

THE PARISH PUMP

The occasional Newsletter of
Trimley St Martin Parish Council
www.trimley-st-martin.org.uk

Felixstowe Branchline Special - March 2006

From the Chair

Now that the Port of Felixstowe have been given the go-ahead for the Felixstowe south development it will mean that the dualling of the railway track to Nacton, which forms part of the agreement, will now be going ahead.

Trimley St Martin will bear a large part of the disruption from the rail construction and of course from the increased use once completed. Whilst your Council is generally supportive of more containers travelling by rail rather than road there are issues that we are currently discussing with the Port that need resolving, especially as the railway dissects the land area of our village, runs close to residential properties and crosses lanes, footpaths and bridleways that then lead to isolated communities. These routes are heavily used in the summer months for access to the river and to the area of outstanding natural beauty that abuts the new rail line.

We have particular concerns about the proposed location of a large works site and offices on the High Road next door to Reeve Lodge and have sought assurances that access to this and other sites in the village is directly from the A14 and not by using the High Road. We also have deep reservation about the increased down time at Thorpe Lane crossing and feel considerable upgrading will be needed. Residents in Grimston Lane have already taken their own action to prevent the permanent closure of their nearby foot crossing. The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Path that runs through the fruit farm opposite Seamark Nunn is an important coastal footpath that I know many residents use on a regular basis and it felt this needs particular attention where it crosses the railway line. Residents living close to the line will suffer noise and vibration problems and measures to keep this to a minimum are being looked at.

Whilst we continue to have constructive talks with the Port, indeed some progress has already been made as reported on page 3, we are hopeful of resolving more of these issues. I would also like to remind parishioners that the balance between this areas prosperity and residents' quality of life is a delicate one and if anyone has concerns they are always welcome at our monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of every month, the next one being Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm or by writing to or emailing the Parish Clerk, with their concerns — see below for contact details.

Finally a footnote about acoustic barriers, as reported previously these had been agreed for the westbound carriageway but there was an unfair omission for the small group of properties on the eastbound carriageway. I am hopeful that this will now be resolved so that all those in the parish living adjacent to the A14 will have some degree of noise reduction.

Nigel Smith

Clerk's Corner

Regular readers of the Parish Pump will recall that in the August edition, we included a village questionnaire which covered a number of issues which were likely to affect residents living in the village, including the proposed expansion at the port, the acoustic barriers along the A14 and the proposed dualling of the railway track.

We received 85 replies to this questionnaire. This represents 10% of those issued, we are told that this is

a good return on this type of census, although we did feel that bearing in mind how much the topics covered will impact on the lives of people living in the village, we would have received a higher response. However, thank you to those of you that were able to take the time to complete the questionnaire.

This gives us a clear indication of how you wish to be represented by your Councillors of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council. With regard to some of the answers, I can tell you that:

- ◆ not surprisingly, 100% of you felt that it was important for the Trimley villages to keep their separate identities, both from each other and the town of Felixstowe.
- ◆ With regard to housing, 50% of replies wanted no more housing in the village whilst 36% would like to see some affordable housing. This had a bearing on those who have teenage/adult children living at home, 84% of whom would like to buy property in the village but felt that it was too expensive..
- ◆ just 27 % felt that a small business park in the village would be of benefit to provide local jobs.
- ◆ Of the questionnaires received, 50% of people work outside the village (72% of whom travel by car)
- ◆ 25% of the replies being received from retired persons.
- ◆ 70% of residents chose to live in Trimley because of its rural environment
- ◆ 74% of people regularly use the local footpath routes to access the surrounding countryside and areas of AONB.
- ◆ 75% of replies felt that the proposed dualling of the railway line between Trimley Station & Potter's Hole would take some of the pressure off the A14 by putting more freight on the rails and an overwhelming
- ◆ 97% felt that putting acoustic barriers in place along the A14 would help to reduce the noise from this road.

