



# WOW! It might actually

# happen

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 the Parish Council Buildings Working Group voted to recommend to the full Council that building the new Sports and Community Hall on Longwater Recreation Ground should go ahead. A week later, pleased with the grant given by NEWS (see page 2), this recommendation was unanimously approved releasing funds to pay the professional fees needed to move the project forward.

Parishioners who have kept pace with this long running saga will know that the cost of the original plan designed in June 2007 topped £2m - a great deal of money. This was to be financed by grant aid, money from the developers of Lodge Farm (near the old Roundwell Pub) and Parish Council reserves.

## Challenging Economic Times

Since then there have been huge changes:

- the effect of the credit crunch has meant that the building of 200 houses on Lodge Farm needed to release money from the development, still has some way to go and is unlikely to be achieved in the immediate future; and secondly, there would be less capital realised through the sale of the Parish Rooms groups such as the 'Big Lottery' have changed their criteria for granting funds now directing them towards projects that aid under-privileged and disadvantaged communities ie not Costessey!

- any sponsorship from commercial firms has also fallen foul of the tightening economic situation

However, this project has come a long way and the Council is loath to abandon it. With the help of the architect, the project costs have been scaled down to £1.3m. This means that initially, only the ground floor and main hall will be completed. The 1st floor, hard surface car park, new play area, tennis courts and grounds man's store have been shelved until further funding is available.

## Funding the Project

Grant aid is still being sought from the Football Foundation, Sport England, Reaching Communities, Foundation for Sports & Arts, South Norfolk Council and other smaller bodies. However, the major source of funding will be from the Public Works Loan Board. This will be just like paying a mortgage the advantage being that the rates are fixed and are very low at present. But it does commit the parish to paying off the mortgage over the next 25 years.

By the end of January 2009, tenders will be sought from local and national contractors. Once real costs and the result of grant applications are known, the Council can give the chosen contractor the green light.

**If all goes as planned, the Costessey Centre could open by Spring 2010.**



Costessey Centre - artists impression

## Comment - From the Editor

Costessey is fortunate to have lots of outstanding outdoor leisure and sports facilities. Think of the woods (Greenhills, East Hills, Bunkers Hill and Snakes Hill); walks (Marriotts Way, Gunton Lane, Old Cricket Ground); and parks (Breckland and Longwater).

Indoor facilities are not quite so grand. True, New Costessey has new halls and changing rooms at Breckland and Queens Hill will have its own hall when enough houses are built.

But Old Costessey... well there are the Parish Rooms and the **Pavilion**.

For more than 30 years successive Parish Councils have wanted to replace the pavilion - temporary changing rooms built from asbestos pre-fabs in the early 1950s

More than 50 years later it looks as though - given favourable circumstances - a new hall might actually be built.

## THE COSTESSEY CENTRE - AT LONG LAST!

### 'Contact' - new layout approved

Thank you to those who commented favourably on the new layout. The only criticism was: Where is the Costessey Knot? (answer: see above)

## Grant Aid Success

Anyone who has tried to raise money through grant aid will know what a thankless task it sometimes seems to be.

Endless periods of research; hours of reading criteria, conditions, regulations and measures; writing applications that cover reams of paper repeating the same things over and over again.

However, sometimes it is worth the effort. The Parish Council has successfully landed two significant loans:

1. £20000 from NEWS (Norfolk Environmental Waste Services) to help pay some of the professional fees needed for the new hall.
2. £2000 from South Norfolk Council towards the cost of clearing the pines in Greenhills Wood.

With the new Community Hall a priority, the Council continues to apply for more grants.

## Anglian Water Digs Deep

Parishioners (except those living in Gunton Lane or who attended the exhibition in the Parish Rooms on the 20th January) may not be aware that Anglian Water is building a new pipeline. This is to ensure the continuity of water supply to Norwich and the surrounding area.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## Annual Parish Assembly

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Owen Barnes Room**

This is a meeting of the Parish to talk about matters that parishioners want to raise. Why not come along - you might find it interesting.

PS If there is something specific you want to raise, contact the Parish Clerk to place it on the agenda. Tel: 742958

## Parish Rate set at 4.1%



The Parish Council has agreed a less than inflation (as of September 2008) council tax increase of 4.1% at Band D equivalent which is considerably less than settlements for the previous 3 years.

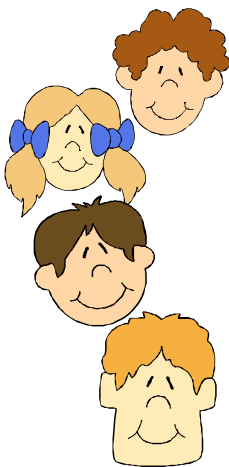
Residents can view a copy of the full budget at the Parish Council Office.

## Holiday Break for Busy Parents

South Norfolk's ever popular Holiday Play Scheme for children between the ages of 5 and 12 continues.



## HALF TERM PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at Breckland Hall - Costessey**

**Activities include: ARCHERY, ORIGAMI, FENCING, ROBOTS ETC**

**More information available on South Norfolk Council's web site and Parish Council office**

**Bookings and payments taken at the Parish Office - Contact Amy or Richard on 01603 742958**

## Doggy Poo Problems Continue.....

The last issue of 'Contact' highlighted the problem of dog faeces. Dog owners were reminded that, as from the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008 owners who do not clear up after their dogs on any public area could be issued a fixed penalty fine of £50 by South Norfolk's Environmental Crime Team.

