

SALTING, GRIT and GRIT BINS

Over the past 6 weeks the Parish Office has been inundated with telephone calls, emails and letters concerning grit bins around the parish, the fact that many are soon empty or not refilled often enough, that roads are not being gritted or salted and that footways are left in a dangerous icy condition. Generally speaking, people want more grit bins in more locations.

However, the Parish Council cannot agree to every request for grit bins within the parish. It would be very expensive (each bin costs £167.20 +VAT), many locations cannot safely house a grit bin and our local environment could be littered with numerous yellow boxes.

Nevertheless, the Parish Council has made a commitment to provide more bins where they might be of maximum benefit. The Council installed 5 extra bins before Christmas and has bought 5 more to locate according to the following procedure:

1. All requests, including new ones, are noted and a priority list is drawn up following a site visit to check which locations are most urgent
2. The Council consults with the County Highways officer to make sure any suggested grit bin location is suitable
3. The Highways Department locates the bin **on their land** in an agreed location and fills the bin with grit
4. The grit bins are refilled by the Highways Department at intervals dependent on local weather conditions
5. If your local bin is empty, you can contact the County Council and ask for a refill. The easiest way to do this is to go to www.norfolk.gov.uk and use the 'Gritting' or 'Report potholes' link on the home page. Follow the on-line requests and you will have the option to report on grit bins. Your request then goes to the relevant Highways officer for action.

Or phone the County Council on: 0344 800 8009

"If we cannot help you, we will try and find someone who can."



Large Grit Bins - Costessey Parish Council is responsible for 48 grit bins scattered around the parish. An extra 5 new ones will be installed: West End Ave, Breydon Drive Nth, top of the Croft, bottom of Hill Rd, Breydon Drive (near children's play area)

Use of publicly provided grit

Grit provided by the County Council must be used on public highways and paths. There have been complaints that grit has been taken from grit boxes and used on private drives. This is anti social behaviour and takes grit away from dangerous roads. The private use of salt and grit from public grit boxes is theft and prosecutions could follow. Salt and grit for private drives should be bought from DIY and household stores.

Requests for more grit bins should be sent to Phil Leach at the parish offices outlining why you consider your location to be worthy of consideration.

Tel: 01603 742958 or email: phil.leach@costesseypc.org

New Parish Councillors Co-opted

Councillors welcomed 3 new members co-opted to the Parish Council at their meeting on Tuesday 11th January.

Jan Hardinge lives on Lodge Farm and **Katy Smith** and **Gary Blundell** live on Queens Hill. Now the Council has representatives from all parts of Costessey (for contact details - see page 4)

The Council would like to thank retired councillors Dick Smith, Brian Mackie and Simon Watt for their years of service to Costessey.

No Change to Parish Precept

Each Autumn the Parish Council sets its budget for the following year, based on the previous year's expenditure, current year's expenditure to date and the current year's expected total costs.

First it reviews its likely income from various sources such as hiring out the halls, sports club lettings, burial and allotment fees and interest on investments.

Then the Council works out its expenditure based on its activities and projects. These include machine maintenance and purchases, provision of street furniture such as litter bins, dog litter and grit bins, and routine maintenance of its buildings and grounds. Recent major projects include the building and fitting out of the Costessey Centre and a proposed community centre at Queens Hill. Staff costs are also a considerable expenditure. Last year the Council employed five full time and three part-time staff. This year the Council has cut back and now employs three full-time and two part-time members of staff to serve more than 12000 people.



The Council also puts money aside for future reserves eg. for major projects, for the acquisition of land for burials, plus replacement of machinery and play equipment.

The draft budget is discussed in depth to decide what is necessary, what can be removed or postponed and what the likely

effect on council tax would be for residents. The difference between the income and expenditure becomes the precept (the share of money South Norfolk collects in Council Tax for the Parish Council).

The final draft is put to full Council for approval, then the precept demand is sent to South Norfolk Council who collect council tax for all the councils, fire service and police.

This year the Parish Council decided once more that it did not wish to increase the council tax rate for individual households. Due to the increase in houses in Costessey the precept income will increase by about £20,000 allowing the council to continue providing services to the public without adding an extra burden on tax payers.

The Parish Council is very aware that households are having to budget carefully and so it has held its council tax rate at £99.61 for a Band D property for the second year running.

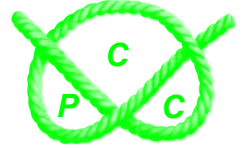
Costessey Fete and Fayre - May 2011

Following the fantastic Costessey Centre opening day event in May 2010, the Parish Council has decided to organise another summer fayre on the 30th May - the Bank Holiday at the end of May.

