

NCC Abandons Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility

The Parish Council was very disappointed to learn that, after years of consultation, debate and planning and not inconsiderable cost, Norfolk County Council has abandoned proposals to build a state of the art, environmentally friendly waste treatment facility at Longwater Business Park, in Costessey.

Norfolk County Council decided it was too expensive as there was a 50% rise in costs since the scheme's inception mainly due to the current economic climate.

The planned works, to have been built by Sustainable Resource Management (SRM) which is partly owned Norfolk Environmental Waste Services, would have employed an environmentally friendly system called MBT and Aneorbic Digestion to deal with 150,000 tons a year of local domestic waste which currently goes to landfill. The plant would have extracted at least a 26% of the waste for recycling - the rest would end up, after being processed, as an inert material which could be used for land restoration on sand and gravel abstraction sites. The scheme had wide spread support both locally and further afield.

Incineration - NCC's first option

Many feel it unfortunate that the County Council spent considerable time on pursuing a scheme for an incinerator to be built in Costessey. This was vociferously opposed locally and nationally and was ultimately dropped as the identified site on Longwater Business Park could not accommodate it.

Now, the concern is that the County Council will incur large fines from the European Economic Community for not reaching targets to limit the amount of waste sent to landfill. However, the Council has given its assurance that this will not be the case and feels these can be avoided by using a range of possible initiatives including, maximising the use of existing facilities, working to reduce the amount of waste generated, purchasing landfill allowances from other local authorities and encouraging the development of affordable kitchen wastes collection and treatment services.

Where does this leave Costessey?

This decision does mean that the way Norfolk deals with its waste is back in the melting pot. Incineration is certainly being considered as one of options for the proposed new facility likely to be in Kings Lynn.



MBT Treatment Facility in Belfast but not in Norfolk

Worryingly, despite the huge lobby against incineration, the County Council has never ruled out incineration in Costessey. If history repeats itself and there are proposal for incineration in Costessey again you can be assured your Parish Council will be leading the opposition to it.

Comment - From the Editor

Parish Clerk of the Year Award

'Contact' is delighted to report that Parish Clerk Rachel Jackson has been named Clerk of the Year at the Pride of Norfolk Community Awards sponsored by Norfolk County Council in conjunction with Eastern Daily Press.

Rachel was appointed as Parish Clerk to Costessey in January 1989 having originally been Parish Clerk at Old Catton. Rachel says the job has changed enormously over the years and is particularly varied and demanding in a large Parish such as Costessey. However, she says she would not have been able to the job without the support of the Parish Councillors, her professional colleagues and her loyal and hardworking staff. She is also grateful to the people of Costessey who for the most part have been kind and understanding even when she is giving them the answer they may not want to hear!

Through these pages Rachel would like to thank all those who have sent her kind wishes and congratulations.

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

Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels

Want to highlight a community problem? Do you have an idea for a neighbourhood project? This is your opportunity to come and have your say. Your Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting gives you the chance to get more involved and have greater control over what happens in your area. SNAPs discuss issues at a local level, help to shape local services and bring about improvements. To do this we need your views and ideas.

The SNAPs give local people the chance to talk about the priorities and concerns within their neighbourhood with representatives of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and also to discuss how to tackle these issues and ideas for improvements in the area. Residents will have the chance to discuss



INSPECTOR
Kate Thacker



SERGEANT
Richard Bell



SERGEANT
Dan Cocks

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

PC Terence Tavner	PC David Burke
PC Shaun Collingsworth	PC Andy Tomlinson
PC Donna Still	PC Cheryl Kent
PC Leah Knapp	PCSO Christian Petraglia
PCSO Stephen Rose	PCSO Alan Bardwell
PCSO Michael Johnston	

project ideas and 'good news' with their local Council members, community representatives and their neighbourhood officer.



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Bowthorpe and Costessey

Your team's current priorities are:

- 1 To target motorcyclists using bridleways and footpaths in Costessey
- 2 To address speeding issues along Rawley Road, Clover Hill
- 3 To combat anti-social behaviour in the Peverell Road area

These priorities have been decided and agreed by police and local authority members who have listened to the issues and concerns of residents

Have Your Say!

If you have an issue or concern where you live, tell the police and their partners at the next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting

Costessey SNAP

Tuesday 24 November 2009

7.00pm

Venue to be confirmed

Bowthorpe SNAP

Wednesday 2 December 2009

7.30pm

Clover Hill Village Hall

The Costessey SNAP will be for the residents living in Costessey, Bawburgh, Easton, Marlingford and Colton. The Bowthorpe SNAP will be for the local people living in Bowthorpe, Clover Hill, Chapel Break and Three Score.

www.safernorfolk.co.uk

0845 456 4567

Costessey Centre - Update

Work starts on time

Work started in earnest on the 14th September when the contractors fenced the site. Rectangular white ground works shine brightly as the building's chalk based footprint contrasts starkly with the green of the grass.

