

Theale Newsletter

Published by Theale's Future: tf@thealevillage.com

Theale's Future Annual Get-Together

Safer

Theale's Future has been working for the village for several years now and produced changes in the village - the Parish Plan, lighting, pedestrian crossing, improvements on the A4, 2010 trees planted, newsletters - and although we have had a few general meetings we are still operating with the committee members elected in 2007 plus several co-opted members. To be representative and make sure we are doing what you want we need your approval.

Please come to the get-together meeting we are holding in the village hall at 7:30 pm on the evening of 26th May 2011. If you remember the village questionnaire (50% of you responded - fantastic), come along to hear what we have done since. This will be your opportunity to find out what we have actually achieved for the village and what we are doing now, and to tell us what you want us to do in the future.

We also need help in several areas. If you can afford a little time to help us you may be surprised at the results.

Please come - with your ideas - to the meeting on 26th May. Or come to one of our committee meetings at the Red Lion at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

Prosperous

Emergency Planning in Theale

Theale is situated near a motorway, a bypass road, a railway line and is under a flight path from Heathrow. AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield, Murco and United Asphalt in Theale, all deal with hazardous materials. Any of these could potentially cause an emergency situation for the village and its community. Recent flooding, bad winters and hot summers are a reminder that the weather can badly affect the more vulnerable members of our community.

West Berkshire Emergency Management Team wishes to set up local groups under the auspices of their Parish Councils to assist in dealing with Emergencies.

The role of the Emergency Coordinator is to receive and pass information to West Berkshire Council's Emergency Management Team and where possible attend incidents to provide assistance. Local Emergency Coordinators may have to take charge of an incident pending attendance by the Emergency Services. It is likely that they will be able to provide local knowledge as well as practical assistance. Local Emergency Coordinators are NOT intended to replace the Emergency Services and Coordinators are not expected to put themselves at risk when fulfilling this role.

An emergency situation could develop at any time, possible events being a spillage of dangerous materials or a fire, the list is endless. Coordinators may have to arrange temporary accommodation following an incident.

The Emergency Coordinators will be equipped with a handbook containing a list of the telephone numbers of other Coordinators, key-holders of premises which may be used as an incident room or emergency accommodation. In time community members with specialist knowledge and equipment which may be useful at an incident will be added to the information held by Coordinators.

Some people have volunteered to be Emergency Coordinators but more are needed. If you are interested and want more information please contact Nick Flint on 0118 9302266 or e-mail at nickflint161@btinternet.com

Healthy

Greener

IKEA Planning Application

IKEA wish to build a new store just over the motorway from Theale, near Sainsbury's, in Calcot. Some people think the store will be a traffic nightmare for Theale. Others welcome the 400 new jobs in the area. What do YOU think?

To view and comment on the planning application, visit: www.westberks.gov.uk/planning with Planning application reference: 11/00218/COMIND. Please follow the instructions on the web site. Katherine Goodchild, the planning officer, has said that she will accept e-mails and letters about the application until much nearer the planning committee date (target 23/06/11). See IKEA's view of the site at: www.ikea-calcot-consultation.co.uk

Accessible

2010 Trees for Theale 2010



Theale Parish Council



Theale residents, village and county councilors, local businesses and our local MP joined forces to make the 2010 Trees for Theale 2010 project a great success! Based on the village questionnaire results, feedback from the youth questionnaire and comments made at the public meetings to “keep Theale green” and “improve Theale’s open spaces”, Theale’s Future launched the challenging plan to plant 2010 trees in Theale during National Tree week (Nov 27th to Dec 5th 2010).



Left: Village planting Day Sat 4th Dec, Centre: Some of the 100 Copella apple trees, Right: Alok Sharma MP with David Wood (TPC) and Roger York (TF).



The plan was to enhance Theale’s biodiversity, increase the green cover and at the same time link up the existing green corridors in and around Theale. Grants were obtained from West Berks, Theale Parish Council and the Greenham Common Trust, and the Woodland Trust granted Theale a Community Tree Pack of 420 native trees. Corporate sponsorship came from Copella with 100 apple trees and assistance from the BTCV to help plant them. Goodman and Reliance Landscapes, Tennant Farmers Association and PepsiCo Green Team also donated trees. The remainder of the trees came from the West Berks Council grant with some willows coppiced and replanted locally. The Affinity Trust at Englefield looked after the trees until the event for us. Corporate planting days were organized but unfortunately this turned out to be one of the coldest and snowiest winters in years! Scottish & Southern Energy supplied an army of workers and equipment and without these guys the planting would have been an almost impossible task. Goodman and Reliance Landscapes were out, as were Ethical IT and Pam from the 5 a day Market Garden Englefield. Our sincerest thanks to the above organisations for their support.



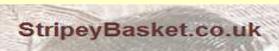
Clockwise from top left:

The SSE team who in a single day planted over 1200 trees!



Community planting

Alok Sharma MP with representatives of all our sponsors



One of several bags thrown either onto or over the hedge at St. Luke's church.

