

HELP

We reported in the last Elswickian that Fylde Borough Council has agreed to replace two items of equipment which were removed late last year from the children's play area at the village hall site. Fylde's policy is to replace equipment on a like-with-like cost basis but this has presented problems for the Parish Council as the condition of the safety surfacing means that the safety surfacing will also have to be replaced.

Safety surfacing for children's playgrounds is extremely expensive and unfortunately the Borough Council does not provide any further assistance where the surfacing has to be replaced. Faced with having to drastically reduce the size of the equipment to stay within budget, and possibly reduce the appeal to youngsters, the Parish Council has decided to seek a grant to replace all the play equipment in the park.

We are hoping to follow Singleton's example. Singleton Parish Council applied for a grant from an organisation by the name of SITA two years ago and received a grant of £25,000 towards their playground. SITA is a waste disposal company which provides grants for community projects within 10 miles of the landfill sites that the company operates. We meet this criteria in Elswick as the village falls within the eligible area of both the Fleetwood and Clifton Marsh sites.

To secure a grant a degree of matched funding is required, some of which must be raised from the community. Fylde Borough Council has agreed to make a grant to the Parish Council of the cost of replacing the two items of equipment (£11,000) but we need YOUR support to help raise further funds to support our application. Singleton raised £5,000, an amount that should be within our capabilities as Singleton is a similar sized village to Elswick.

We need to form a fund raising committee, which is independent of the Parish Council. If you are interested and can provide a few hours of your time please contact the clerk of the Council or any member for further information. Details of how to contact the Parish Council are listed on the back page.

People Power 1

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting with Ashley Weir of the County Council Public Transport Policy Division on 28th November 2007. It is not common these days for large organisations such as the County Council to listen to people after decisions have been made but all credit to Mr Weir who not only listened to our representations but also agreed to reinstate the village's direct bus service to Blackpool.

Details of the new timetable, which was introduced on 7th January 2007 can be found on the Parish Council web site www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/Elswick or a paper copy can be obtained from the clerk or any member of the Council. Mr Weir has also promised that he will consult with the Parish Council whenever any further changes are planned to our bus services.

People Power 2

Another meeting which drew a good attendance from the village was the meeting with the police last March. The meeting was called following a crime wave in Elswick in November and December 2005 which led to the Parish Council making representations to the police for better policing in Elswick and the adjoining rural areas. The Council is delighted to report that the police have listened to the pleas from the village and propose to reopen the police house at Singleton as a mini police station and to station 3 Community Beat Managers (CBMs) and 3 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) there to police the rural villages.

Responsible Dog Ownership

The issue of dog fouling was again highlighted in the Elswick Parish Plan and consequently the Parish Council would like to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

Most dog owners are responsible but the small minority of irresponsible owners are causing an on-going problem for everyone else. The Council wish to remind all dog owners that it is an offence to have a dog off the lead or to allow your dog to foul on either the Larbreck Avenue play area or on the Council's site on Roseacre Road. Within the village it is an offence to allow your dog to foul on a pavement, grass verge or Council maintained footpath or right of way.

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is an offence if you allow your dog to foul on any public place and do not immediately remove the waste. It is not a reasonable excuse to say you were unaware of the law, that your dog had fouled or you had no suitable means of removing it. Failure to clean up after your dog means you are liable for a fixed penalty fine of £50.00 payable within 14 days of issue. Failure to pay the fine may result in prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

Fouling on verges causes unacceptable problems for those tending the grass and flowerbeds. Dog faeces on playing fields and play areas have obvious unpleasant consequences. In general there is the risk of contamination with toxocara canis, which can cause serious illness leading to blindness in children.

The best way to clean up after a dog is to use a doggy bag, or a carrier bag, to pick up the faeces. Ideally this should then be placed in a designated dog bin. If this is not possible, the bag should be taken home and placed in an outside bin, or as a last resort, the faeces should be double wrapped and put in a normal litter bin. Pooper scoops can also be used and are available from most pet stores. The Parish Council has recently obtained more dog bins for the village so there really is no excuse!

Parish Council Website

The Elswick Parish Council website is now up and running and loaded with lots of interesting content including meeting dates, minutes & agendas, Elswickians, bus timetables and various other local information and links. Please take a look and see for yourself:

<http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/Elswick>

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Here are the Parish Council Meeting dates for the next six months. All regular scheduled meetings take place in the Village Hall committee room at 19:45 and members of the public are welcome to attend.

1 March	22 March
26 April	24 May
28 June	26 July

Parish Council Contact Details

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