



Welcome!

Welcome to Issue 5 of the Theale Newsletter. We've adjusted the format, making it shorter, with the aim of providing information to you more quickly and more frequently. Please let us know what you think about the newsletter, or anything else concerning the village. Contact details are at the end of the of this issue.

New IKEA in Calcot



At the time of writing, the planning application for a new IKEA where Homebase currently resides is still under consideration. You can view and comment on the planning application on the West Berkshire Council website (www.westberks.gov.uk/planning). The planning reference for IKEA is: 11/00218/COMIND.

It is not clear when the deadline for comments is, as the meeting which was to review the application was cancelled. If you want to comment, we suggest you do so sooner rather than later.

Dog Fouling



Following last summer's campaign by the Neighbourhood Wardens, two new bins are to be installed, and one other re-sited where it will be more accessible.

Most dog-owners are community-spirited and pick up the foul left by their dogs. For those that allow their dog to foul in public places, please be reminded that dog fouling is both a health risk and a **criminal offence**, punishable by fine of up to £1,000.

There is a growing air of frustration within the village at the lack of consideration of the few.

The West Berkshire Dog Warden wants to know if you find dog-fouling to be a problem, and would like to visit owners who allow their dogs to foul on the highway at their home. The Dog Warden would need to know where the owner lives to do this. They are also interested in the amount of dog foul being left behind (even if an owner/dog is not to be seen), so if you see one, please report it.

You can contact the Dog Warden in the following ways:

- Email: dogwardenservice@westberks.gov.uk
- Phone: 01635 42400 Ext: 2386.
- The forum on thealevillage.com, where there is a discussion thread on which people have reported dog-foul in the highway.

There is also information on the West Berkshire Council website: <http://www.westberks.gov.uk>.

Youth Club Petition



As part of the government cuts, the funding for Theale Youth Club has ceased, and the club is now closed. Theale's Future put a petition against this closure in three local businesses: Courts, the Post Office and the Co-Op. These were in place for three weeks in May/June and gathered 162 signatures. We are looking at if or how we might try to get some provision for the youth in the village. If you did not see the petition and would like to add your voice, please email or write to Theale's Future by the end of September, providing your name and address. (Your details will be used only for the petition, and will not be passed-on to anyone else.)

A4 Crossing between Theale and Arlington



The use of a footbridge to cross the A4 into Arlington Business Park has been investigated by West Berkshire Council, and is not a likely solution because:

- The estimated cost is quite high, at over £1m.
- A bridge would have to be of a certain height, and this means that the walkways would have to be of a sufficient length to reach that height at the required gradient. This would increase the probability of pedestrians not wanting to use the bridge because of the distance required to travel to cross it.

West Berkshire Council are currently investigating the viability of a light-controlled crossing, and we await their findings.

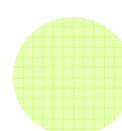
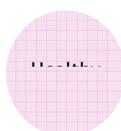
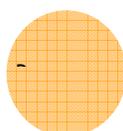
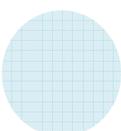
Village Design Statement



A Village Design Statement (VDS) is one of the objectives of the Parish Plan. It's a useful document for a village to have because it provides a reference for planners to take into consideration when reviewing planning applications. If Theale had a VDS earlier, some larger developments that have been granted planning applications would not have been successful.

Work had commenced on creating a VDS: A small group of volunteers had been formed and the creation of material for a consultation in the village had commenced. However, with the Localism Bill expected to become law from April 2012, the VDS will be replaced with Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). Currently, the information about the requirements for content of a NDP or the process to produce one is not available. For this reason, Theale

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Parish Council has decided to wait until more information is available, and then progress with a NDP as soon as possible. If you are interested in being part of the group to create the NDP for Theale, please contact Theale's Future. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Village Notice Board

You may have seen that the notice board outside the Co-op has been replaced. If you didn't realise, it is now two-sided, with information from Theale's Future located on the side facing the High Street.

The intention is for the old notice board to be installed near the canal so that users of the canal can be made aware that Theale is nearby and of the facilities available here.

Neighbourhood Watch



One of the actions of the Village Action Plan was to make villagers more aware of the crime in the area by encouraging the take-up of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. A Neighbourhood Watch scheme is where a group of residents decide they want to be more aware of what crime is taking place in the area, and be informed as to how to reduce the risks of crime. One of the residents of the group volunteers to be the coordinator of the scheme and applies for a scheme to be set-up in their street. Once the application is completed, information is passed to them from the police. This information can be passed in a variety of formats. Most people choose email.

The advantages of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are:

- Build a greater sense of community
- Villagers are informed and can take action to reduce the risks of crime
- Provide reassurance
- Potential discounts on security items and insurance (depending on the insurer).

There are currently only 7 schemes in Theale: Blossom Lane, Church Street, Englefield Road (34 to 64), North Street, Roundhead Road, Spring Gardens and Swallowfield Gardens.

If you want to join an existing scheme in your road, you should easily be able to determine who the coordinator is by asking someone already in the scheme (who should be able to direct you to the scheme co-ordinator), or by asking Debbie Morton, the Neighbourhood Watch Administrator for the area. If there is no scheme in your road, why not start one? It's easy to do. Just give Debbie a call. Her number is 01635 264718.

Local Events

Below are some of the local events due to take place. Take a look at "What's On" at thealevillage.com for more events information.

Five A Day Market Garden



There are several events up-coming at the 5 A Day Market Garden in Englefield:

Five A Day Summer Fete & Englefield Garden Centre Summer Fete. Monday 29th August 10am-4pm. Free entry.

Summer Holiday Fun Family Sessions

Saturday 27th August, 10am-1pm or 2pm-5pm

Free Gardening for over 50s

Monday 5th September, 10.30am-1pm, weekly for 8 weeks.

For details regarding any of the above events, please email Pam (pam@fiveaday.org.uk) or call 07939 676050. You can find more information at <http://www.fiveaday.org/>

Theale Library

When is the last time you took a look in the library? It is possible to rent DVDs and use computers there, as well as keeping abreast of community activities on the notice board. And, of course, you can still take away books or magazines on loan!

Theale's Future - Join In!

Many of the items in this newsletter are items highlighted in the Village Action Plan, and are being progressed by a volunteer in the Theale's Future group, along with the relevant authorities. There are many items in this plan, and not enough people to cover them all. If you are interested in helping to improve the village, please get in touch! The plan can be found at thealevillage.com/thealesfuture, and on the village notice board (next to the Co-op) where you can see all the tasks and also if they are being progressed.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact Theale's Future regarding any of the articles in this newsletter; or be involved with the group, we would love to hear from you:

Email: tf@thealevillage.com

Post: **Theale's Future**, c/o TPC, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS

