

SPRING 2006 NEWSLETTER

AN UPDATE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
HANLEY CASTLE AND HANLEY SWAN

Low cost housing in Hanley Swan

Following Bromford Housing Group's abortive attempt to provide affordable housing on land between the primary school and Westmere, the Parish Council has gone back to square one. Every household in the Parish shortly will be receiving a 'housing needs' survey form which they will be asked to complete and return to the Rural Housing Enabler, Alan Saunders. Mr. Saunders will then collate the information provided and report back to the Parish Council.

The results of the survey will then inform the rest of the process which—if defined by the outcome of the survey—will involve the identification of a suitable site; the design of a scheme based upon the results of the survey; planning permission and ultimately the building phase. The Parish Council and local residents will be consulted throughout the process and the scheme will proceed only if it has the backing of the local community.

The survey forms will explain that affordable housing provided on a 'rural exception' site (i.e., one outside the settlement boundary) will be available only to persons who either live in the Parish, work in the Parish or have a strong local connection. If you know of someone who may have been forced to move away due to a lack of suitable housing within the Parish they may like to fill in a form to register their need. Extra copies of the forms may be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Ann Canham (310366) or the Rural Housing Enabler (01386 565521).

New Parish Paths Wardens

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that John & Margaret Quibell-Smith have volunteered, kindly, to act as Paths Wardens following the retirement of Marjorie and Michael Nelson, as announced in our last newsletter. We wish them well as they take on their new role and try to fill the ample (walking) boots of Marjorie and Michael whose 13 years of service to the Parish have resulted in our footpaths being some of the best-maintained in the county.

Tree Works in Hanley Swan

As you may have seen, Adrian Hope Tree Services have completed the work on the oak tree on the village green in Hanley Swan. This was done in December under the guidance of Mr. Chris Mayes, MHDC's arboriculturist. It is hoped that this will reduce the stress on the tree caused by the twisting effect of extremely long and heavy branches. We hope that this will prevent a repeat of last year's problems when the tree lost some large limbs.

The work on the tree cost £795.00 and with maintenance work on the trees behind the pond costing £1,762.50, a considerable proportion of the Parish Council's budget for 2005/6 has been spent on tree works. However, it is important that these trees (which are on publicly accessible land) are maintained in good condition and indeed the Parish Council's insurers require regular inspections and maintenance to be carried out.

Milestones

Did you know that there are still 7 milestones in the Parish? Did you know that there is a national Milestone Society dedicated to the preservation of these monuments to an age when travel was an altogether slower and quieter affair? The Milestone Society has located our milestones and although most of them have lost their metal plates marking the distances to various places, there are a couple which are still intact. You may recall that

these were restored and re-painted a few years ago by Mr. Page.

The Parish Council has agreed to help preserve all of our milestones and to that end Bob Kendrick, our Parish Lengthsman will include in his duties keeping them tidy and free from vegetation.

If you are interested in milestones in general, then you might like to contact the Milestone Society - membership secretary, Brian Barrow, Larkrise, Clavering, Essex CB11 4QT, or visit www.milestone-society.co.uk.

Dates of Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of alternate months at 7:30 p.m. in Hanley Swan Village Hall. The next meeting is to be held on 16th. March, followed by meetings in May, July, September and November 2006. The Council's planning committee meets on an ad hoc basis: this is because plans can be issued to us for consideration at any time and MHDC requires our response within 2 weeks of our receipt of them. Dates of these meetings are advertised on the Parish Council's notice boards and, as with full meetings of the council, members of the public are welcome to attend.

The March Meeting of the Parish Council

Mr. Nick Vincent, executive director of the Three Counties Agricultural Society (TCAS) had agreed to attend our March meeting to update everyone on happenings at the showground and to

report on how his measures to alleviate the nuisance caused by traffic are progressing. Unfortunately, he is unable to attend the meeting on March 16th. But it is hoped that he will be able to come to speak to us in the not too distant future, so as to maintain the liaison established over the past year. In the meantime, if you have any comments, complaints or observations regarding TCAS and the associated traffic, the Parish Council would be interested to hear them so that they can be passed on to Mr. Vincent.

At the March meeting, there will now be a presentation on the subject of 'Neighbourhood Watch' and an opportunity to meet the local organisers, including Mr. Brian Hamilton-Hewitt of Gilberts End. Please come along and learn more about the revitalised neighbourhood watch scheme and see what more can be done to protect your home and property at a time when there has been a small spate of burglaries in Hanley Swan.

The Parish Council Precept for 2006/7

At the January meeting, the Parish Council set its budget for next year. A small increase was agreed, this being well within the current rate of inflation. The budget has been submitted to MHDC for approval and a full report and analysis will be presented in our next newsletter.

Directory of Clubs and Societies

In this issue of our newsletter, we have included a freshly-compiled directory of Clubs, Societies and Interest Groups. It contains as much information as we have been able to gather up to now, so if you are involved in such an organisation that we have missed, please let us know and you will be included in the next edition. The list will also be published on our website in the near future.

*Sue Roberts
(Chairman)*

18 February 2006

The Parish Council Website

Our website presents far more information than can ever be printed in a newsletter. On it, you will find all the minutes of committee meetings, planning decisions, information regarding businesses resident in the parish, news, links to other sites, information about recycling facilities and much, much more.

We are very keen to expand this site and to make it a valuable source of data for our residents. However, it is run by volunteers at no cost to the Parish and consequently would benefit from additional effort. If you would be prepared to lend a hand in providing content and timely updates, we would be glad to hear from you. Experience is not necessary (we'll help you with the technical stuff!), but a PC, an internet connection and boundless enthusiasm are all essential! We have plenty of ideas — we need help in getting them put onto the site. If you can help, please contact the editor: irt@cygnetlodge.co.uk or phone 310716.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Hanley Castle Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November at Hanley Swan Village Hall: meetings start (usually) at 7:30 pm. All members of the public are welcome at these meetings, though they will be allowed to address the council only before and after the meeting unless otherwise invited by the Chairman.

Our Council comprises:	Telephone
Sue Roberts (Chairman)	592686
Tony Atkinson	310408
Anne Ballinger	592812
Ann Davies	310861
Francis Harcombe	310740
Margaret Norris	310786
John Taverner	310460
Ian Thompson	310716
Associated officers:	
Ann Canham (Clerk)	310366
Marjorie & Michael Nelson (footpaths)	310302
David Cheale (Tree Warden)	310233
Sue Adeny (MHDC Councillor)	310440
Mary Wilkinson (MHDC Councillor)	593704

Comments and contributions from parish residents are welcomed on any subject to do with our community. The Parish Council is very conscious of the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter and the methods of so doing will be under constant review.

If you would be prepared to receive it in electronic form either by email or by downloading it from our website, please let us know — this will help us to keep production costs to a minimum.

The information contained in this newsletter is edited by Ian Thompson
 Telephone: 01684 310716, email irt@cygnetlodge.co.uk or by post to
 Cygnet Lodge, Worcester Rd., Hanley Swan, Worcs. WR8 0EA.