Parishioners will soon have some idea of the building's magnitude as the contractors hope to

have the steel frame up and in place by mid October and the roof on at the end of the month.

Financing the project

Finance is now fully established. The table below shows the figures as of 1st September 2009. 2/3 of the cost is a low interest loan from the Public Works Loans Board, the remaining 1/3 is financed through grant aid.

	Cost		Credit Amount
Main Hall	£1,061,579	Public Loans Board	£1,000,000
Car Park incl Demolition of Pavilion	£119,072	Football Foundation Grant Aid	£222,591
Professional Fees Aug 09 - April 10	£62,500	SN Grant Aid	£3,200
Hall (1st floor fit out) £75,240	£75,240	NEWS Grant Aid	£35,908
		Reserves	£35,840
Tennis court fence	£8,000	Co Location Fund	£95,611
Play Area	£50,000	Biffa Award	£40,341
Sub Total £58,000.00	£58,000	La Farge	£15,000
		NRCC	£7,500
Total	£1,456,391	Total	£1,456,391

Problems with Illegal encampments by travellers

A few weeks ago a group of travellers chose to camp on Longwater Recreation Ground and the Roundwell Monument site. The Parish Council Office received numerous calls many of which complained about the length of time it was taking to remove them and the apparent lack of action by the Parish Council.

However, expelling travellers from land is not straight forward. The land on both these occasions was owned or part owned by the Parish Council. Having established the illegality of the act, the Council has to follow an agreed procedure:

1. Talk to the travellers to ask them to leave;
2. Inform the police and South Norfolk Council who will call a protocol meeting which brings together all the interested parties ie councillors, traveller liaison officers, district council officers, the police and the travellers themselves if they want to attend. From these discussions a course of action is finalised.
3. A notice to explain that the council is to get a court order is served to all vehicles on the site asking them to leave by a particular date.
4. If they remain on site a court order is applied for and served.
4. If the travellers have not left by the date stated on the court order, the police and/or bailiffs can remove them.
5. Once issued, the order stays in place for 3 months preventing immediate return.

Having been through points 1-3 and all agencies agreeing the encampment was not to be tolerated, the Parish Council began the procedure for a court order to be issued. To not follow this procedure would leave the Parish Council liable to a legal challenge and the subsequent costs to the council tax payers of Costessey of defending the action. However, the police attended one evening to monitor the site, as they had been throughout the encampment, and found in excess of 6 vehicles. This allowed them to use powers under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice Act. Using this clause the police asked the travellers to leave which they did within 12 hours. We now know they moved - to other non-council owned land in Costessey.

On privately owned land it is the responsibility of the land owner to take the action to end the trespass, and the possession proceedings in the case of private land owners are more straightforward. The current encampment at Queens Hill is on land that is privately owned and the Parish Council has been in regular contact with South Norfolk Council who are assisting the owners with the legal possession process and urging a speedy resolution to the situation.

Parish Council to replace children's play area



When the Costessey Centre was first planned, the planning authority insisted on sufficient parking to accommodate the increased number of people who will use the new hall. This meant that the younger children's play area had to be dismantled leaving the youngest members of our parish with no play



equipment on Longwater Lane Recreation Ground.

However, the Parish Council fully intends to build a new enclosed play area probably on the other side of the tennis courts next to the area for older children. There will be a hard surface path linking the hall to the car park so that people using push chairs, mobility vehicles and families with buggies will have easy access.

Planning is already well advanced and members of the Council Office team will be contacting play groups, parents and others to try and gauge what pieces of equipment excite their children, what is always popular and what will have lasting appeal. If you have any views please contact Richard Rymarz at the Office on 742958.

Costessey Bowls Club Receives Grant

Congratulations to Costessey Bowls Club for receiving a £3,329 from the Big Lottery. Given under the 'Awards for All' banner, the money has been used to buy short mat bowl handling units. These allow members to easily lay and store the large, bowling mats that used to be kept on Breckland Hall stage.



WANTED - Men's Old Ties

The WI have offered to create a Costessey knot for the new hall under the title "Ties that Bind". If you have any old neck ties that are not needed, please drop them off at the Parish Rooms or call us to have them collected.

