

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

Produced by Dawley Hamlets Parish Council

## COUNCIL TAX

For 2013/14 onwards, the Government has changed the way council tax is paid for those on benefits. This change does not impact those on benefits. However, for council tax payments, the Government will no longer cover every benefit claimant; it will give a grant to 'billing authorities' (Telford & Wrekin Council) to cover the payments. In real terms this means a reduction of 10% in money coming to local authorities from the Government. The new system is to be managed by the billing authorities and they have devised a formula to implement this reduction as equitably as possible. In effect, because of the Government changes, parish council budgets will be reduced by approximately 10% and parish councils are expected to absorb this shortfall. In 2013-14 Borough councils were under no obligation to pass this on. The situation with regards to the passing on of the grant to parish councils in 2014-15 is not yet known.

This year Dawley Hamlets Parish Council has set a precept which shows a Band D change from last year as an increase of 138%. This may seem, at first glance, to be an extraordinarily large increase and an explanation is therefore certainly required.

The reason for our increase is unique in that it stems from the historical fact that prior to 1997 the Parish Council had raised almost £300k to provide a community office and meeting room which, due to public protest, was abandoned. This meant that the parish council was left with extremely high funds for which there was no purpose and the Council was advised, by the District Audit, to find a way to return the money back to the Council Tax payer. In order to return this money back to the council tax payer the parish council chose not to raise any precept at all until such time as its reserves had reached an acceptable level. Council Tax payers in the Parish of Dawley Hamlets have for a number of years benefited from this arrangement and have not been required to pay anything towards the funding of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has only recently begun to once more raise a precept and chose to do so by starting at a low level and gradually increasing it until it reached the same level as the council's expenditure.

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## Dawley Hamlets Parish Council Senior Citizens summer Picnic

**12.30pm for 1pm Friday June 7th 2013**

The Parish Council will once again be holding a free Summer Picnic for senior citizens of the Parish. If you would like to be invited to attend please return the slip below. Admittance will be by ticket only and places are limited, so applicants are advised to return their slips as soon as possible.



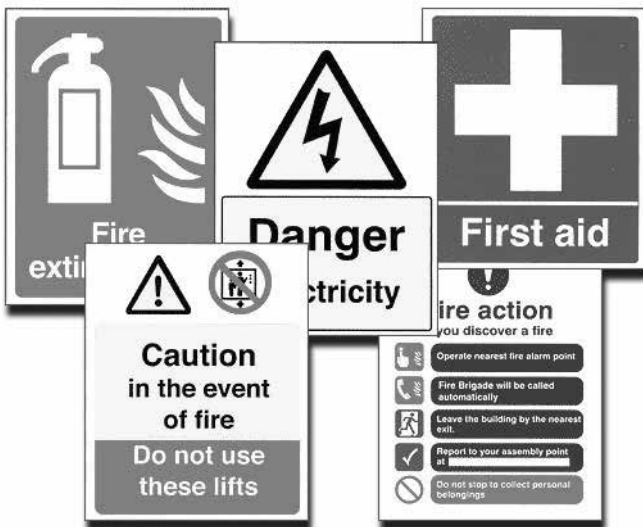
Name.....

Address.....

I am a senior resident of the Parish of Dawley Hamlets and I would like to be invited to the Parish Council's free Summer Picnic for senior citizens.

Please send the form to: M. Goldstraw, Parish Clerk, Regent Villa, London Road, St. George's, Telford, TF2 9LH

## Chairman's Chunterings



Well before I begin "Chuntering on" I have a bit of important news. Due to the success of our Christmas and Summer gatherings plus the dreaded 'Health and Safety' Regs; for future events we have no option but to set a limit on numbers attending. One hundred will be the limit. We will only be sending out 100 invitations. You will have to bring the invitation with you. It will be on a first come first served basis. Two weeks after the meal is advertised the invitations will be sent out. In the event of more than 100 applications; the successful ones will be drawn out of a hat.

Now to more serious matters (or not)..... Have you all noticed how, as a Society, we have become so obsessed with delegating (or blaming)? It is very rare that when something that needs to be done in the workplace;

someone actually realises and gets on with it. First of all a task has to be deemed necessary. That's when the fun really starts. If the recognised task isn't one of the ordinary day-to-day things, a risk assessment will have to be done. That could well be a 'Health and Safety' matter, so we need to find the relevant person. Do we need PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)? Okay, we've sorted that, so who does the job. Another conundrum, why? Well because in today's workplace, with all the cut-backs, there is no spare capacity. Everyone is working to their capacity and there just isn't any scope for unexpected occurrences. "I know!" says some bright spark "Let's get a contractor in". Where does the money come from for that? You may well ask. It is put on the bill for the customer; frequently you and me. So next time you see something that needs doing (outside the home of course) don't report it, just ignore it. Not forgetting, of course, that under the auspices of Health and Safety, if the 'thing' you notice isn't reported and someone gets hurt; then you are culpable. I could go on and on about this but I've just spotted a banana on the pavement so I shall be telephoning the Parish Clerk asking him to contact the Borough Council to get a contractor to move it. Or shall I go and pick it up myself?

