

# Your Parish News

from Bradwell Parish Council serving  
Bradwell Common, Bradwell Village,  
Heelands and Rooksley

Spring 2010

## Bradwell Parish Council takes over Heelands Meeting Place



Bradwell Parish Council has signed a 30-year lease from Milton Keynes Council to take over and run Heelands Meeting Place

MK Council has not had the resources to maintain the meeting place thoroughly, so the parish has announced an upgrade to make it into a first class facility.

Bradwell Parish Council, which has already contributed towards a new kitchen, will have new windows and doors fitted and the building redecorated inside and out.

The parish council has not yet taken over the running of the hall. When it does we will advise a new 'phone number for bookings and enquiries. In the meantime please contact MK Council Community Properties on (01908) 253334.



*A window sill at Heelands Meeting Place which has rotted through to the brickwork. On the other side of the window, very young children play and learn at the excellent playgroup.*



**Invites all  
residents  
to its**

## ***PUBLIC ANNUAL MEETING***

at  
BRADWELL  
MEMORIAL HALL  
VICARAGE ROAD  
BRADWELL VILLAGE  
at 7.30 pm on  
WEDNESDAY  
21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2010

*Free light refreshments*

Meet Parish and  
Milton Keynes councillors.

*Meet the neighbourhood  
police and a PCSO*

A Milton Keynes Council  
official will be there. Hear  
what they are doing to  
improve their local  
environmental services

Parish Council Chairman,  
Cllr Brian King will  
present his annual report.  
Tell us what you feel the  
Parish Council should – or  
should not - be doing!

Parish Awards will be  
presented to people who  
have given excellent  
service to our community

***This is your meeting!  
We look forward to  
welcoming you!***

## Bradwell Parish Council Tax

There seems to be a big increase in the amount of Council tax claimed by the Parish Council for the financial year 2010-2011 – *or is there?*

It depends with which year you compare it. The Milton Keynes Council tax bill only compares this year with last year, but if you compare it with previous years you will find it's actually less than it was three years ago!

Bradwell Parish Council's precept (that's the amount it claims from Milton Keynes Council against the Council Tax) for the year

2007-2008 was £156,000

2008-2009 was £110,725 a huge reduction on 2007-2008

2009-2010 was £105,000 a small reduction on 2008-2009

2010-2011 is £134,800 a big increase over the previous year but still much less than it was in 2007-2008

The amount that the parish council costs each household depends on which council tax band your home is as shown in the following table. Of course, where there is only one adult living in the home, or where the residents receive council tax benefit, the sum can be a lot less.

<b>COUNCIL TAX IN BRADWELL PARISH FOR 2010/2011</b>					
<b>Council Tax Band</b>	Percentage of Bradwell Parish homes in Band	Total MK Council Tax in 2010-2011	Council tax for MK Council, Police & Fire	Bradwell Parish Council Tax 2010-2011	<b>Bradwell Parish Council Tax per home per week</b>
	%	£ per home	£ per home	£ per home	£
<b>A</b>	11.2	916.11	886.47	29.64	<b>0.57</b>
<b>B</b>	41.4	1,068.79	1,034.21	34.58	<b>0.665</b>
<b>C</b>	23.1	1,221.48	1,181.96	39.52	<b>0.76</b>
<b>D</b>	14.0	1,374.16	1,329.70	44.46	<b>0.855</b>
<b>E</b>	6.7	1,679.53	1,625.19	54.34	<b>1.045</b>
<b>F</b>	2.8	1,984.90	1,920.68	64.22	<b>1.235</b>
<b>G</b>	0.8	2,290.27	2,216.17	74.10	<b>1.425</b>
<b>H</b>	One property	2,748.32	2,659.40	88.92	<b>1.71</b>

So nearly 90% of homes in tax bands A to D pay less than £1 a week for parish council services. Over 41% of homes are in band B which costs them 66p a week.

For this, the Parish Council

- Runs 3 allotment sites, a recreation ground and a wildlife conservation area
- Provides and services 27 dog waste bins and six litter bins.
- Does a lot of landscape maintenance, mostly around Bradwell old village.
- Pays half the cost of new car parking bays and new children's play areas.
- Is taking over and running Heelands Meeting Place
- Publishes a regular community newsletter, and keeps up a community website.
- Gives grants to many local organisations which help residents of the parish.
- Runs an office and local information centre at 21 Glovers Lane, Heelands.
- The office also services the 'NAG' and five local charities which benefit residents.

