



# Thakeham

## Parish Council News

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly, a big welcome to all our readers but also an apology that the last edition of our newsletter was circulated late and in many cases received after Village Day. This was due to circumstances beyond our control but steps have been taken to try and ensure this does not happen again. The newsletter is currently produced and circulated at no cost to the parish.

This summer has not exactly been the best on the weather front and we are all facing many pressures, particularly from increases in the cost of living. With regard to Thakeham though, comes the news that a scoping document has been published concerning the Laybrook brickworks. This is likely to lead to a planning application later this year to use the site as landfill for waste. It is obviously a very big concern for all of us, and the council remains strongly opposed to the site being “restored” in this way. More about that follows later in this issue.

The council has learned that the landowners of the mushroom farms - Abingworth and main site - are preparing an outline plan for the future of the sites that should be ready for consultation by way of a public meeting in the autumn. The views of the Thakeham community will be paramount in whether any support is given to the progression to a detailed planning application or not.

As previously reported, the council has been represented in a working party to consider the fortnightly Mobile Household Waste Recycling Service in Storrington’s Old Mill Square car park. West Sussex County Council has now written to every household in the local area outlining how the service will operate in future. The solution makes good sense as while it safeguards a valuable mobile service for certain kinds of waste, it will improve recycling and reduce waste going to landfill.

We are delighted with our new website [www.thakehamparish.co.uk](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk) and hope that many of you are making use of it. We will welcome any feedback about it and it has already been used as a platform to communicate directly with us. We have received comment on the future of our bus shelters as well as road safety in areas of the parish not covered by county’s last review of speed restriction measures. These matters are being considered by the council and will be progressed and communicated through to conclusion.

I advised in the last edition that the council had acquired a CD ROM copy of the Tithe Map for Thakeham Parish that dates back to 1842. It is planned that this will be publicly demonstrated at this year’s December meeting for anyone interested.

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative and that all of us in Thakeham can work through the challenges facing us. **Dave Berry – Chairman, Thakeham Parish Council**

### PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The 2007 Parish plan sets out the key challenges, actions and issues facing the Council during its term in office.

Progress against plan is monitored by the implementations committee and a schedule detailing all the actions and progress to date was tabled at the August council meeting. A copy of the schedule has been put on the council’s web site and will be regularly updated. A full copy of the Parish Plan can also be found on the web site. [www.thakehamparish.co.uk](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk)

## LET'S NOT LAND UP WITH LANDFILL

Since the last parish newsletter things have moved on apace. Cory Environmental (the company that means to turn Laybrook Brickworks into a landfill site) has now formally announced its intention to submit a planning application for the site. The application is likely to be submitted in October, prior to which the company will hold a number of public exhibitions outlining its plans (dates and venues yet to be announced).

As you may have read in the June issue, the proposed landfill site poses a huge environmental threat to our community, in terms of air and water pollution, vermin and traffic - it is estimated that a refuse lorry will thunder through our country lanes every two minutes.

Your Parish Council will be taking all the necessary steps to object to Cory's application but if residents want to make sure that Thakeham and surrounding parishes are not blighted for decades to come, they will also need to act.

Thakeham Village Action, which has been actively campaigning against the landfill site since the beginning, is presently producing a leaflet which will be distributed to over 5000 homes in the area. This will arrive on your doorstep as soon as Cory's application has been submitted to West Sussex County Council and will include details of how to file your own objections.

The power to stop the landfill site (which to remind you, would be the size of 130 football pitches) lies squarely in your hands. West Sussex County Council has to take into account the views of the local community, so the more the better. Every member of a household can write to the Council and each letter will be viewed as an individual objection.

So when the time comes, if you want to save your community from playing host to a vast pile of rotting rubbish, you will need to put pen to paper.

## OPEN SPACES

The Open Spaces Committee meets on a regular basis and monitors issues such as the play areas, footpaths, trees, grass cutting and street cleaning.

The Cable Ride in the High Bar Lane playground has now been replaced and we are currently reviewing the other equipment in order to assess whether replacement or different items would improve the facility. Judging by the number of children observed enjoying themselves each time the Committee members have visited the site this playground has clearly proved a success.

