

Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter

December 2017

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Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, commencing at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

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

More houses (update)

Following on from the article in our September newsletter about the application for housing and allotments for the field adjacent to Sandringham Road and Parr Lane we were pleased to hear Chorley Council's Development Control Committee refused the application on the grounds that, as Chorley has the required five year housing supply within the current Local Plan 2012-2026, the land, which is designated as safeguarded for future development needs, should not be developed at this stage. Thank you to the residents who submitted their objections to the application.

More news to provide hope for the future was the recent decision by a Planning Inspector to dismiss an appeal against the Development Control Committee's refusal of another application in a neighbouring parish to build houses on safeguarded land.

The appeal was dismissed on the grounds the Chorley Council was able to prove it has an adequate housing supply for the next five years and we hope this will put off developers from trying this again.

Bus Service changes

Following a recent decision by Lancashire County Council to invest an additional £1m per annum in the supported bus network, major changes to services took effect from Monday 11th December 2017.

Changes directly affecting the village are as follows:

337 Service Chorley - Charnock Richard - Eccleston - Croston - Mawdesley - Parbold - Burscough - Ormskirk new service reinstating a number of links along the route, including serving Burscough Industrial Estate. General frequency 2 hourly - in conjunction with Service 347, frequency hourly between Chorley, Croston and Mawdesley.

347 Service Chorley - Charnock Richard - Eccleston - Croston - Mawdesley - Rufford - Southport revised route and timetable to additionally serve Croston. General frequency 2 hourly - in conjunction with Service 337, frequency hourly between Chorley, Croston and Mawdesley.

New timetable leaflets can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk, search for 'Bus Improvements' and click on 'Improvements to Local Bus Services'. Alternatively you may be able to access the timetables via this link:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport/bus-service-changes/improvements-to-local-bus-services.aspx>

Carol Singing

Come along and join members of the Parish Council at the Carol Concert around the Christmas tree on the Village Green, with musical accompaniment provided by Eccleston Brass Band, on Tuesday 19 December between 6.30pm and 7.15pm.

As usual, due to the lack of available parking in the vicinity, we ask residents, if at all possible, not to come in cars.



Eccleston Parish Council wishes all
residents a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



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Chairman's Report

Once again, I am proud to say that this Autumn we have delivered some successful events in the village.

To those residents who recently enjoyed the Lancashire Night, at Bateman Hall, and to the Councillors who were involved in arranging the evening, I'd like to extend thanks on behalf of the Council. Similar to last year, but still highly enjoyable, we were entertained by Sid Calderbank and Mark Dowding, with songs, tales and lyrical humour, all delivered in the best regional dialect - from Lancashire! All topped with a hearty helping of a Hotpot supper; a great evening was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you also to Chris Bannister for delivering another well received performance in October. The Village Activities Committee, who helped arrange these evenings, have been working on more ideas for activities for the coming 12 months and we look forward to seeing many more residents attending and enjoying these events.

Councillors attended this year's Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council. The Ceramic Poppies, previously purchased by the Parish Council, were again on display during the Service, and served as a poignant reminder of Ecclestone lives lost in the Great War. The laying of the Poppies at the War Memorial by children from our two primary schools was a very moving experience.

The Carol Concert will take place on the Village Green on Tuesday 19th December, starting at 6:30pm, with music provided by members of Ecclestone Brass Band - please do join us for some early Christmas cheer.

At our Parish Church, St Mary's, residents are invited to attend Services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Once again, a reminder that we meet in the Community centre, Draper's Avenue, every second Thursday of the month at 7.30. As always, the council extend the invite to all residents to come along to these meetings, either to share your views and concerns, or to hear those of others.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the Parish Council I would like to wish a very happy Christmas to all of our residents.

Kate Brown

Ecclestone Community Hub

The Ecclestone Community Hub Committee is now established and will oversee the management of the building. The first priorities are to have the roof repaired and the interior repainted.

The Committee is working hard to provide a much needed community facility for local groups and organisations and to resurrect the youth club for one or two evenings per week. This will only be possible if it can be run on a volunteer basis and we are, once more, appealing for people to assist with running of the youth club so, if you would like to help please contact Councillor Whittaker or the Clerk (details on front page).

Recent Events

Residents seemed to have a great time at the two most recent offerings arranged by our Village Activities Committee.

The Evening with Chris Bannister at St Agnes Church Hall in October was a fantastic varied evening of Chris' own songs, cover versions and included several songs from Chris' legendary tribute to the music of the late John Denver.

Another 'reet' good time was had by all at our Lancashire Night, at Bateman Hall, on 25 November. Sid Calderbank and Mark Dowding, provided a fabulous evening's entertainment with hilarious tales, songs and Lancashire dialect poems. Once again, the food received rave reviews and, judging by the lack of 'returns' of stock, the Lancashire Ales seemed to go down very well too!

