PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2011.

There will be Parish Council elections throughout the country this year on 5th May. In order to vote you need to be registered on the Electoral Roll with Central Beds Council. Contact Electoral Services, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford. SG17 5TQ and ask for an Electoral Registration Claim Form to make sure you get your vote.

Aspley Guise Parish Council consists of 12 councillors and is open to any elector in the area. Candidates need to be nominated in order to take part in the election. There is information about becoming a Parish Councillor at http://www.nalc.gov.uk/ or contact Molly Fitzgerald or any councillor for further information. Becoming a Parish Councillor is a way of becoming involved in your village and having an influence on what is happening in your area, from deciding where to put a new litter bin to influencing planning decisions that affect us all, things that are vital to the well-being of all residents.

Nomination forms are available from Central Bedfordshire Council:
Telephone: 0300 300 8008
Email: electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Nomination forms need to be delivered to the Counting Officer, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ by noon on Monday 4th April 2011.

CHAIRMAN’S NEWS.

Covanta Waste Incinerator.

The proposal to build a electricity from waste incinerator at Stewartby by the US waste group Covanta is now being examined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) which the new government plans to abolish as part of its Localism Bill. Our local MP, Nadine Dorries, has been actively lobbying the Prime Minister and other government ministers to get them to use the powers they have under the Planning Act 2008, which governs the IPC process, to take a final decision on the application.
A public meeting was held on 17 January in Bedford and subsequently the IPC asked for further written representations by 28 February. The Parish Council has joined a group of 25 town and parish councils from Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes to object to this application which if approved would draw in waste from a wide area with a consequent increase in congestion on local roads.

All of the written representations can be viewed on the IPC website at http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/projects/eastern/rookery-south-energy-from-waste-generating-station/documentation/ including the one from the group of 25 councils. The next stage of the process is for comments on the written representations to be submitted to the IPC by 28 March. It is not clear yet whether the IPC will agree to the group of councils’ request for public hearings on the specific concerns they have raised over the application. In any event the IPC have indicated that they expect that there will be public hearings at which people will have a chance to voice their concerns over the proposals and that they expect them to be held on 5 and 6 July.

In parallel with the IPC examination the Environment Agency (EA) is considering Covanta’s application for a license to operate the waste incinerator at Stewartby and the group of 25 councils also plans to make representations to the EA about its concerns regarding the environmental impact of the plant.

**Councillor Fiona Chapman MBE.**

As a result of boundary changes to the Central Bedfordshire local authority wards and a consequent decrease in the number of councillors representing Aspley Guise from two to one, Cllr Fiona Chapman will not be standing in the election on 5 May to represent the village. Cllr Chapman has worked tirelessly to promote and protect the interests of Aspley Guise and its residents over many, many years and on behalf of everyone in the village the Parish Council would like to thank her for all that she has done for us and to extend our best wishes for the future.

**PARISH PLAN UPDATE.**

Residents will recall that in 2006/7 a group of volunteers led by Sir Norman King devised and published the first Aspley Guise Parish Plan which was produced in line with the responses to a comprehensive questionnaire circulated to all residents and has been used by the Parish Council as a guide to policy since then.

After five years it will be time to update the Plan and the Steering Committee has been re-established to review progress and set new targets and recommendations. The aim is to issue an update early in 2012.

With this in mind a second, shorter, questionnaire will be circulated this Autumn. You are invited to get involved by joining working groups discussing the issues affecting residents or at least by filling in the questionnaire and returning it in due course.

Come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on May 19th at 7.30pm in The Village Hall and learn more about the project and how to participate or apply to join the Steering Committee now by contacting Chairman Keith Revill. (01908 583161)

Subjects for the Questionnaire and Plan are as follows

2. Crime, Disorder and Policing
3. Community, Sport and Leisure
5. Education, Primary, Secondary and Adult.

7. Housing, Affordable and Local building policy.


**TOWNLANDS RECREATION SITE PROJECT.**

**Progress Update.**

With any luck, by the time you read this newsletter, the main bulk of the project will have been completed and site work will have mainly stopped, in order not to disturb wildlife breeding. Residents may recall that in late 2008, and the spring of 2009 extensive consultation through questionnaires, exhibitions, and further questionnaires was carried out. A Project Plan resulted that was approved by the Parish Council as Trustees for the Townlands Charity in September 2009.

