

Winwick ^{really} Matters

Issue 32 Spring 2008



The Newsletter of Winwick Parish Council, covering Winwick Village, Winwick Park, Houghton Green, Hermitage Green, "White City", part Grasmere/Greenwood Estate and part of Cinnamon Brow/Fearnhead

On May 1st, you will have the chance to participate in the local elections including the Parish Council.

This edition of Winwick Matters is intended to encourage you to vote and to consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

If Winwick "really" matters to you and you would like to do something very positive within your community, then please read this issue and find out what it means to be a Parish Councillor

What has the present Parish Council achieved over the last 4 years?

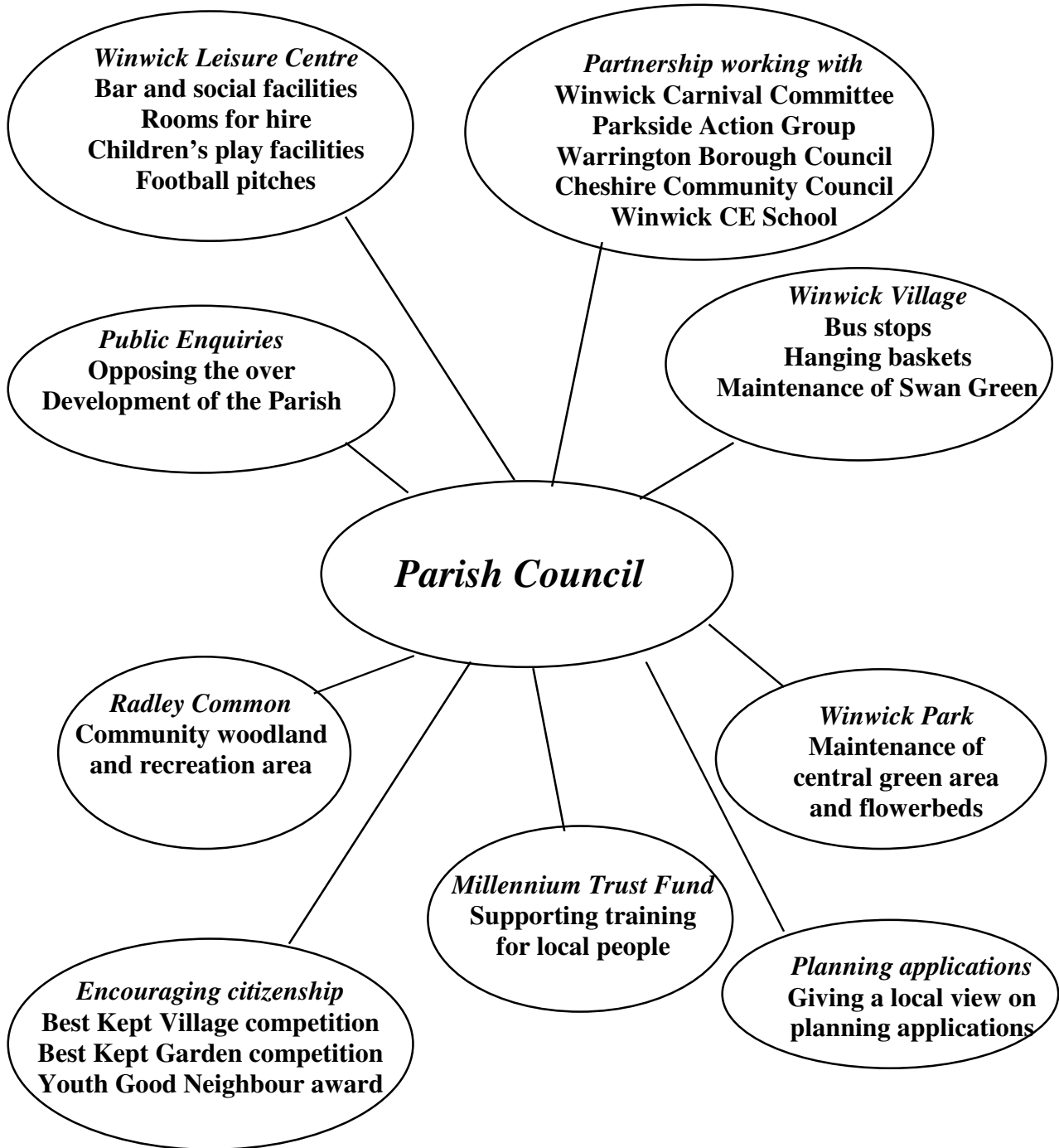
The last four years has been a busy time for Winwick Parish Council and during that period it has:-

- Invested £ 200,000 in the building of a major extension of Winwick Leisure Centre – significantly increasing the hiring of the Centre and hire income by 150%
- Invested £20,000 in the installation of a new CCTV system at Winwick Leisure Centre
- Invested £35,000 in the extension of the rear car park at the Leisure Centre
- Invested £5,000 in new play equipment at Myddleton Lane Recreation Ground
- Spent £14,000 each year on the maintenance of the environment at Radley Common,
- Campaigned against planning applications affecting Winwick-Vulcan Village, Parkside & Townsfield Lane

All of the above has been achieved with only an 8% total increase over the 4 years in the amount of the Parish Councils element of the Council Tax (the Precept) for a band D property.

