

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE – June 2010

1. Community grants.

Councillors were very pleased to be able to grant £500 to the Street Pastors who plan to extend their help activities into Bishopstoke in the near future. Street Pastors is an interdenominational Church response to neighbourhood problems, engaging with people on the streets and in night-time venues to care, listen, talk to and offer practical help to those in need. More information is available from www.streetpastors.org.uk. £500 was also granted to Eastleigh Homestart to assist them in meeting the costs involved in providing home support and friendship for families with young children on a weekly basis to alleviate isolation and loneliness.

2. Quality Parish status

The Parish Council was awarded Quality Parish status in 2006 under a Government initiative which recognised those local councils which fulfilled their responsibilities to an exceptionally high standard. The recognition lasts for four years before application has to be made for re-accreditation. Evidence is being collated at the moment for a formal submission to the assessment board in September when, fingers crossed, our Quality Parish status will be renewed.

3. Temporary Parish Office

Councillors are pleased to note that a number of residents have called in to the temporary Parish Office located in the Methodist Church Hall on Sedgwick Road on Wednesday mornings between 11.00am and 1.00pm and a variety of queries have been addressed. The PCSO also calls in during these hours. Please use this facility to meet your local Councillor, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk, and air your comments on our Parish and its facilities.

4. Carnival Quiz Nights

Sunday 12 September 2010 is the date for your dairy this year when once again the Bishopstoke Carnival will be in full swing. The organising committee has its own website at www.bishopstokecarnival.hampshire.org.uk where further information can be found. Volunteers are always needed to help the committee in its preparations and on the day. In the meantime, the Carnival Quiz Nights have started with the first Quiz Night at The Anglers Inn on Wednesday 30 June and further meetings at The Welcome Inn (12 July), The Foresters Arms (4 August), The Prince of Wales (6 September) and The Bishopstoke Workingman's Club (22 September). Much fun is had by those involved so why not come along and watch or better still form or join a team and enter the competition.

5. Allotment News

Mrs Taylor, the Assistant Clerk, has been busy updating the records of tenants on the allotments and rewriting the rules and regulations to ensure we comply with all health and safety requirements. Some tenants have been given notice to quit because they are no longer keeping or using their plots and this is unfair given the average waiting time on the list for plots is in excess of two years. In between all this administration, she has had to deal with the unexpected, the last example being an influx of bees. Research showed them to be Bumble Bees who will disappear in the Autumn but in the meantime can

be disconcerting to those nearby although they are harmless unless disturbed!!! We have erected a screen to direct them away from adjacent plots when leaving their nest as the British Bee Keeping Association recommends that the nest is left in situ. Interestingly, there are 24 species of Bumble Bees in the UK so we should count ourselves lucky we have only come across the one!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 27 July 2010 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke.

All meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are open to the public and full meetings of the Parish Council normally take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month except August and December when no meetings are held.

*For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: Peter Storey OBE
telephone number 01794 389220 or email: bishopstoke.pc@btconnect.com
or visit the Parish website at: www.bishopstokepc.hampshire.org.uk*