Most of these services would be lost, or at least cost much more to provide, if the Parish Council, with its low overheads and costs, did not exist.

*Continued opposite*

## Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

We are sorry to report that Mrs Cheryl Glennon has resigned as a Bradwell Parish councillor for Bradwell Common & Rooksley due to her work preventing her from attending many evening meetings. We thank Cheryl for her work and enthusiasm.

Principal councils, like Milton Keynes, are being encouraged to devolve some of their neighbourhood service to local communities, so they can concentrate on their main strategic roles like schools, social services, planning and highways. We need good local people on the parish council who can help guide this process.

Being a parish councillor is voluntary and unpaid, but it does give you a good opportunity to make a real contribution to our local community. If you would like to take Cheryl's place on the Parish Council we would be delighted to hear from you. The successful applicant would be co-opted by the nine remaining parish councillors, following an informal interview.

If you are interested please can you write or e-mail, giving brief details about yourself and what you hope to achieve for Bradwell Common and for Bradwell Parish as a whole, to:

**Bradwell Parish Council**  
**21 Glovers Lane, Heelands,**  
**Milton Keynes MK13 7LW**

**E-mail: [clerk@bradwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bradwell-pc.gov.uk)**

### THE SMALL PRINT

To be a parish councillor you have to be:

- ≠ Age 18 years or over
- ≠ A British national or a citizen of the British Commonwealth or of the European Union.
- ≠ Be on the electoral register of Bradwell Common or an address within 3 miles of it, or have been resident in Bradwell Common, or have had your principal place of work there for the past 12 months.

You are ineligible to stand if:

- ≠ You are currently bankrupt.
- ≠ Within the last 5 years you have been sentenced to more than 3 months' imprisonment (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine.
- ≠ You work for Bradwell Parish Council.

*Continued from page 2.*

## How we spend the money

### Bradwell Parish Council Budget for 2010/11

The main items of expenditure for the year 2010/11 are as follows:

Landscape maintenance (including allotments) £20,000  
Servicing the dog waste and litter bins £5,000  
New equipment £4,000  
Part funding a PCSO £16,500  
Part provision of parking spaces £18,000  
Part provision of play facilities £15,000  
Easter and summer play & sports coaching sessions £8,800  
Heelands Meeting Place £20,000  
Public Information – newsletters, information flyers, website £7,500  
Grants to outside bodies which help local residents £8,000  
Administration £7,200  
Staff costs £28,000  
Parish Office rent & running costs £11,000  
Legal and others £16,000  
TOTAL £185,000

In addition to £134,800 to be received from Milton Keynes Council through the Council Tax, the Parish Council also derives income from rents on buildings, grounds and allotments and from grants.

## **Heelands School needs school governors**

**Being a voluntary school governor is both interesting and rewarding, and full training is available.**

**If you are interested in helping to advance Heelands School and the local children who attend it please contact the school direct:**

**HEELANDS SCHOOL**  
**Glovers Lane**  
**Heelands**  
**Milton Keynes**  
**MK13 7QL**

**Telephone (01908) 316306**  
**Headteacher: Mrs Lesley Barnard**

## News from the 'NAG' (the Neighbourhood Action Group)

The 'NAG' includes local residents who work together with the police, Milton Keynes and Parish Councils and the Fire Service to improve public safety and the environment in our area.