Following a similar pattern to last year, there will be stalls reflecting local community groups, a fair and fireworks.

Costessey Communities in Business

Community Based Business Coaching



Costessey has been identified as a "can do" community with the potential to develop more enterprise.

- Are you passionate about Costessey?
- Are you willing to use your local know-how to help local enterprises succeed?

If so, you can join a Panel of "can do" people who are willing to use their knowledge and contacts to help local entrepreneurs set up and succeed in businesses locally.

- Do you have an idea for a new enterprise and want help?
- Are you already trading, and striving to grow?

If yes, you can now get help through a free local enterprise support service designed to help you start up or expand your business.

- One-to-one business coaching – *confidential independent support, face-to-face or by phone, for new or existing entrepreneurs*
- New Business Café - *fun taster events to explore new business ideas and get the confidence needed before moving to the next stage*
- Practical Training - *short punchy sessions to develop practical skills, for example: financial management for "non-finance people"*
- Community Support – *free practical help from "can do" people in your local community*
- Enterprise Network – *make the most of existing enterprise support services*

To find out more, please get in touch with us, contact details below.

If you are already thinking of starting a business or have an idea you want to explore, please come along to



Costessey's New Business Café Event - Queen's Hill Primary School, open between 4 and 8pm, on Monday 24th January.

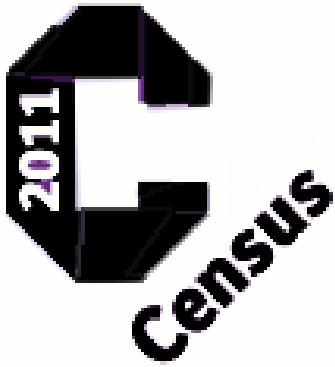
Looking forward to working with you
Sarah McPherson and Alison Ball
Communities in Business Coaches

Tel: 01362 698216 or e-mail:
cbbcoach@norfolkrc.org.uk

Once again Patrick O'Connor will be masterminding events. He will be contacting many local groups. If you wish to get in touch with him please email :

pjoconnor@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01603 748339 or Richard at the Costessey Centre - 01603 742958





CENSUS 2011

On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census.

A census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local

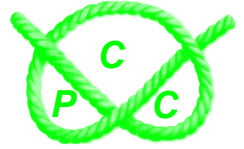
government, police, health authorities and many other organisations to plan housing, education, healthcare and police and emergency services for years to come.

Why do we need a Census?

We need a census because a lot has changed in the last ten years. We need to know how the population has increased, where people live and what services they need.

The best way to find out is to count them. The census statistics feed into resource allocation for local

authorities and play a major part in their ability to provide local services, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible. The level of funding for services in Norfolk would not be as high as it could be if the census return rate from people in Norfolk is low. It is therefore important that you complete your census questionnaire and encourage others to do so.



What do I have to do?

When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. The questionnaire includes details of how to fill it in and how to get help if you need it. You can complete it as soon as you wish and send it back in the envelope provided. If you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code will be on the front of the questionnaire. Don't forget that it is a legal requirement to complete the Census.

More information about the 2011 Census is available online at: www.census.gov.uk

NORFOLK VILLAGE GAMES - 2011

Last September, 900 villagers from Breckland, North Norfolk, Broadland and South Norfolk took part in the Norfolk Village Games.

The Games were a great success and there was a real mixture of young and old with varying abilities taking part. Some villages entered just one person doing one sport while some had representation in all the events. Whatever the outcome everyone said what a great day they had, and can we do it again next year, and can we involve more villages from other areas.

The South Norfolk Village Games 2011 will be held on 4th September but in the meantime the organisers are arranging taster sessions/roadshows to encourage people to come along and see what it is all about, and to participate.

Costessey is thinking of having this roadshow day on Sunday 29th May 2011, at Breckland Road Recreation Ground, New Costessey.

Do you, or anyone you know, want to come along and give it a try?

So far (and this is certainly NOT the final list) we have suggestions for Archery, 5-a-side Football (junior and adults), Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Rounders, Short Mat Bowls, Darts, Dance, Golf, Tug of War, Martial Arts and a Watt Bike challenge.



Would you like to have a go? Can you get a team up to challenge the rest of Norfolk?

Would you like to start up a club for a particular pursuit? Following these sessions there may be an opportunity to arrange coaching courses with finance to help to establish a new club for a sport or fitness activity.

