



**Burghfield Parish Council**

# Newsletter

**Winter 2007**

## Who are we?

When I first came along to the Parish Council I thought it was something to do with the Church, on account of it being the PARISH Council.. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Council is the first level of government in the country and the Councillors are elected members voted for by the people in the area of the country called Burghfield Parish. Hence the name.

“No No” you cry, “we never voted for you.” Of course you didn’t. That is because there are so few people willing to give of there time that elections have not been necessary for years. Think of the cost saving!

As a Council we would like to hear your views and to do whatever the local community– as a whole– wants. We would also love to have more people on board. Any volunteers out there?

Editor—John Valentine

## Council Meetings

The meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, except that there are no meetings in August and December. So the next meeting is on Thursday 10th January and then 14th February etc.

We meet in the Village Hall starting at 7:45 and the first 15 minutes are set aside for questions from the public, which means you.

You are most welcome to come along and see what we do

**Question:** According to the 2001 Census, how many people live in Burghfield.

Answer overleaf

Contact: *Jim West Clerk to the Council*  
0118 984 1892

*burghclerk@aol.com*

Website:

*www.burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk*

## Local Crime

Residents have regularly told us that one of their major concerns is the lack of Police visibility and associated anti-social behaviour in the area.

Burghfield Parish Council has recently introduced a new Police Constable Support Officer onto our streets with help from Thames Valley Police and Mortimer and Sulhamstead Parish Councils.

PCSO Steve Innes successfully completed his intensive training and started patrolling the streets of Burghfield, Mortimer and Sulhamstead a few weeks ago. His enthusiasm for the job is second to none and he has made a point of seeking out causes of anti-social behaviour.

Modern Policing now looks to try and find ways of finding long term solutions to issues such as anti-social behaviour. PCSO's like as Steve are in an ideal position to speak to alleged culprits of such behaviour and help bring the whole community together to find remedies for these problems.

Burghfield Parish Council's Skateboard Facility is one example of this sort of community success as it has helped enormously with reducing the number of young people skating in the streets.

Steve can be contacted on **0845 505 505** for non-emergencies.

## Cycling

Have you noticed the hoops appearing around the Parish? These are the Sheffield Stands which are for you to lock your bikes to.

As part of Local Government we are responsible for the Parish Plan which sets out what the Parishioners of the parish have asked us to do. One of these is the encouragement of walking and cycling in the Parish. As part of this we plan to install around 60 bike stands wherever they may be useful. They will appear outside shops (see the Village Stores) and the Post office, on every Recreation ground, the Scout hut etc.

At the time of going to print about a third of these have been installed. A list of the sites will appear on our website.

So now you have no excuse. Get on your bike and go to the shops. Don't forget to use a decent lock when you get there.

## Contributions

If you want to make a contribution to this Newsletter please send it to the Clerk for the attention of the Editor.

We are also considering publishing letters about the Parish and look forward to any comments you may have.

**Answer to question on front page:** There were 5,894 people in Burghfield in 2001 living in 2,225 homes