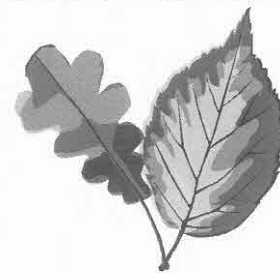


HARDEN VOICE

The newsletter of Harden Parish Council

Issue 4 May 2009

Harden Parish Council



Parish Plan Update

In October every household in the village received a questionnaire about the village. The answers will be used as the basis of the Harden Parish Plan.

Over 200 were returned and these were analysed by Alan Sykes, the vice chair of the parish council and the first draft of the report was written by the chair, Mike Andrews. Mike also presented the preliminary findings of the survey at the Neighbourhood Forum on March 17th.

Some of the replies were so clearly important to many residents that members of the parish council have already started work on them. These include traffic and road safety, medical facilities, litter and dog fouling and the park and the Memorial Hall.

The final report is being written and will be printed and available to all shortly.

Closure of Ireland Bridge

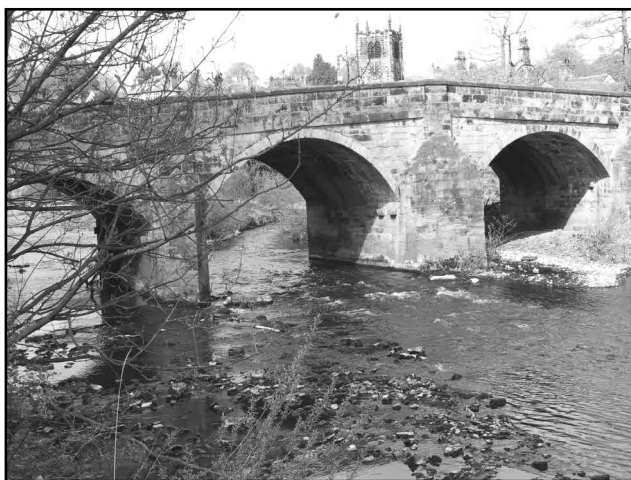
Ireland Bridge is due to be closed for major repairs for at least 20 weeks starting in July 2009. Built in 1686 and widened in 1785, it is a Grade II* listed building of considerable historic importance.

The work will cost £1.5m plus £360,000 to reconstruct the walls on The Twines.

On 17th March, a packed Neighbourhood Forum in Harden School heard the emergency services and the Council explain how each planned to cope with the closure.

Unfortunately, the bus companies did not turn up but they are expected to produce their plans at a special meeting in Bingley Methodist Church on April 30th.

Members of the Parish Council who have expressed great concern that the bus companies still have not explained what they intend to do, will certainly be there. We will make sure that all the essential details are displayed by the bus companies beforehand.



The Parish Council bought and planted two sacks of daffodils in the grass verges on Bingley Road. We will plant a similar quantity this autumn on the other side of the road.

We will also be starting work shortly on the flowerbeds outside the Post Office, planting about 1,000 plants. Last year's display was much appreciated by all who saw it and we hope to make it even better this year.

Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month and are open to the public. They are normally held in the school hall.

The agenda will be put on the notice boards near the Post Office at least 3 days before each meeting. The minutes are posted in the same place.

14th May 2009 (AGM)
11th June 10th July
13th August 10th Sept
8th October 12th Nov
10th Dec

News from your Parish Council

Harden Memorial Hall

The future of the Memorial Hall was one of the main concerns expressed in the replies to the questionnaire.



Coincidentally, Bradford Council who own the building, said that they wanted to transfer it into more local ownership, if a way could be found.

The Parish Council is now working closely with Bradford and the district councillors to try to find a way forward.

The Hall, which was given to local people by the Haggas family in memory of those who lost their lives in the 1914 -1918 war, needs a great deal of work to bring it up to modern standards.

It also needs more groups to make use of it to show that it can be an asset to the village, not a liability.

This is a long term project and we would welcome any one who wants to help.

Harden Village Society

The Harden Village Society has not met since before the Parish Council was established some two years ago. It is proposed to hold an Annual General Meeting on Saturday 4th July at 10.30 p.m.

Neither the venue nor the agenda has yet been finalised, but the future of the Society and its funds will be discussed.

If you have an interest in the Society and its future please keep an eye on the notice board by the post office for full details of the meeting. Then come along and make your views known.

Volunteer Drivers

A successful Volunteer Driver Scheme is operating in a number of villages including Wilsden, taking people to and from hospital and the doctors' surgery. Some Harden residents are already using it and this provides an opportunity for those with a car and a little time to spare to help others less fortunate.

Passengers pay a fee per mile to cover expenses, and insurance companies - provided you talk to them in advance - are generally supportive.

If you can help, please contact Colin Booth at the number below.



Harden Parish Council

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