NO REFERRAL NEEDED - NO WAITING LIST - SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS

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Digital Access - Get online and love the benefits

15.5% of residents in Chorley have never been online, Chorley Council is aiming to reduce this number by providing FREE computer, tablet and other ICT courses and help sessions to residents of Chorley.

More and more public services and other services such as universal credit, housing, employment, benefits and blue badge applications are migrating to being online only.

Chorley Council is also making greater use of digital services to improve efficiency and ultimately save council taxpayers money. To make the most of this, people need to know what services they can access online, how they do it and what the benefits are.

Chorley Council are giving people of Eccleston the opportunity to learn how to use the internet so they can learn to love it and in turn live with its great benefits of doing things online, safely and securely.

So, regular beginners' sessions are organised in community venues across the borough. We can start with the absolute basics and you can learn on our laptops or bring your own laptop and tablet if you have one. If you already have access to the internet, for more information please visit www.chorley.gov.uk/digitalaccess

Chorley Council is looking at providing training sessions in Eccleston in the near future. If you would like more information or would be interested in learning how to use the internet please call 01257 515151 or, if you already have an email account, please email getonline@chorley.gov.uk

Anti social behaviour

Our September newsletter carried a report from Community Beat Manager Sonja Prescott on a Police operation one evening in September.

Inspector Julian Ormiston and Sergeant Matt Moon attended the October Parish Council meeting to provide further information for residents. More operations have since taken place and the Police are using a number of measures to try to improve things for residents including Dispersal Orders, Stop and Search powers to look for, and confiscate, drugs, issuing notices to prevent cars and scooters using Drapers Avenue and returning under 17's to their parents.

To try to help with the problem the Council has recently fitted security fencing to prevent access to a hiding place at the rear of the Community Hub at a cost of around £1700. We would continue to ask residents to report all incidents to the Police by calling 101.

Volunteers (still) needed

In our September newsletter was a request for volunteers to join a small group of dedicated residents who have been working to tidy up the Millennium Green. We had hoped the group might develop to look at other areas of open space in the village which are in need of a bit of care and attention. The response was a little disappointing so, if you missed the article and/or might be interested in joining the group, please contact the Clerk (details on front page).

Free Pruning Course

Join Eccleston resident **Steve Edwards (Lancashire County Council)** to learn to prune your apple and pear trees properly and gain the skills required to get better results from your trees.

The course, arranged in conjunction with the Parish Council, will be held on the Millennium Green, Red House Lane, on Sunday 14th January 2018, 10:00am start (Steve will be on site until approx. 3:00pm).

Bring your own secateurs and pruning saws, if you have good quality ones and make sure you come in suitable clothing and footwear.

Places on the course are limited so contact Steve to book on 07771 988903 or email to:

steve.edwards@lancashire.gov.uk

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If you want advice, or our leaflet on Overnight Care & "7 till 7"
 Please call Amanda: 01257 696 050

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- Parkinson's & Stroke support
- Medication prompting
- End of life care

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In the run up to Christmas, it's important to make sure you become more security conscious. Never leave anything of value on view in your car or your home. Keep all windows, doors, sheds and garages locked and secure.



Do not advertise on social media when you are out of your address, for example when you go Christmas shopping. Do not tell everyone where you are or your plans to be away from home. Doing so leaves your property vulnerable.

Now the weather is cooling down and we are expecting frost and ice, do not defrost your car and leave the engine running whilst you go back inside to stay warm. This is an offence, and your insurance will be invalid if your car is stolen whilst doing this.

If you have vulnerable or elderly neighbours, please spare a moment to check on them during the winter months.

On behalf of Lancashire Police, can I wish you all a safe, happy and joyous festive season.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

Reporting faults and problems

We have previously provided contact numbers to report faults and problems but many can also be reported online (details below).

Police: (non-emergency): 101

Chorley Police Station 01257 246225

website www.lancashire.police.uk/online

email Chorley.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

twitter.com/chorleypolice

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Chorley Borough Council: 01257 515151

email: contact@chorley.gov.uk

www.chorley.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council 0300 123 6701

Report highways and public rights of way problems (roads and pavements, including street lighting, signs and highway flooding): 0300 123 6780

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/fault-search.aspx

United Utilities (Water leaks) 0800 330033

www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/got-a-problem/report-a-leak/report-a-leak-form/

Please note: due to the urgency and possible life threatening nature of incidents involving gas, electricity and flooding these should always be reported by telephone:

National Grid (gas leaks) 0800 111999

National Grid (electricity emergency) 0800 40 40 90

Environment Agency Floodline 0345 988 1188

Environment incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

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