Details of the project and the full project plan, and project progress to date can be found at: [http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk/news/](http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk/news/)

Since the last newsletter, what have we been doing?

- The summer growth in the wild area has been strimmed and raked off. Wildflowers and bulbs planted, which will in time colonise the area. More will be added in time.
- Trees have been thinned and tree canopies lifted and encroaching brambles driven back creating two different woodland types – bramble glades and wild at the top of the site, and more open woodland lower down.
- The concrete base has been cleared and the dying blackthorn cut back – this latter will be completed over the next workdays in February and March.
- The willow maze was constructed and planted in the grass area Thanks to Andy Smith from Aspley House constructing and caring for it.
- P3 have done a fabulous job at installing steps at the very steep entrance from Mill Way, which was becoming increasingly more difficult for walkers especially in winter.
- Summer growth and encroaching hazel and blackthorn have been cut back along Mill Way.
- Planting of hazel, spindle, dogwood, guelder rose along the Browns Way edge of the wildflower/hayfield area, and dog rose along another edge.

During March/April we hope to install the last big elements of the project.

- In Mid March, we hope that Central Bedfordshire Council funded play elements will be carried out. 1970s swings/ground tiles removed and area grass seeded. The football posts, basketball hoop, and climbing frame painted, and four new items of natural play equipment installed including swinging in the same area as the climbing frame. Thanks to Siobhan Vincent of CBC who has been so helpful with the roller coaster of this element.
- Natural wood benches will be installed on the concrete base
- Bird and bat boxes will be installed in the woodland area. Thanks to Alec James for taking on their maintenance.
- An additional fruit tree and some native trees planted. Thanks to Marion Fairful for looking after our planted trees.

So what is there left to do:-

- We need money to install more natural benches in the site – anyone spare £200 for a bench?
- We need money to increase the native woodland flower planting for the benefit of residents and wildlife.
- We need to maintain the site, strimming off the wildflower/haymeadow in July/August, strimming and raking off the summer growth of the woodland area in November and keeping the cleared areas of the grass area boundary and Mill Way boundary and encroaching scrub cut back. P3 have agreed to assist over winter with volunteers assistance. We always welcome new volunteers and the Townlands Updates on the Parish Council web site provides the dates.
If you want to donate contact Molly Fitzgerald, Parish Clerk, if you want to volunteer give Molly your details of name, phone number and e-mail address, who will pass it on.

We hope to run an event in the spring both to celebrate the last two years work and to raise funds for the future care and enhancement of the site. This will be advertised around the village and on the Parish Council web site.

As project lead, I cannot thank enough the hardy volunteers both residents, parish councillors, P3 and GST rangers enough, who have turned out in rain, snow, frost and sun over the last two winters to deliver this project. Not of course forgetting the fund raising and donations from The Wheatsheaf, Woodcote Trust and the Village Foundation. Without you all this would Project would not have succeeded. 
Details of the project and updates on progress can be found on the Parish Council web site under the Townlands heading at:

http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk/news/

**ASPLEY GUIS E P3 GROUP UPDATE.**

On February 17th the P3 volunteer group, who maintain the rights of way in the Parish, completed the construction of thirteen steps. They are one metre wide and installed between Mill Way and the Townlands recreation ground. The P3 group is supported by the Countryside Access Team at Central Bedfordshire Council and works on weekday mornings once a fortnight.

The contact is Pat or John Perry on 582599

![](The P3 Volunteer Group.

The completed steps.

**LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ASPLEY GUISE.**

Central Bedfordshire Council Executive, as part of its Budget cuts proposed discontinuing mobile library services, whilst retaining the Library Link service for house bound users and those in sheltered accommodation. It is not known at the time of writing whether this has been accepted by full council but is considered likely.

Milton Keynes Unitary Authority (MKC) proposed closing the library at Woburn Sands as part of their budgetary cuts. Thanks to objection by supporters of the library, MKC has agreed to continue the funding through 2011 and 2012; however this is subject to a Library Service review. We are advised that it is likely that the review will recommend the library will move to the Institute on the High Street, to increase footfall, and for cost reasons and we hope that the full professional service will be retained following such a move. A meeting between Woburn Sands Town Council and MKC will be held at the end of the month.
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VILLAGE HALL.