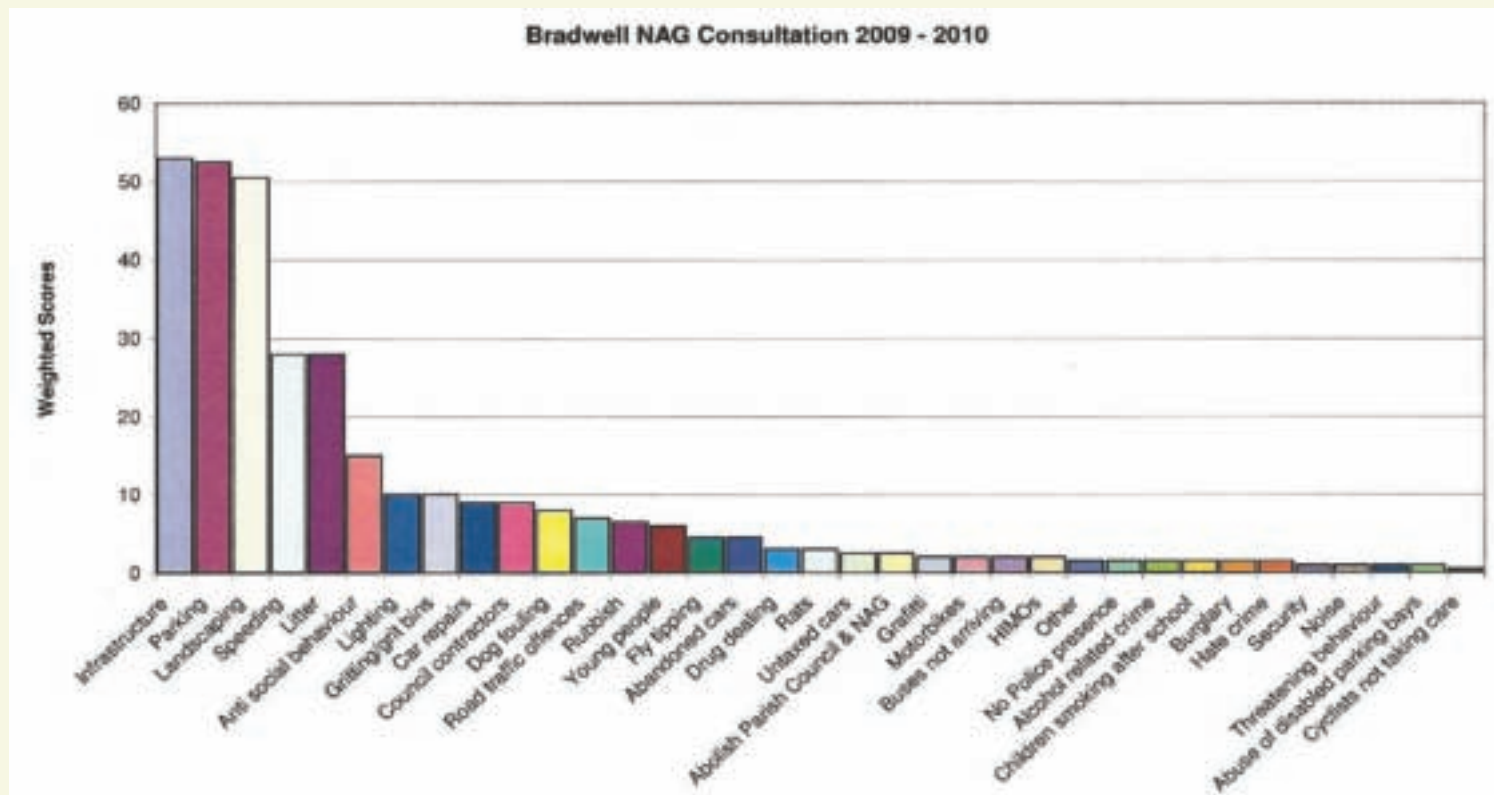
Bradwell NAG thanks the 128 residents who returned the NAG consultation forms delivered in our December 2009 issue. From these, the NAG agreed the three priorities it is to tackle over the next two years. They are:

1. Infrastructure and Landscaping.
2. Parking and speeding.
3. Anti-social behaviour.



*Potholes in the road were the first infrastructure complaint. We have been continually pressing for their repair, and several have been.*

Our outgoing NAG chairman, Mr Barry Wadeson, kindly analysed the returns and produced the chart below showing all the results. The members sincerely thanked Barry for his hard work and dedication to the NAG since its inception in December 2007.



At its Annual Review Meeting in February 2010, NAG members unanimously elected **Mrs Satinder Gill** as its chair and **Mr Brian King** as its vice-chairman.