The County Council have completed their public rights of way routine maintenance which included 725 metres of vegetation clearance from various footpaths, replacing finger posts and repairing broken stiles.

A significant amount of tree thinning is being carried out in Mill Copse (Easterly direction from the church). This is being monitored by our tree warden.



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### WATCH YOUR SPEED!

Complaints that the 20 mph limit in The Street is not being observed led to a suggestion that 20 mph signs should be positioned in 2 or 3 places.

WSCC Highways said that a speed census with wires across the road should be conducted to assess the need for such signs. This was undertaken in July and we await the findings of the census.

We don't want unnecessary signs but if speeding is confirmed then motorists must be reminded that they are in a 20 mph zone and this means some signs.

The SID team has just been enlarged with 3 new members having been trained to use the Speed Indicator Device and 3 more waiting for our next 1 hour training session.

We expect to be operating regularly again when the children are back at school now that we have a bigger team of operators.

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## THAKEHAM VILLAGE DAY



Once again the weather was kind to us, and this year's Village Day on June 14th was one of the biggest and best in recent years. Across the field, there seemed a real buzz in the air as people enjoyed the arena events, stalls, attractions, food, and drink. For the first time, the event carried on into the evening with some great music by Sussex band Dark Starr and a Hog Roast. The aim of the day has always been to bring the community together and to raise some much-needed funds. This year we managed to raise an impressive £3600 for local causes, the bulk of which has gone to Thakeham First School and to support the Village Hall. The First School once again entertained us with their Country Dancing, and there were displays by the local Ministars Youth Theatre and local Gun Dogs. Not forgetting



of course our own Thakeham Morris side, who this year performed from time to time around the Arena. Once again Thakeham Village Day hosted the South Downs Strongman Challenge, which brought people from across the UK to watch and take part. The sixteen competitors battled through six gruelling events, including tractor pulling, tyre flipping and trying to run with a 280kg yoke on your back! However, Village Day can get even better! If you have any great new ideas, or just want to help out, why not come and join the planning group? We only meet once per month, and we only ask people to give whatever time or help they can offer.

**The initial planning meeting for Village Day 2009 is on Thursday 18th September at 8pm in Thakeham Village Hall. Please come along – WE NEED YOU!**

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## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All meetings are open to residents who are welcome to address Council on any matters in an Open Forum held during the meeting. Agendas of all Council and Committee meetings are displayed on the noticeboards and the minutes are published on our website at [www.thakehamparish.co.uk](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk)

## HOW TO CONTACT US

### Chairman

Mr David Berry Little Oak, Storrington Road, Thakeham, RH20 3NA Tel: 01903 742303 [dhberry@btinternet.com](mailto:dhberry@btinternet.com)

*Ex officio all committees, CLC, JPAWG*

### Vice Chairman

Mr Stephen Kirby 17 Linfield Copse, Thakeham, RH20 3EU Tel: 01798 815089 [sjk2008@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjk2008@hotmail.co.uk)

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### Councillors

Mr John Bearman Tel: 01903 744971 *HALC, JPAWG, Open Spaces Committee, Parish Plan Implementation AC, Police*

Mr Roger Brown Tel: 01798 812678 *Planning Committee, Open Spaces Committee*

Mrs Lavinia Bunyan Tel: 01798 815968 *Planning Committee, Open Spaces Committee, Sport and Leisure*

Ms Karen Dawes Tel: 01798 815636 *Planning Committee (Chair)*

Ms Lucy McDowell Tel: 01798 812421 *Laybrook Landfill WP, Minerals Liaison Group*

Mr Dave MacEachern Tel: 01798 815722 *CLC, Laybrook Landfill WP, Minerals Liaison Group Village Hall Committee,*

*Planning Committee, Footpath Inquiry Ad Comm, Youth, Health*

Mr Norman Prince Tel: 01798 813064 *HALC, Open Spaces Committee (Chair), Parish Plan Implementation AC,*

*Tree Warden, Footpath Warden*

Mr Rod Walker Tel: 01798 812802 *Planning Committee, Parish Plan Implementation AC Highways and Transport*

Mr John Weight Tel: 01798 815512 *JPAWG, Parish Plan Implementation AC, Communications*

### Clerk to the Council

Mr John Denman The Parish Office,  
Tel: 01798 815305

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