

IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

November 2009 Newsletter

There has been a great deal of controversy recently over the possibility of buying land that is designated as paddock or agricultural land and using this to extend gardens. The guidance from Wycombe District Planning Department is very detailed but basically all 'boundary treatments must be agricultural in nature and not domestic in appearance' and 'any developments or proposals of the land should maintain its rural appearance. It should not have the appearance of or be managed as a domestic garden'. The land should not be subject to the 'regular close cutting of grass so that it has the appearance of a lawn.' Full details are available from WDC.

It should be noted however that the area behind the houses running down the side of the Common actually comes under the jurisdiction of Stokenchurch Parish Council, not Ibstone. Stokenchurch PC can be contacted on clerk@stokenchurch.org.uk or 01494 482403.

The signs to make HGV drivers aware that Ibstone roads are not suitable for them have inched closer. They have now been approved by the Dept for Transport and we hope that they will soon be delivered and erected. It appears that one advantage of the recession is that fewer foreign lorry drivers have found themselves stranded in the village!

As you probably know, BT is getting rid of many of its rural phone boxes. They are making these available for adoption by communities for £1 with the promise that they will be handed over in 'reasonable' order. It will cost £19 per year for the electricity supply to power the light. The PC has decided to retain the box as an icon but feels that there is no longer a need for the line. It would cost a further £300 a year to keep a phone line into the box. We have had an offer from one Ibstonian to maintain the box and other interested parties will be most welcome.

Jeremy Randall is our new Tree Warden and so if you have any information for him or queries, please contact him through our Clerk, clerk@ibstone.org.uk.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 on Monday the 11th of January 2010 at the cricket pavilion. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your comments and ideas and have a very happy Christmas.