Andy Chetwood, Chairman.

## Horsehay Townswomen's Guild

invites visitors and prospective new members to join them on the third Monday evening of each month at 7.15 pm in Horsehay Village Hall. We are a friendly group of ladies who meet socially to enjoy a variety of speakers, discussions, visits to interesting places and other guilds.

Our forthcoming programme for 2013 is both varied and interesting so why not come along for a taster evening to one or more of the following events: 15th April, Foot care by Sharon Cotton, 20th May, "Murder and Mayhem" by Dr. Bibby, 17th June, Summer Dinner and 15th July, "Nine Lives" by Janet Bradshaw of Tatton Park. .



For further details or a chat do not hesitate to call Pauline on 01952 876924 or Marilyn on 01952 503535. We look forward to meeting and greeting you.

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2013/14 sees this take effect and the Council's precept is now at level which matches its expenditure. Those looking at the increase are asked to note that our Band D rate is still one of the lowest raised by parishes in the Borough area and the Band D equivalent is £19.74 per annum (or around 38p per week).

The Parish Council is ever mindful of the financial difficulties the whole country finds itself in and the fact that everyone, whether in employment or otherwise, is affected by decisions made by all tiers of government.

The Parish Council has set a budget for the forthcoming year which still relies heavily on the use of its reserves but it is mindful that the money it raises must be adequate to meet its committed expenditure.

By limiting its plans for future expenditure and using some of its reserves the Parish Council has been able to safeguard all of its existing services and at the same time set a precept which is the equivalent of around 38 pence per week for the average household.

Full details of the Council's expenditure and accounts are available upon request from the Clerk.

DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL  
ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2012

MARTIN S J GOLDSTRAW  
Responsible Financial Officer

### ***Are you keeping up to date with Parish Council business?***

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council has its own web site where you can view its minutes which are a legally required record of its business. Minutes of all meetings going back to the years 2001 are archived on the web for all to see.

Up to date minutes are usually placed on the web site within days of them being approved, by Council, as a true record of the proceedings. <http://dawley-hamlets.org.uk>

If you help to organise a local group or event in the parish of Dawley Hamlets we will be only too happy to publish your meeting dates and times for you free of charge in our Newsletter. We aim to ensure that all households in the parish receive a copy.

All you have to do is contact either the Clerk or any of your Parish Councillors with the details and we will do the rest. Our only condition is that your organisation or event should benefit the parish and be none profitable.

**GET YOURSELVES SOME FREE PUBLICITY!!**

Email the Clerk: [clerk@dawley-hamlets.org](mailto:clerk@dawley-hamlets.org)

**[www.dawley-hamlets.org](http://www.dawley-hamlets.org)**



# Contact Us

## Your Local Parish Councillors

### Aqueduct Ward

**Councillor Andy Chetwood**

14 Malvern Crescent,  
Little Dawley  
Telford TF4 3HD  
Tel: 402699

**Councillor Angela Jordan**

86 Majestic Way,  
Aqueduct  
Telford TF4 3SA

**Councillor Geraldine King**

36 Malvern Crescent,  
Little Dawley  
Telford TF4 3HE  
Tel: 591894

**Councillor Susan Tarr**

67 Ellis Peters Drive,  
Aqueduct, Telford, TF3 1AW  
Tel: 593202

**Councillor Linda Gough**

13 Holly Road,  
Little Dawley  
Telford TF4 3HA

**Councillor Alan E Scott**

28 Avon Close,  
Little Dawley  
TF4 3HP

### Dawley Hamlets Ward

**Councillor Tansy Swain**

17 Suffolk Way,  
Horsehay, Telford TF4 3UL

**Councillor Mrs B. Onions**

9 Foresters Close,  
Horsehay, Telford TF4 3BW  
Tel: 502473

**Clerk:** Martin Goldstraw

Regent Villa, , London Road,  
St. George's, Telford TF2 9QD  
Tel: 01952 458006 Fax: 08703 156 809

**Councillor J W Lovett**

The Oaks,  
Horsehay, Telford TF4 2LT

### DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

Meets twice a month at Horsehay Village Hall, Bridge Road,  
Horsehay at 7.15 p.m.

Planning meetings are held on the first Monday of the month  
(except Bank Holidays) and the main meeting is held on the  
third Wednesday of the month. There are no meetings in  
August.

**All residents of the parish are invited to attend and all  
meetings have a 15 minute public session where Council is  
able to receive comments and reports from residents of the  
Parish.**

**Visit our new on-line photo gallery:  
<http://dawley-hamlets.org/gallery>**

Malinslee and Dawley &  
Hamlets Safer Neighbourhood  
Team are now on



Follow the action...

**@GreatDawleyCops**



[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)