**We still need more enthusiastic and law-abiding citizens of Heelands to join the NAG. Please apply to the Parish Council, at the address shown on the back page.**

## "Yellow Bollards" Project Complete

### BEFORE

Councillor Tom Sayers and his team, working under the auspices of NAG, have finished repainting the yellow bollards throughout the Bradwell Parish / NAG area.

The picture on the right shows what many of the bollards were like before repainting, with very little yellow left on them.

The team has also painted the Parish Council's wooden bollards along Abbey Road in Bradwell Village with brown woodstain.



### AFTER



The picture on the left shows that not only are all the redway bollards shining with new yellow paint, but the grooves at the top are fitted with red reflective tape.

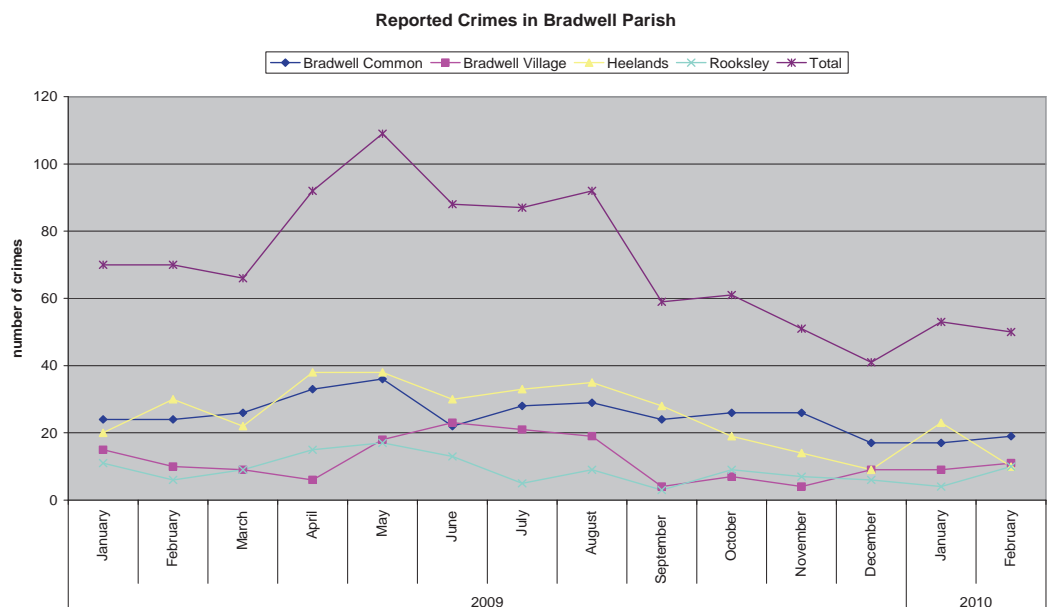
Now other NAGs are asking Tom how it's done!

Again, the Bradwell NAG would like to thank Mr Ian McGregor, Milton Keynes Council's highways

network manager, and the MK Council team at their Bleak Hall depot, as well as the Probation Service at Stony Stratford, for their kind assistance on this project.

## CRIME FALLS IN BRADWELL PARISH

Crime has shown a marked fall from a high last May to the lowest figures recorded for years. Bradwell Parish Council contributes towards the cost of a PCSO and the NAG is always active and vigilant, but it's very well done to our neighbourhood police and PCSOs!



## THE DEMISE OF BRADWELL VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

It is with regret that I have to announce the demise of Bradwell Village Residents' Association. Since the inaugural meeting in June 2005, a few enthusiasts have given their time, have worked hard to create and maintain interest in the Association by having public meetings with interesting local speakers, and given residents the opportunity to 'have their say'.

The committee deliver over 1200 Newsletters throughout Bradwell announcing Public meetings giving the agenda, time and place. There are around 3000 residents and of those only a handful attends the meetings.

This is not very encouraging and the return does not justify the effort involved. Therefore the committee has decided to discontinue the Association.

In response to requests, a very successful Fete was organised in June 2009. Everybody enjoyed themselves and all the exhibitors wanted to return this year. However, with a depleted committee and no new volunteers forthcoming, there are not the resources to organise another this year. All exhibitors have been informed.

Residents' main concerns, highlighted in the recent survey, Infrastructure and Landscaping, Parking and Speeding, and Antisocial Behaviour, will continue to be catered for by a very active NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) working together with the Parish Council and the Police Force.