Persistent offenders could be prosecuted and fined up to £1000. (Please note that if you want to report someone allowing their dog to foul and they do not clean it up, you must be prepared to sign a formal witness statement for this to be taken to court).

### **Yet problems continue with constant complaints reaching Councillors and the Parish Office.**

Park and woodland users are bitterly annoyed when they or their children fall foul of the ....fouling! If this continues to be a problem on the recreation grounds, the Parish Council may consider **banning** dogs from these areas.

There are Dog Poo bins scattered around the Parish where walkers take their dogs. Please use them.

## And on to ..... Shingle Problems

Can we appeal yet again to those parishioners who have shingle drives adjoining footpaths? Can we ask you to regularly sweep shingle back on to your drive if any has found its way on to the footpath as this can make walking difficult for us all but particularly the elderly and those with poor sight.

## ‘What’s On’ in Costessey

Bored, time on your hands, need something to do? Costessey has a varied number of clubs and societies to fire your interest, keep you busy and active.

The table below lists the activities that take place weekly or monthly in the parish halls. Even more happens in the Church Halls

scattered around the parish (look at the web site for more details:  
www.costessey.org.uk

All the groups would love to increase membership. Why not give it a try?  
(contact details and times may vary)



Activity	Day	Location	Time	Contact	Contact No
Private Art Classes	Mon	Owen Barnes	9am	Marilyn Ayres	614729
Tap Dancing	Mon	Owen Barnes		Tracey Bovington	01362-688076
Line Dancing	Mon	Breckland Hall	7.30pm	Mrs P Grant	743592
Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Mon	Pavilion	7.15pm	Major D Whitehead	01362 694515
Karate	Mon	Youth Centre	7.30pm	Steve Grint	883699
Costessey Posse	Mon	Parish Rooms	fortnightly	Reg Piesse	744233
Private Art Classes	Tues	Owen Barnes	9am	Marilyn Ayres	614729
Ballroom Dancing	Tues	Breckland Hall	2pm	Frank and Jean Hart	746496
Costessey Day Centre	Tues	Youth Centre	10am - 2pm	Doreen Steel	743699
Costessey Dance Club	Tues	Breckland Hall	7.30pm	David Dewing	462172
Drop In for Youths	Tues	Youth Centre	7pm	Judy Mears	408678
Sally's School of Dance	Tues	Parish Rooms	7.15pm	Sally Smith	897372
Costessey Culture Club	1st Wed in month	Owen Barnes	9.30am - 12	Linda Thurtle	
Yoga	Wed	Breckland Hall	1.30pm	Margaret Jameson	747219
Old Costessey WI	2nd Wed in month	Parish Rooms	2.30pm	Margaret White	271611
New Costessey WI	3rd Wed in month	Breckland Hall	7.30pm	Maureen Butler	471225
Sally's School of Dance	Wed	Parish Rooms	7.15pm	Sally Smith	897372
Costessey Short Mat Bowls Club	Wed	Breckland Hall	7pm	Margaret Varvel	410542
Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Mon	Pavilion	7.15pm	Major D Whitehead	01362 694515
Slimming World	Wed	Youth Centre	5pm - 8pm	Sarah Betts	439611
Old Friends Club	Thurs	Breckland Hall	2.15pm	Harry Mace	471511
Extend	Thurs	Youth Centre	2pm	Peggy Lake	745068
Costessey Flower Club	1st Thurs in month	Breckland Hall	7.30pm	Tina Carr	811764
Tap Dancing	Thurs	Owen Barnes		Tracey Bovington	01362-688076
Norfolk German Shepard Dog Club	Thurs	Owen Barnes	7pm	Mrs J Woods	744006
Breckland Babes	Thurs	Youth Centre	10am-12	Mrs V Weston	749901
Karate	Thurs	Youth Centre	7.30pm	Steve Grint	883699
Costessey Day Centre	Fri	Youth Centre	10am - 2pm	Doreen Steel	743699
Weight Watchers	Fri	Breckland Hall	10am	Lisa Pratt	400344
Bingo	Fri	Breckland Hall	7.30pm	Mike Tomlinson	743363
Tap Dancing	Fri	Owen Barnes		Tracey Bovington	01362-688076
Costessey Modern Sequence Dance Club	Fri	Parish Rooms	2pm - 4pm	John Gant	787241
Costessey Society	3rd Fr in month	Parish Rooms	7.30pm	Sylvia Yates	742515
Costessey Sports	Sat & Sun	Longwater Rec, Breckland Park	am & pm	Graham Taylor,	866598
Costessey Short Mat Bowls Club	Sun	Breckland Hall	2pm	Margaret Varvel	410542

**Dancing**

**Keep Fit**

**Slimming**

**Art**

**Women's Institute**

**Friendship**

**Dogs**

**Flower Club**

**Early years**

**Army Cadet**

**Bingo**

**Youth Groups**

**Football & Cricket**

**Bowls**

**Day Centre**

## Parish Council Office Open Hours Extended

Have you ever visited the Council Offices? Do you ever need advice or help on planning applications or local government issues. Do you ever feel the need to comment on your street, your neighbourhood, your environment?

Using the telephone is easy, but sometimes face to face contact is necessary. With this in mind, the Council has decided to extend the council office hours to make the office more accessible. The Office at the Parish Rooms in Old Cost-

essey is now open every weekday between 10am and 4pm (1pm on Friday).

Come and talk to the Parish Clerk or her assistants - you will be made very welcome. The Council's motto is:

*“ If we cannot help you, we will try and find someone who can.”*

