enable the production of a planning application, a tender document, and an application for funding to Chorley Council, which we are hopeful will come from a financial agreement associated with the planning permission for the Sagar House development.

Thus far, local residents who attended meetings at which the Ball Court was discussed, have been satisfied with the proposed location and the fact that the lights will be controlled by the Council to limit use in the evenings.

We are also looking to install a crushed stone type path around the perimeter of the Recreation Fields which will allow access for all, including wheelchairs and pushchairs. We have been waiting for funds from another financial agreement, again relating to the redevelopment of Sagar House, to materialise. Chorley Council has now paid the funds over and the Parish Council has committed the balance to allow the project to commence, hopefully, around April/May time.

We have been working with contractors and designs and specifications for the path have been put together and it is now a matter of obtaining quotes.

Community Chorley Clean Up ! Council

Chorley Council has arranged a Community Clean-up Day on Friday 12 April 2013, 9.30am - 3:00pm at the Recreation Ground car park, Drapers Avenue.

A skip, manned by Chorley Council's Neighbourhood Officers and other staff and volunteers, will be available from 10:00am - 3:00 pm for residents in the area to get rid of large items of household rubbish. Limited assistance with bulky items will be available on the day, please come and ask one of the Officers at the skip.

For more information telephone 01257 515151 - quoting 'Eccleston Community Clean up'.

The Parish Council would like to thank Natalie Holt, Chorley Council's Community and Neighbourhood Development Officer, for her help in arranging the Clean up Day.

New Swing

An additional item of new play equipment, aimed at ages 8 - 16, will soon appear on the Recreation Ground, just outside the Small Children's Play Area.

We have had lengthy negotiations with Chorley Council to insist the village benefitted directly, in some way, from planning funds arising from the redevelopment of the Former Church Hall site on Lawrence Lane. As a result of the negotiations an order for a Playdale Mega Swing has been placed.

The Playdale Mega Swing is a large, multi directional pendulum swing capable of holding several users at the same time.

The Parish Council would like to thank Lindsey Blackstock, Chorley Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer, for her help with this.

Your Help Needed

Wymott Community First Responders (CFR's) are working with the Parish Council to raise funds for the purchase and installation of a life-saving Public Access Defibrillator.

Wymott CFR's are volunteers who live and work in the local community. They are trained in life saving care and despatched to potentially life threatening incidents in their local area by the North West Ambulance Service. Their role is important in providing care and support to patients, until the ambulance crew arrives on site. NWS trains and equips CFRs with defibrillators, oxygen and first aid kits.

Every year around 30000 people suffer cardiac arrest outside of hospital every year and chances of survival decrease by 14% for each minute treatment is delayed. Defibrillators work by delivering a controlled electric shock to bring the heart back to a normal rhythm and can help to stabilise the patient. Public Access Defibrillators are easy to use and will not administer a shock to someone not in cardiac arrest

Rodger Smith, Wymott CFR Team Leader said: "We are encouraging all residents of Eccleston to join in and raise funds to purchase a Community Public Accessible Defibrillator for our village. They do save lives - in rural areas and local villages people are thankful there was a defib available for them at their crucial time. We are very grateful to Eccleston Parish Councillors for their support in this effort."

Hopefully an 'awareness/information' display will be made available for all to see the need for this essential equipment. Look out for posters and dates in the coming months.

For further information contact Rodger Smith on 07812 303961.

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Free drop in sessions with Kirsten Bradley, a solicitor in our Wills, Probate, Tax and Trusts Department.

**2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 12th and 26th
March
at Eccleston Cricket Club.**

Feel free to drop in.

For more information and dates please contact Kirsten on 01772 220022 or kirsten.bradley@forbessolicitors.co.uk



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The Tots Group

meets

10:00am

Wednesday mornings

at Bateman Hall,
Sagar Street.

Parents/Carers and
Tots all welcome

Shared Lives Service

Shared Lives usually involves caring for an adult in your family home, because they cannot live with their own family or on their own. It is a family-based care provided by individuals and families, which enables adults to share in family and community life, as well as helping to develop their strengths and abilities. We want to recruit Shared Lives carers who can provide **long term placements**. You need to be able to provide a spare furnished bedroom for the person you support to stay in. We are also seeking Shared Lives carers for:

Short term breaks/respite – this gives family members and long term Shared Lives Carers a break from their caring role. The break can be anything from one night to a few weeks and may be a 'one off' or planned regularly.

Daytime support - providing support to a person for a few hours a day.

Boarding out support - where a Shared Lives Carer provides support to someone living in their own home.

Emergency care – when a person needs immediate support due to a family or personal crisis.

You will be provided with a generous financial allowance.

People who require Shared Lives support come from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds and may be an adult with a learning disability or an older adult. An extensive matching process is put in place between the carer and the person to be placed.

Our carers come from many different backgrounds and no formal qualifications are required. What really matters are your personal qualities - you need to be patient, positive, flexible and have a person-centred approach.

To find out more give us a call on 01257 516036 or email sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk

St Mary's Parish Centre

Need a perfect venue for a meeting or a function? - then St Mary's Parish Centre could fit the bill.

We have comfortable seating/tabling for up to 40 people, excellent kitchen facilities, disability provision/baby changing facilities, a low hourly donation rate and a large car park.

Contact Pat Lee on 01257 452628

St Mary's Parish Centre
Towngate (adjacent to the Church)
Eccleston PR7 5QL

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Police (Coppull) : 01257 246103

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

Report any problems with roads and pavements, including street lighting and obstructions, to Lancashire County Council on
0845 0530011

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 988 1188