

Proposal to Install CCTV in West Itchenor



The West Itchenor Parish Council has been investigating the desirability, technical issues and financial costs of installing CCTV in the Village. It is hoped that a CCTV camera, placed strategically in the Village, might help reduce crime. It would act both as a deterrent and also help the police identify perpetrators. Since there is only one road in and out of the Village, a single camera installation is expected to capture almost all movements to and from West Itchenor.

The proposal currently being considered by the Council is to install a CCTV camera at the junction of Itchenor Road and Shipton Green, operating on the basis of number plate recognition. The camera will be linked to a local recording system that can be interrogated remotely by authorised users. Following an incident, the Parish Council will make available to the local police the licence plate numbers of vehicles entering and/or leaving the Village during the appropriate time slot. The data recorded by the camera will not be used for any other purpose nor be available to anybody but the local police.

The total cost of buying and installing the appropriate equipment is about £4,000. Annual running costs are estimated at £700. Assuming an equipment life of 3-5 years, the total cost of having CCTV is just under £2,000 per annum or £6.50 per household. It is hoped the main businesses in Itchenor (e.g., Haines Boatyard, Itchenor Sailing Club, Lansdale Marine, Northshore Yachts, The Ship) might be willing to contribute to the annual costs.

West Itchenor Parish Council has previously agreed that CCTV should only be installed in the Village if the project has the overwhelming support of residents. If there is sufficient support, the Council hopes to have the system installed by Summer 2013.

Please let the Parish Council have your views by e-mailing the Clerk of the Council at parishclerk@westitchenorparishcouncil.org.uk. The Parish Council will be making a presentation on CCTV at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th May 2013.

Communications

The Parish Council is always pleased to hear from residents regarding matters about the village that they wish to raise with us or which are causing them concern. To this end we have improved our contact details on the Council's website so that you can email Councillors individually directly from the site. Our website address is www.westitchenorparishcouncil.org.uk and then click on the 'Councillors' button.

As both an environmental and cost saving exercise, the Parish Council would like to be able to contact residents electronically in the future. We believe some residents may also prefer to receive Newsletters and other communications in this way. Obviously not all residents have email or want to be contact electronically. The Parish Council will, therefore, only communicate electronically with residents who specifically consent to receive information this way.

If you would like to receive electronic communications from the Parish Council please email the Parish Clerk with your name, address and email or return the attached form.

Parish Council Precept for 2013 – 2014

The precept for West Itchenor Parish



Council has remained unchanged for the past 4 years. Last year revenue of £10,900 was raised through this local tax to support the work of the Parish Council. Localism is moving more responsibilities onto local parish councils and hence increasing their costs. There are also two specific issues affecting Itchenor.

First the Parish Council wants to provide additional services to local residents including the possibility of introducing CCTV and a 20 mph speed limit for part of the Village. Second, the Council wants to protect and improve the maintenance of our local assets, including Shipton Common and the Pond.

Recently the Parish Council had to pay almost £1,000 to remove dangerous trees from the area around the Pond. With such a small absolute budget, these additional costs have a distortingly large impact on the Council's finances.

Since the parish council portion of the Council Tax is relatively modest (last year £28.00 per annum for the benchmark band 'D' home), the Parish Council decided to make a meaningful increase in this year's budget to enable a number of projects to be undertaken without eroding the Council's reserves.

It was therefore agreed, at the Council Meeting in January 2013, to set the precept for 2013 -2014 at £13,680 or £33.23 per annum for the benchmark band 'D' home. Although this represents a significant percentage increase, Councillors hope residents will agree the modest absolute value of the increase is justified in order to provide enhanced services to the Village.

Land North of "The Oast"

The Parish Council is aware that many residents are concerned about the ongoing works on the plot of land adjacent to "The Oast".



Following the refusal by Chichester District Council (CDC) of the owner's application to construct a three bedroom house on the land, the owner has now gone to appeal. All submissions had to be submitted to the Inspector by the 31st December last year. A decision is expected within the next few months.

The owner previously lost an appeal to reinstate the land, following an order by CDC. Over the past few months the owner, ostensibly in compliance with this enforcement notice which was upheld by the Inspector, has been levelling the land.

However in doing so he has filled in, without permission, an important drainage ditch and enclosed land that is owned by WSCC and forms part of the highway. He has also reduced the width of the footpath to 1.2 meters from the require 2 meters.

In his submission to the Inspector the owner has included

measurements for the plot based on the now enclosed land, which he claims he owns.

Within a few days of the filling in of the ditch and the enclosure of the land the Parish Council wrote to WSCC and with both documentary and photographic evidence informed them of the unauthorised activities taking place on the land.

The Parish Council also wrote to the Inspector making further representations to support their original objection to the planning application.

Communications on the matter have continued with WSCC and CDC and on the 8th February a meeting was held at WSCC with representatives from both WSCC and CDC to discuss the issues raised and possible steps to be taken.

It is an ongoing situation and the Parish Council will continue to vigorously pursue the matter with the various bodies involved.

Flooding in Itchenor

We have been told that 2012 was the wettest year on record and the residents of Itchenor can certainly attest to that!

It has been noted that on a regular basis (sometimes two or three times a week in periods of heavy rain) there is a significant increase in flooding of properties, mainly gardens although in some cases dwellings. Of particular concern is the frequency of flooding resulting in the escape of raw sewage into the gardens of some properties in Itchenor Road, making the gardens unusable for both children and pets.

Due to the clearing of the ditches by many of the residents the flood waters drain very quickly once the rain stops. However it is of little comfort to the properties that have been subject to the initial flooding, as the damage has already occurred.

Flooding in Itchenor is a village wide problem. Because one property is free of flooding does not mean that it is not affected by the problem. We are a community and as such the actions of one can affect the many. Therefore, all landowners, farmers and householders have to look at how effective drainage can be implemented without detriment to the whole.



We are in communication with the various agencies such as The Environment Agency, West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council but realistically, with government cuts and communities far larger than us asking for assistance, we are not a priority and therefore it leaves us as community to try and resolve the problem for the benefit of all.

Residents are reminded they can register for telephone flood warnings on the Environment Agency's website: <https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/home>.

West Itchenor Parish Council

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