If you are interested and wish to speak to someone at Active Norfolk, please phone Laura Avenal on 0779 529 1256 or, if you wish to browse the internet, log on to www.activenorfolk.org There is a lot of information on the website, so that may be your best place to start.

Why not try out an ENERGY MONITOR

Did you know there are two OWL wireless electricity monitors in Costessey Library?



These monitors provide information on the amount of electricity you are using in your home at any one time and can show you how much it is costing you. You can see, for example, how much electricity your kettle uses or how much money you could save by turning a light off or not leaving appliances on standby. They are very handy, allowing you to get an understanding of what appliances are energy intensive and which are not - you may well be surprised!

You can borrow a monitor for up to three weeks from the library in Costessey,

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office will be open at the COSTESSEY CENTRE during the following hours:

10am - 4pm Mon - Thurs
10am - 1pm Friday

Usually, parish officers can be contacted by telephone between these hours. The Parish Clerk is available at other times. Please ring the Parish Office to make an appointment.

CONTACT US

Costessey Parish Council
Costessey Centre
Longwater Lane
Old Costessey
Norwich NR8 5AH

Tel: 01603 742958

E-mail: nfo@costesseypc.org

Web Site: www.costessey.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled for:

1st February 2011
1st March 2011
22nd March 2011
29th March - Annual Parish Assembly
19th April 2011

All meetings begin at 7pm.

The agendas for these and any other meetings arranged will be advertised on the Parish notice boards and web site a few days before the meeting takes place. *All meetings take place in the Costessey Centre.*

PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

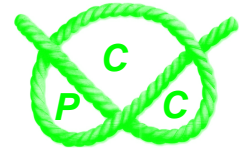
Parish Notice boards can be found at the following locations:

- Opposite cafe in Longwater Lane
- Breckland Hall
- Costessey Infants School - Beaumont Rd
- Opposite Crown Public House - Norwich Rd
- Olive Rd - near Valley Rd junction
- The Bakery - Oval Rd
- Corner of Bawburgh Lane & Dereham Rd
- Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane

And soon outside Queens Hill Primary School.

Comments about 'Contact'? Well.... Please contact us!

Costessey Parish Council is here to serve YOU



The Parish Council owns and manages the Costessey Centre, Breckland Hall, the Owen Barnes Room, Breckland Recreation Ground, Longwater Recreation Ground, Gunton Lane Recreation Ground, Bunkers Hill Woodland, Greenhills Wood, the Parish Cemetery and the Roundwell Monument. It maintains St Edmund's Churchyard, the allotments and various other smaller areas such as the green on which the Village sign stands.

It is also the Trustee of the Old Cricket Ground; considers every planning application submitted in Costessey; is consulted on a huge range of local and national issues; lobbies and liaises; and much, much more.

Why not come to a meeting—you might find it interesting!

COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

John Amis	96 Olive Road Costessey NR5 0AW (Parish Council Vice-Chairman)	746665
Diana Bates	55 Longwater Lane, Costessey, NR5 0TE	746757
Allan Bedford	21 Rowan Court, New Costessey, NR5 0RT	743380
Vivienne Bell	8 Parklands, Costessey, NR8 5AL (Also District Councillor)	744952
Gary Blundell	23 Sir Alfred Munnings Rd Queens Hill Costessey NR8 5EE	741546
John Denby	11 Hillvue Close, Costessey, NR5 0NQ (Also District Councillor)	744276
Bill Dinneen	108 West End, Costessey, NR8 5AJ (Parish Council Chairman)	742324
Tim East	7 St Walstans Close, Costessey, NR5 0TW (Also District & County Councillor)	743241
Libby Glover	78 Middleton Crescent, Costessey, NR5 0PX	748374
Jan Hardinge	130 Lord Nelson Drive Costessey NR5 0UE	
Reg Piesse	1 Longwater Lane, Costessey, NR8 5AH	744233
Katy Smith	6 Silvo Rd, Queens Hill Costessey NR8 5EL	748700
Alex Todd	Sarum Hall, Hinshalwood Way, Costessey, NR8 5BN	748400
Dean Toms	10 Cleves Way, Old Costessey, NR8 5EN	740497
Gerard Watt	Busy Bee Cottage, Folgate Lane, Costessey, NR8 5DH (Also District Councillor)	749590
Diana York	26A The Street, Old Costessey NR8 5DB	742098

Parish Clerk - Mrs Hilary Elias Deputy Clerk - Mr Richard Rymarz
Clerk's Assistants - Mr Phil Leach & Mrs Margaret Vozza

FOR YOUR COMMENTS

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