A series of talks and walks was devised to enable more people to get involved in the project, specifically those less mobile or less inclined to plant trees! The RSPB started the week with a walk and later in the week gave a talk on oak trees. Copella sponsored an evening event with Pam from the 5 a day Market Garden, Englefield, giving us advice on caring for fruit trees. Reading District Natural History Society led a walk along the Kennet looking at willow trees. The Ramblers led a walk and Stripey Basket gave a demonstration on willow weaving. Theale History Society led a walk through the village and the Community Planting Day was led by Theale's Future (TF) and joined by David Wood (TPC) and Alan Macro (WBC) on the Saturday, so something for everyone we hope! TF will issue an update on the progress of the trees later in 2011.



Left: RSPB display, Right: Article in the Reading Post.

Theale's Future were invited to present details of the 2010 Trees project at the CCB Building Stronger Communities Conference on March 5th to encourage other community groups across West Berks to plant their own community trees. Many of the communities of West Berks were represented and the two local MPs Alok Sharma and Richard Benyon attended. Alok even took time out to catch up on the progress of Theale's Future. This event was an ideal way to promote Theale as an active community. Lots of interest was shown in the project and several local groups are planning a visit to see the trees and Theale, raising the profile of Theale in the process.



Left: 2010 Trees for Theale 2010 explanation board.



Right: Alok Sharma MP with the Theale's Future display.

The Theale's Future Environment Group is now looking for new members and new ideas for the next project on the road to a greener Theale. If you have an environmentally based project you would like to see happen in Theale (and it doesn't have to be trees, I think we've had enough of those for a while!), then let us know, it could be a recycling project, home energy efficiency, rain water collecting, or something we haven't thought of!

WBC have set up Green Exchange to coordinate all the environment groups across West Berks, this gives us access to grant sources, volunteer groups, local support from the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB), Theale Parish Council (TPC) and West Berkshire Council (WBC) and neighbouring communities, now we just need you!

Contact us on: environment@thealevillage.com

Dog fouling - do we need to see this?

Theale's Future has been working on the issue of dog fouling. In 2010 the Neighbourhood Wardens were in Theale on a number of occasions speaking to dog owners, handing out collection bags and reporting their findings to West Berks and Theale's Future, see www.thealevillage.com for a summary of the report.

A recent trend has been the "disposal" of the full bin bags "over the hedge", this is not a pleasant discovery for anyone and we request everyone to use the bins provided or take it home. If there are incidents of this near you please let us know and we will advise the wardens. If you think we need additional bins please email us with your suggestion for a location.



Train station access update



The Transport Policy Team at West Berks Council (WBC) has visited Theale station to check out the practicality of ideas put forward by Theale's Future. The possibility of a ramped footbridge was subsequently discussed at a meeting with First Great Western (FGW) in January and the issue has now been raised with Network Rail (NR). Apparently they "were not against this idea but may need to be convinced of the demand." Funding still remains an issue. There may, however, be opportunities on the horizon, for example: if IKEA were to get planning permission for the site at Pincent's Hill there could be some funding for Theale station.

So to sum up, the idea of a new bridge is on the radar of FGW and NR. WBC is aware of the need to take advantage of any opportunities arising from other local planning developments. This is never going to be resolved quickly, but Theale's Future will continue to do all they can to ensure that this issue doesn't get forgotten!



Theale's Future needs you!



There are urgent requirements for Theale residents to join Theale's Future. If you would like to get involved you don't need to wait for the AGM, you can start straight away. We need local voices and local knowledge to help make the changes requested in the Village Plan happen. Currently we need assistance with website support, publicity, newsletters, graphic design and delivery of newsletters. If you can spare a couple of evenings a month or even just a couple of hours now and then we would like to hear from you, email tf@thealevillage.com and let us know what you would like to do.



Youth Petition



You may have seen in the local press that West Berks Council has proposed withdrawal of the funding of the (already inadequate?) youth provision in Theale. This means that the existing Youth Club will close. Theale's Future is organising a petition against this proposal. If you want to join us in telling the Council that having even less for our young people to do is a bad thing, please sign the petition. It will be available in both Courts Newsagents, the Post Office and others from Monday 9th to Saturday 21st May. Keep an eye on www.thealevillage.com for the latest information as to where you can find the petition.



Local events



Come along to Five A Day Market Garden for our new 'Eco Art - Summer Influences' course starting Friday 10th June 2011. Be inspired by nature and the seasons to create individual and group artwork and sculptures. Experiment with natural and recycled materials and craft felt, flowers, candles, handmade paper and more!

Also, there is a new 'Grow, Harvest and Eat' course starting 1st June 2011. Learn how to grow salads and vegetables to eat during the summer and autumn. Harvest delicious seasonal produce to cook at home complete with great recipe ideas

These free courses are open to adults with learning disabilities living in West Berkshire. To book a place on either course, contact Pam on 07939676050 or email pam@fiveaday.org.uk



Contact Us

If you would like to contact Theale's Future regarding any of the articles in this newsletter; publicise your not-for-profit event; or be involved with the group, please contact us:

Email: tf@thealevillage.com

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

Theale's
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