It's Your Vote-Use It!

What is the Parish Council responsible for?



Parkside Action Group

www.parksideactiongroup.org.uk

PO Box 17, Newton-le-Willows. WA3 3WX

What happens at Parish Council Meetings ?

The Parish Council hope that you take the opportunity to read copies of the minutes of their meetings, which are placed in the various notice boards around the parish and on the Council's website www.winwickparishcouncil.co.uk. Even better come along to the meetings, which are all open to the public.

If have not been able to do so, the following gives a flavour of the issues they have been debating over the last year, at Parish Council and the Leisure Centre Strategy Committee meetings:-

- ***The use of green field land at Townsfield Lane as a car boot site***
- ***The planning application to develop the site of the former Parkside colliery as a rail freight terminal***
- ***The adoption of a Health & Safety Policy for Winwick Leisure Centre***
- ***The setting of targets for bar income, hire income and staff performance***
- ***The employment of a Deputy Manager at Winwick Leisure Centre***
- ***Introduction of the smoking ban***
- ***Proposals by United Utilities to carry out flood relief work***
- ***Setting up of systems of internal control and internal audit***
- ***Seeking of planning approval to extent the rear car park of the Leisure Centre***
- ***Consideration of requests for grants from local organisations***
- ***Support for a local speed watch campaign***
- ***Planning of events for Christmas and New Year***
- ***Commenting on Borough Council Strategy documents relating to housing and the environment***
- ***Agreeing to reduce the Councils carbon footprint***
- ***Setting the Councils budget and precept***

These are real issues effecting the lives and well being of local people.

Parish Councillors don't always agree with each other and very often lively debate takes place.

Being a Parish Councillor brings a real opportunity for you to have a say in how your community is governed and to influence its future.

We hope as a Parish Council that this newsletter will make you consider standing for election.

If you are interested please look out for the notices which the Borough Council will be placing in the press and locally within the next few weeks. The closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on the 4th April 2008

Some Questions and answers

Q. How do I know if I am eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

A. If you are an elector on the electoral register, are over 21 and a British Citizen you are eligible. (although in certain circumstances you may be disqualified).

Q. How much of my time would I have to give if I were to become a Councillor?

A. The Parish Council meets on the fourth Tuesday evening on 10 months in the year. Five Parish Councillors choose to sit on a Strategy Committee which sets performance and targets for the Management of Winwick Leisure Centre and which meets on the second Tuesday evening, 6 months in the year. Meetings usually last for 2 hours.

Q. Do the Parish Councillors have to do a lot of the paperwork?

A. No. The Council employs a Clerk a Finance Officer and a Leisure Centre Manager who deal with all the correspondence, finances and business of the Council.

Q. Are there any rules which guide Parish Councillors ?

A . Yes. The conduct of Parish Councillors is governed by the Standards Board for England, through a Code of Conduct. You will be required to register any interests you may have which could effect the business of the Parish Council.

Q. Is there any financial liability to being a Parish Councillor?

A. You must act in a responsible way in conducting the affairs of the Council. But you are protected (under the Councils insurances) from any legal claims in relation to your Parish duties, therefore not putting yourself at any personal financial risk.

Q. Do I get paid as a Parish Councillor?

A. Whilst no payment is made for duties as a Parish Councillor, most members find it to be a rewarding role in terms of the service they are able to give to their local community.

Winwick Leisure Centre

Our extensively stocked bar open 7 nights a week from 7.00 pm and 12.00 noon weekends

Rooms for hire at highly competitive rates for that special occasion or for your company training and seminars.

We can supply training equipment and refreshments as well as arranging catering and DJ's

For further information contact Winwick Leisure Centre

Tel 01925 637490 or 07984 333723

The Parish Council consists of 10 Parish Councillors

5 representing the St Oswalds ward in and around Winwick Village and 5 in the Houghton ward in and around the Mill Lane area.

If you have any comments, complaints or compliments regarding this Newsletter contact the Editor:-

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