It’s been a busy summer at the Village Hall and over the next few months there will be lots on at the Hall that villagers can support. So keep an eye on the Hall noticeboards and or go www.aspley-guise.org.uk for details.

For more information on bookings and events, please call Lettings Secretary, Gill Cockle on 01908 584 456.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 26th March</td>
<td>Danesborough Chorus Concert at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable. Theatre Box Office 01582 602080</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th April</td>
<td>Jumble Sale at Aspley Guise Village Hall. Jumble can be brought on the morning or during the week before and left at the Hall.</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th April</td>
<td>Great Brickhill Plant Fayre in the Parish Hall, Great Brickhill.</td>
<td>12noon – 4pm. Entrance £1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th May</td>
<td>Parish Council Election and Referendum.</td>
<td>7.00am – 10.00pm</td>
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<td>Sunday 15th May</td>
<td>Flaxbourne Gardens Open Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th May</td>
<td>Annual Parish Meeting. Village Hall.</td>
<td>7.30pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th May</td>
<td>Aspley Guise Open Gardens.</td>
<td>12.30pm – 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 18th June</td>
<td>Woburn Open Gardens and Scarecrow Competition. Contact Gill Green – 01525 290631. Entry £3.50.</td>
<td>10.30am – 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 25th June</td>
<td>Danesborough Chorus Concert. Woburn Parish Church.</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10th July</td>
<td>Aspley Guise Open Gardens.</td>
<td>12.30pm – 5.30pm</td>
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CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES – 28 MARCH 2011.

Changes are being made to a number of bus services in Central Bedfordshire on 28th March 2011. Many of these changes are a result of a spending review on bus services financially supported by Central Bedfordshire Council. Bus operators are also making some changes to their commercial services from the same date.

10/10A (Grant Palmer): Leighton Buzzard, Woburn, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes
Routes revised to operate as follows:
10: Leighton Buzzard Station, Eggington, Hockliffe, Woburn, Woburn Sands, Kingston, Open University, Milton Keynes Hospital, Central Milton Keynes. (Mondays to Saturdays).
10: Leighton Buzzard Station, Eggington, Hockliffe, Dunstable. (Mondays to Fridays peak hour journeys).

197 (Grant Palmer): Biggleswade, Broom, Stanford, (Langford and Henlow Tuesdays), Clifton, Shefford, Campton, Clophill, Maulden, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning, Milton Keynes
On Tuesdays buses continue to operate via Langford and Henlow as current.
On Saturdays operates via Broom and Stanford, and is interworked with route 200. On Saturdays it will also serve Westoning.

**Route 197 will no longer serve Streatley, Barton, Steppingley, Ridgmont, Husborne Crawley, Aspley Guise, Woburn Sands, Salford.**

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**MANY BURGLARIES CAN BE PREVENTED.**

Keep doors and windows locked at all times.

Remove all keys from the locks and keep them in a safe place and out of view.

Avoid leaving property like Handbags, Keys, or laptops in hallways, or where they can be seen from outside the house.

Keep garden furniture, ladders, and Wheelie bins in a secure garage or shed, or locked up away from the house, where they might be used to climb onto a roof or access a first floor window.

Be a good Neighbour.

Be aware of sounds like breaking glass.

Outbuildings, sheds and garages can be especially, vulnerable to criminals, and are often not the best place, to store high value items.

Always lock shed and garages, and help keep sheds secure with a good quality padlock, and hasp.

If possible anchor down items, like bikes and lawn mowers.

Consider an alarm and make sure your security lighting is covering your shed and garage.

For more information on securing your shed visit:  

or for securing your garage visit:  

Report any suspicious activity, or vehicles, in the area.

If you have any information about suspicious incidents or crimes, please call the Police Control Centre on (01234) 841212

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**USEFUL NUMBERS.**

Aspley Guise Village Website  
[www.aspley-guise.org.uk](http://www.aspley-guise.org.uk)

Aspley Guise Parish Council Website  
[http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk)

Highways Helpline:  0300 300 8049  
highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Trading Standards (for Consumer Advice):  
consumer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Bogus Callers:  
08454 040506

Social Services Emergency Duty Team:  08702 38546  
EDT@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Let’s Go. (Bedfordshire Routes and Sites.) 01234 767 037  
[www.letsgo.org.uk](http://www.letsgo.org.uk)