

GREAT SANKEY NEWS

The Newsletter of Great Sankey Parish Council

Winter 2006

Volume 1 Issue 3

A TASTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Cllr Bird with the shadow Parish Councillors and newly elected shadow Chairperson

Local Democracy Week 16th to 20th October 2006.

As part of Local Democracy Week 2006, the Chairman of Great Sankey Parish Council, Cllr Allan Bird, invited local High Schools to take part in a "Shadow Parish Council meeting".

The event, on 18th October, was aimed at helping pupils learn more about local democracy and also to forge some links with the Parish Council. The Parish Council wants to engage with local youngsters, to see if it can help encourage more activities being made available for them.

The young Shadow Councillors elected a Chairperson for the meeting and then debated a wide variety of proposals, some light-hearted but some quite serious. They included whether MSN Messenger and Myspace is better than the telephone; the relative merits of PSP and Nintendos; and what could be done to improve the facilities available to young people as "there is nothing to do at night".

It was obvious that the schools and young people taking part had put a lot of work into preparing for the event; as had Cllr Phil Hudson who recorded the event with photos, and Mrs Bird who provided refreshments.

The event was felt to be a success, and Cllr Bird has received requests to run a similar event when Local Democracy Week comes around next year. And young people are always welcome to come to ordinary Parish Council meetings

Parish council takes action against anti-social behaviour



At the Parish Council meeting on 11th October 2006, Great Sankey Parish Council formally voted to increase the number of Police Community Support Officers they help fund.

From 1st April 2007 they will contribute funding for 4 PCSOs to work in the Parish.

The Parish Council has been funding 2 PCSOs since April 2005, and is convinced they are effective in helping combat anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Parish. A change in the government funding arrangements means that local organisations like the Parish Council can effectively get 2 PCSOs for little more than the price of one from April 2007, and so the Parish Council has asked Cheshire Police to recruit 2 more PCSOs to join Natalie Giles and Colin Cheshire (pictured left) who are already familiar faces in the Parish.

Great Sankey Parish Council are also working with Cheshire Police to try to set up Alcohol Free Zones in the area, and are considering if there are any other measures they can promote to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Parish Council already invest a considerable amount of money and effort in cleaning up the results of vandalism, so it makes sense to try to reduce it before it happens

The Parish Council are doing what they can to reduce anti-social behaviour, vandalism and litter in the Parish.

You can help by coming to Community Action meetings (watch Parish notice boards for details) and by reporting incidents to the police. If they don't know about it they can't fix it. You can contact Police on 0845 458 0000 to report an incident.

Getting in touch with the Parish Council

Parish Councillors want to hear your views on local issues, and they will try to help you with local problems

To contact your Parish Councillor you can

- Come to a Parish Council meeting
- Phone your Councillor direct
- Go to a Councillors surgery
- Contact the Parish Clerk by phone or letter to pass on information

Why not come to a Parish Council meeting?

Members of the public are most welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. It is a chance to meet your Councillors, put a point of view or ask a questions about local issues that matter to you. There is time set aside at the start of every Parish Council meeting to give members of the public a chance to speak. This means you don't have to stay for the whole meeting, you can leave after you have spoken, although you are very welcome to stay throughout if you wish to.

You can check in advance what is being discussed by looking at the agenda. The agenda for each meeting is posted up the week before the meeting in each of the Council's Community Centres and also in the library at Marina Avenue and on the Parish Council Notice Boards.

Parish Council Notice Boards are located

- Outside Whittle Hall Community Centre
- In Tim Parry Recreation ground, along Wroxham Road
- Outside the Spar shop at Hood Manor
- Outside Hood Lane Community Centre, facing Sankey Way (A57)

Meetings are held every month (except August) in the Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale Way. Meetings start at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month. Dates for the Parish Council meetings in the next few months are, 10th January 2007, 14th February 2007, 14th March 2007, 11th April 2007.

Parish Councillors and surgeries for Whittle Hall (all numbers begin 01925)

Allan Bird	659439	Peter Carey	726008	Lorna Lewis	630020
Terry Lewis	630020	Tony Williams	725427		

Surgeries 2nd Saturday in the month at Westbrook Library 11am to 12noon

Parish Councillors and surgeries for Sankey South (all numbers begin 01925)

Alan Litton	453264	Doreen Lynn	493746	Liz Smith	654950
Jim Regan	650057	Phil Hudson	723374		

Surgeries 1st Saturday in the month at the Library, Marina Avenue 10.30am to 11.30am

Parish Councillors and surgeries for Sankey North (all numbers begin 01925)

Keith Gleave	727963	Veronica Hudson	723374	Peter Ryan	724512
Roy Smith	654950	Judith Wheeler	655621		

Surgeries 1st Saturday in the month at Tim Parry Community Centre 10.30am to 11.30am

You can also contact the Parish Clerk, Cheryl Wakefield, at the Parish Office. This is located in Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close, Warrington, WA5 3UA
tel 01925 712279 from 9.30am to 1.30pm every weekday.

The refurbishment rolls on.....



Cllrs Litton and Regan with Mrs Spencer in the new kitchen

This time it is Hood Manor Community Centre that has come in line for some extra care and attention.

All the lighting has been upgraded to give the place a much brighter, fresher look. However it is not just about appearances – as the Council refurbishes centres it is replacing the old lights with modern energy efficient ones to help save money and save the planet. The entrance hall has been carpeted and painted to make it more welcoming.

The kitchen has had a re-fit and re-decorate, and a new storage area has been made.

Work is now going on to re-decorate the rest of the interior of the hall. This will take some time, as it is being done by the Council's own Maintenance Officer to fit around bookings in the hall, rather than employing a crew to do it quickly but having to shut down the hall for a few weeks.

All activities in the hall are carrying on as normal in the meantime.

As well as the interior refurbishment, Great Sankey Parish Council are liaising with Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire Police to see what can be done to improve security outside the hall and in the immediate neighbourhood.



The kitchen is launched

If you want to book Hood Manor for a community activity contact the Parish Clerk on 01925 712279

You can check for activities at Hood Manor, or any of the Council's other centres, by visiting our website at greatsankeypc.org.uk or calling the office, 01925 712279, from 9.30am to 1.30pm every weekday

**The Council has vacant slots for hall hire for community use at all its centres.
Contact the Parish Clerk on 01925 712279 for details**