

A recent survey by Derbyshire County Council reported that 69% of residents were in favour of turning the lights off between midnight and 5.30am, offering the prospect of saving up to £400,000 per annum and 2,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

Brightly lit streets and roads can actually reduce road safety by encouraging motorists to speed and take less care at night. People take more care when lighting their own way.

Much of our lighting in this area is old, it is not contemporary in its design or efficiency in the way it directs light or uses energy and I believe there is a policy to gradually replace street lighting throughout the county.

I would like to finish by asking for the support of the Parish Council when the consultation period comes along, to play their part in helping to cut the county energy bill and more importantly conserving energy for a greener future.

*Rosie Duncan, Ashley Heath*

### Parish Councillors by Ward

#### Loggerheads Ward

Cllr Bob Dickson

Cllr Ian Douglas

Cllr Jane Egerton

Cllr Jane Hughes

Cllr Ed Martin

Cllr Tony McCullagh

Cllr Paul Northcott

Cllr Della Rowley

#### Mucklestone Ward

Cllr Graham Sedgley

Cllr Jim Vallings

Cllr Jamie Friend

#### Ashley Ward

Cllr Sue Fox

Cllr Bunty Hodgkins

Cllr John Lovatt

Cllr Chris Taylor

#### Tyrley Ward

Cllr Bert Bennion

Cllr Roy Claydon

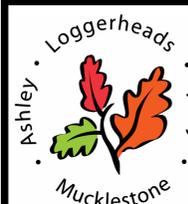
*All Councillors can be contacted  
on 01630 673426 or by email*

### Parish Council Meetings

The next two full meetings of the Council are being held on

Thursday, 22nd March and Thursday, 26th April

**\*\*Please Check Parish Notice Boards for venue\*\***



## YOUR Parish Council The newsletter of Loggerheads Parish Council

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**Clerk to the Council— Andrew McRae**

**[www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com)**

This edition of **YOUR Parish Newsletter** is largely devoted to just two specific issues, safer roads and light pollution, that we believe will be of major interest and concern to all residents of Loggerheads, Ashley, Mucklestone and Tyrley.

We should be delighted to receive related feedback, to help inform those who are behind these initiatives and suggestions, and to enable them to take such matters forward in a way that truly represents the views of all.

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING : WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISCUSS!

Arrangements are now in hand for the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held at Ashley Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April. The meeting is an opportunity for community groups and individuals to address the entire Parish on issues that they feel would be of interest or which demand collective attention – do you have such an issue, and a case to make? If so, the Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you, and to consider including the matter on the agenda for the meeting. It's a valuable opportunity to make public something that you care about! It's not just a platform for complaints; good news is also welcome!

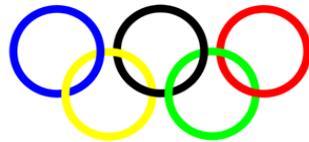
If you have something to say, please write to the Clerk **asap**

## SAFER ROADS ACTION GROUP

The Parish Council has welcomed the establishment of the 'Safer Roads Action Group' to address concerns in respect of the highways, notably the persistent problems of speeding traffic at various locations within the Parish.

The Group has formed a Committee to pursue its objectives, and arrangements are in hand for a public meeting to be held at Ashley Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April. Further details will be publicised on the Parish Council Notice Boards, by the Community Information Shop and in other media.

## ARE YOU CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OR THE OLYMPICS WITH AN EVENT THIS SUMMER? PUMP-PRIMING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE!!



The Parish Council has agreed to make available up to £5,000 to support approved, public events which celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and/or the London Olympics. The money will be disbursed in grants amongst recognised community organisations which are making arrangements for events that will be accessible and of potential interest to all, or a significant proportion of residents of Loggerheads. Priority will be given to events or activities that have a charitable aspect, and evidence of intent to raise funds for community projects or services will strengthen the case for agreeing support.

If you believe you have a project that may qualify for assistance, applications must be made in writing to the Clerk by no later than **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April**, in anticipation of suitable requests being considered at the Parish Council meeting on 26th April and, in successful cases, the funds made available immediately thereafter.

*The following statement was delivered in person to a recent Parish Council meeting. It represents the starting point in an important debate, which should matter to all residents—please let the Parish Council know what **YOU** think!*

## "A Leap Into The Dark" : Rosemary Duncan

Have you ever stopped to think about the appalling waste of energy right across the UK in cities, where neon and office lights blaze, often all through the night? I feel that we must all try to be less wasteful and, with the recession and diminishing resources of fossil fuels, it would make sense for everyone to do their bit. Local Authorities should be no different and, indeed, across the country many are attempting to reduce the amount of lighting and light pollution, by dimming and turning lights off when they are not required.

Returning home from evenings out after midnight, travelling along unlit main roads, the car headlights are perfectly adequate for such journeys. You then reach our own village, and emerge into a huge pool of light – so much of which I feel to be unnecessary. We live in a low crime area, and I live in a dark part of the village and actually feel perfectly safe; much of the criminal activity is associated with opportunism during the day, and has nothing to do with levels of lighting. Do you, like me, have friends who are irritated by a street lamp that shines constantly through the bedroom windows all night? From other parts of the village on a clear night the darkness reveals the wonders of the night sky; a sight that is but a distant memory for many in towns and cities.

I am aware that Staffordshire County Council is joining a growing number of authorities across the country that are giving consideration to dimming and switching off street lights. On some parts of the motorway network, the Highways Agency is already switching motorway lighting off between midnight and 5am. For some junctions it is a legal requirement that an adequate level of lighting is maintained for safety. However, on those evenings we travelled through the village, when we saw not a soul in sight, I felt a sense of shame that the A53 was a stream of unnecessary illumination, let alone all the surrounding housing areas.

From press reports, and from speaking to the Chief Lighting Engineer at the County Council, I know that it will be making an announcement shortly concerning lighting across the county. However the reason I wanted to have this opportunity to speak to you tonight is that I would like our Parish council to consider and support the move to turn off where ever possible unnecessary lighting between midnight and 5am; not only will it save money, it will save energy and reduce our carbon footprint.

As well as the savings on energy costs there is an environmental benefit to turning off lights. Reducing the number of lights by 50% has the equivalent impact on carbon reduction as taking 3,800 cars off the road, and an equivalent environmental benefit of planting 442,000 trees every year.

Buckinghamshire County Council has run a three year pilot study and identified that it can switch off a number of lights generating annual cost savings of £100,000, and a reduction in carbon emissions of around 578 tonnes a year. Furthermore, their study showed a reduction in injury collisions during darkness down from 74 to 55, concluding "there's no evidence the trial has led to increased casualty rate, in fact the reverse".