If you have any comments concerning this announcement, please address them to the Parish Council, whose address and email are on the back page of this newsletter.

Rick Conway



## THE PARISH THANKS COUNCILLOR PHIL GERRELLA



Bradwell ward MK councillor Phil Gerrella has had the good fortune to have been awarded £2,000 to spend on his ward. We are very grateful to Phil to have given this money to Bradwell Parish Council to spend on public seats. These will be installed soon. The locations will include the new toddlers' play area at King George's Field, Bradwell, and outside Heelands Meeting Place where playgroup parents and carers wait.



We understand that our other two Milton Keynes Councillors also have plans to contribute to projects within the Parish, and we are grateful to them too.

## Make use of your Community Meeting Places

**Bradwell Common  
Community Centre –  
telephone (01908) 607023**

**Bradwell Memorial Hall,  
Bradwell Village –  
'phone 07758 091845**

**Heelands Meeting Place –  
'phone 253334 (MK Council)  
(due to change soon)**

## Radical Bus Service Changes



The Parish Council is concerned about some of the effects of the very extensive bus service changes which are due to be implemented on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

We are pleased that a good service of at least eight buses an hour will run on Grafton Street during weekday daytimes. The Parish Council made representations which should maintain a link between the centre of Bradwell Common and Heelands shops, which was going to be broken with the withdrawal of route 6. There will, however, be no link from Loughton Road, Bradwell, to Wolverton, unless you walk to Grafton Street. New route 3 will operate Bradville – Heelands – Bradwell (Loughton Road) – CMK (including Sainsbury's) – OU – Kingston Centre and Woburn Sands.

We have asked MK Council to give us a good supply of timetables which should be available from our office, or by calling us on 321285, before the changes come about.

## *COMING LATER THIS YEAR* Improvements to Bradwell Common Square

Bradwell Parish and Milton Keynes Councils are in the early stages of planning a thorough refurbishment of "The Square" between The Countryman pub/restaurant and the take-away, One Stop Shop and Community Centre, Bradwell Common Boulevard.

Pupils at Summerfield School have already given their views, especially on what new play equipment they would like to have, but we would like to hear the views of all residents on what they may hope to see from the refurbishment.





## You're Welcome to Contact Your Parish Council

Bradwell Parish Council Office  
21 Glovers Lane, Heelands  
Milton Keynes MK13 7LW

Parish clerk/manager: Harold Atkins

Telephone (01908) 321285

E-mail: [clerk@bradwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bradwell-pc.gov.uk)

Website, recently updated: [www.bradwell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bradwell-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Office is usually manned on weekdays at least between 0830 and 1330, and at other times by appointment. If there is no reply, please call and leave a message and we will get back to you. As well as Bradwell Parish Council, the Parish Office also services the Bradwell Neighbourhood Action Group (the NAG), King George's Field Bradwell, and four other charities.

We keep a supply of pink recycling refuse sacks at the office. If you call us we'll get a roll round to you free in two or three days. We regret that we are not able to supply black refuse sacks.

### Your Parish Councillors

Please contact your councillors through the office, as above

Councillors		<i>Parish ward represented</i>
James Alexander		<i>Bradwell Village</i>
Ivor Bradbury	<i>Vice chair of the Parish Council</i>	<i>Bradwell Common &amp; Rooksley</i>
Rex Exon	<i>Also a Milton Keynes councillor</i>	<i>Bradwell Village</i>
Satinder Gill		<i>Bradwell Village</i>
Brian King	<i>Chairman of the Parish Council</i>	<i>Bradwell Common &amp; Rooksley</i>
Venetia Sams		<i>Heelands</i>
Tom Sayers		<i>Heelands</i>
Ziya Suzen		<i>Heelands</i>
Julian Vischer		<i>Heelands</i>
Vacancy		<i>Bradwell Common &amp; Rooksley</i>

### Next Council Meetings which include a Public Open Forum

Residents are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, but at the following meetings you can ask questions or tell us your point of view in a session starting at 7.30 pm sharp.

Annual Meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at 7.30 pm at Bradwell Memorial Hall

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30 pm at Summerfield School, Bradwell Common.