

Castlefields & Ditherington Community Newsletter

Edition 18 – January 09

Public Meeting

**Castlefields and Ditherington Forum – Wednesday 25th
February, 7.00 pm at Martin Wilson School, New Park Road**

At the last meeting, there was a full discussion of the Action Plan for the area, which covers key issues regarding **roads, traffic and transport, housing, refuse and litter, anti-social behaviour, youth services, environmental issues**, etc., etc. The Plan and notes of the meeting can be found at www.alanmosley.co.uk. The plan was welcomed and we must now move forward to implement it - this meeting will discuss progress.

Your local Councillors will be present, along with representatives from the County and Borough Councils, Severnside Housing, the Police, Castlefields Action Team, the Youth Service and other local organisations. As usual it will be an evening for local people to have their say, hear reports on work in the area and participate in planning to take improvements forward – it will not be a ‘talking shop’ and **there will be plenty of time to have your say on any topic.**



CCTV

Following proposals in the Forum and from many residents, **Alan Mosley** has been investigating the possibility of extending CCTV to parts of our area. Wireless technology now means that the cameras can be viewed live in the central offices in Monkmoor and can be moved around more easily to different locations. Recently Alan arranged to visit the CCTV centre and he is seen here with Malcolm Price, SABC local Councillor and the Centre Manager Glynis Jones. In the near future trials will be held, using the technology which is proving a success in parts of Harlescott.

Footpath/Cycle track in Ditherington – from Alan Mosley

“I have received many complaints about the state of the path leading from the shops along the old canal line. Unsuccessful attempts were made to improve it and I have now received the good news that it will be completely resurfaced up to the new traffic lights on Woodcote Way. A light brown Tarmac surface will be used similar to that further on and in the Quarry. I am also pressing for more attention to litter in the area, replacement of the fence behind the bookmakers and better maintenance of the offshoot path leading on to Darville.”

Police Statistics

A new website provides details of crime, broken down in to types, for all areas of the county. The statistics must be treated with caution, as small changes can have large effects on percentages and can give false impressions of the likelihood of crime happening in the area. You will find it at <http://westmercia.crimemapper.co.uk> and search for Castlefields Ward.

Post Office News

Alan Mosley recently met the new person responsible for seeking to restore PO services to Castlefields, Neil Jenkins. The meeting followed the sad news that talks with a local retailer about relocating the services had broken down. Alan showed Neil round the locality and emphasised the importance of restoring a PO and the difficulties many residents were facing without local services. Neil promised to work hard on finding a solution and confirmed that PO Ltd remain committed to Castlefields.

Any suggestion of the reopening of Ditherington, even on a part-time basis, was rejected. However, the option of a part-time 'outreach' operation in Castlefields might be a last resort.

Stop press: Neil has just confirmed (Sat 18th) that a new review has confirmed Castlefields as being entitled to a full-time Post Office

Grants for local organisations

Almost all the £20,000 awarded to the Forum by SCC, to support local organisations for local people, has now been allocated. Following the decisions made at a recent Forum Steering Group the list is as follows:

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| • Mount Pleasant Infants Breakfast Club | £2,500 |
| • The Forum Funday | £868 |
| • AA Just Ask football team, Ditherington | £178 |
| • Castlefields Community Centre – refurbishments | £2,000 |
| • North Shrewsbury Friendly Neighbours/Friendship Circle | £1,500 |
| • Mount Pleasant Junior School – cross country course | £2,000 |
| • Youth Club – equipment in Ditherington Community Centre | £1,300 |
| • Martin Wilson School – resurfacing play area | £3,215 |
| • Reccy Rangers – activities for 8-12 years old in Castlefields and Ditherington Community Centres | £2,400 |
| • Castlefields Cybercafe – additional equipment | £400 |
| • Castlefields Allotment Association – furnish and equip Communal Area | £2,400 |

The grants will be of great benefit and it is particularly pleasing to see the distribution across all age interests and parts of the area.

Bits and Pieces

There is progress in securing the kick-about area on the **Wakeman field** which was offered by the school, in compensation to the community, when the fencing was erected over a year ago. A planning application has now been submitted involving fencing, goal posts, additional tree planting, etc. Let's hope the area can be used by local children this summer!

There is a new planning application for **All Saints Hall**, Queen Street. It is for residential use, but also restores part of the hall for community use to complement the busy centre on New Park St. Consultations with the Borough Council end on 4th Feb, or contact Alan Mosley.

Veolia has rightly been criticised for confusion regarding collection over the Christmas period. A new service will now provide you with an email, giving notice of which bins to put out and when, is now available. Go to **www.greenboxday.co.uk** tap in your email and post code and define what notice you want. You can opt for a text but that costs 25p.

Please report problems with roads, cycleways, footpaths, bridges, verges, street lights and road signs to **highways.maintenance@shropshire.gov.uk** or Telephone: **0845 678 9018**

To receive regular news updates please email **alan.mosley@shropshire.gov.uk**

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