

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Clerk to the Parish Council:

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Councillors:

Dorothy Wain (Chairman)	788332	Sue Bingham	788306
Sandy Carter	787601	Simon Brader	787115
Simon Cannon	788151	Ralph Bates	788109
Larry Pogson	787023		

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 pm on **Thursday 20 May 2010** in the Village Hall. Anyone may attend but only registered electors of Willingham may speak. The Agenda will be posted on the parish council noticeboard and at <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Willingham/index.asp> nearer the date.

Affordable Housing project

The parish council is supporting the findings of the Affordable Housing survey, which showed a need for a small number of dwellings for rent or shared ownership. This is mostly for single people of all ages. We are now considering how to take this forward. Land needs to be found for this project, which is classed as an 'exception' when considering the normal planning requirements, so if there is anyone who has land available for consideration, the parish council would love to hear from you.

Lay-by near Surgery

The lay-by is now complete and available for use by anyone visiting the surgery. If you are unable to find a place either in the surgery car park or in the lay-by, do please try to park sensibly and leave the junction opposite the surgery clear, so that you do not block the view of drivers emerging from the road on to High Street. The cones placed at this junction (with the blessing of the local police) are there for this reason. *Please do not leave litter at the lay-by.*

Don't risk a fine, help reduce waste crime

Rubbish is a threat to the environment, human health and wildlife if it is not disposed of properly. Illegal dumping of waste (fly-tipping) cost the East Midlands area £3.1 million last year. 65% of such incidents were classified as household waste.

If you need to dispose of waste outside your normal weekly bin collections, take it to the Household Waste Recycling Centre. All households have a legal responsibility to ensure their waste is disposed of properly. If you choose to take your waste elsewhere it is your responsibility to check the site has a permit to accept the type of waste you are taking.

If you are hiring a skip or employing a tradesman who will be disposing of your waste, you need to check they are registered as a waste carrier. Fly-tipping is often rubbish which people have paid someone to take away.

The simplest way to check whether a site has a permit, or if a company or individual has a Waste Carrier's Licence, is to ask to see it. If they cannot produce their licence or

if you are still unsure, you can telephone the Environment Agency on 0845 603 3113 or check our website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waste
Remember, you risk prosecution and a fine of up to £5,000 if you have not taken reasonable steps to ensure your waste is disposed of responsibly. If you would like to report an incident of fly-tipping, please report it to your local council or to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

Correctly connected, rivers protected

When we think about river pollution, we might assume it comes from places like factories, farms and industry. Yet in many cases the pollution in our rivers comes from a much less obvious source - our homes. Incorrect plumbing could mean that waste water from dishwashers, washing machines, sinks and even toilets is flushed directly into a local river. These 'misconnected' pipes are a common cause of pollution to rivers and streams. The Environment Agency has a duty to investigate such incidents, and is encouraging you to check your drains.

➤ **How does it work?**

There are normally two forms of drainage in most houses connected to mains sewers - surface water and foul water.

- **Surface water drains** carry rainwater from road surfaces and rooftops into local rivers and streams which flows into the river untreated.
- **Foul water drains** carry waste water from toilets, sinks, baths and household appliances to the sewage treatment works. This water is treated before it can safely flow back into river and streams.

Some older houses may have a combined drainage system which takes both surface and waste water. In this case all the water goes into the foul sewer for treatment.

➤ **How can you check for misconnected pipes?**

Check the outside of your property:

- **A roof rain pipe** is connected to the roof gutter and carries rainwater to the surface drain.
- **A toilet pipe** is usually larger in diameter than a roof drainpipe and may have a vent at the top. This should have all your waste water from dishwashers, toilets etc connecting to it.

The property owner must fix any misconnected pipes. It is often simple and cheap to sort out the problem.

If you do not fix a wrongly connected pipe, you could face a fine of up to £20,000.

For more information on misconnected pipes and how you can check your home, visit www.connectright.org.uk or telephone the Environment Agency on 0845 603 3113.