You will see from other editorial in this edition of the Parish Pump that the Parish Council are currently involved in discussions, meetings and correspondence with regard to the proposed dualling and acoustic barriers and your responses to the questionnaire have been invaluable for Councillors to put forward the strong held views of the residents. The Parish Council continue to welcome any comments and views regarding the issues that affect the village and these can be conveyed at any time, either by writing to the Clerk or attending the parish council meetings which take place on the first Tuesday of every month.

Tracey Hunter

What have we done so far?

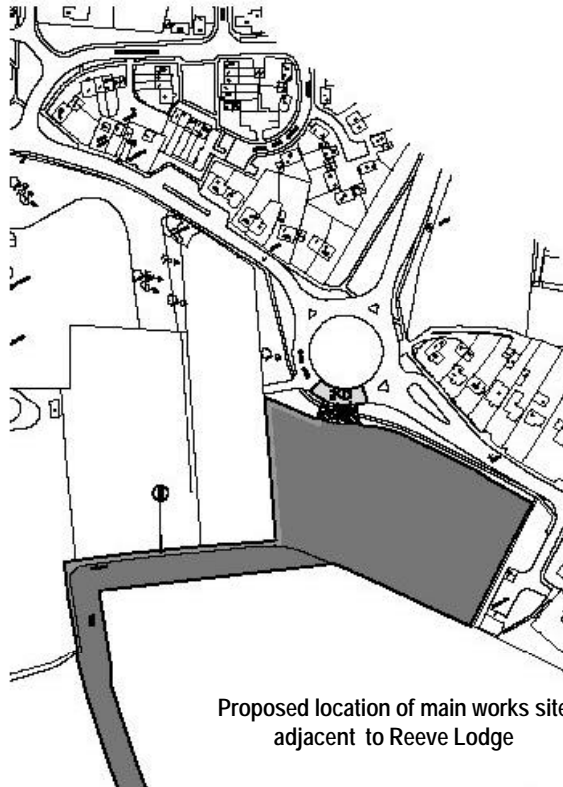
We have been concerned since June 2005 of the effects that the proposed partial dualling of the Felixstowe Branch Line would have on the quality of life that our residents currently enjoy. Our first impression was that we were looking at was a "very long siding — in which freight container trains of length, 500m plus, could stand. Unfortunately, unlike the Southern Reconfiguration Project, POF chose not inform us of their detailed proposals until they had almost been set in "tablets of stone". However we have been in and are still in intense negotiation with the POF. We have entered a statutory objection to the proposed Transport Works Order.

We have succeeded in negotiating:

- No deliberately timetabled standing trains
- No blanket closure of all footpaths that cross the proposed dualled section of the branch line. We are resisting the closure of certain other footpaths.
- That the existing stiles on all footpaths that cross the proposed dualled section of the branch line will be replaced with gates.
- No HGV construction traffic along Trimley High Road.
- No temporary closure of footpath rail crossings during construction period.
- Monitoring and control of noise during construction period.

We are still negotiating on:

- Thorpe Lane crossing barrier down time.
- Closure of Grimston Lane crossing & improvements to FP No 1 crossing



- The relocation of the main works site to a site nearer the branch line remote from Reeve Lodge.
- Public Service bus access for residents of Morston Hall.

Trimley Saints Players



Saints had an absolute ball presenting their latest Panto: 'Frankenstein' in January. It was a great show, lots of singing and comedy, and our audiences loved it! We played to packed houses, Wed - Sat, and have made a nice profit. We are donating £1000 to the Memorial Hall, for the disabled toilet project, as our charity this year. Our next production will be 'Are You Being Served', to be presented in September - watch this space for ticket details!

Trimley Memorial Hall

The Hall Management Committee & Parish Council are working hard to obtain funding for the new building project, which will include a toilet for the disabled, a new lobby, kitchen and balcony. Generous donations have already been received, and we are again putting in an application for Lottery money (the first application being refused on a technicality!).

**Annual Parish Meeting - Tue 4th April, 7.00pm
in Memorial Hall**

The Parish Clerk of Trimley St Martin is:

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