

# Arbory Parish Newsletter

Arbory Parish Commissioners

Issue 17. June 2017

Annual Newsletter

[www.arbory.org](http://www.arbory.org)

## Your Commissioners

The Members are Murray Cringle (Tel 822301), Adrian Cowin (Tel 834837), Jane Glover (Tel 835013), Stephen Gawne (Tel 472592) & Beth Greenhalgh (Tel 401780). The Clerk is Ian Lowey, Garey Hollin, Ronague (Tel 823896) [arborycommissioners@manx.net](mailto:arborycommissioners@manx.net)

**We hope that you will find this Newsletter to be of interest, and that you will not hesitate to contact us if you have any comments, both positive and negative, that you would like to make to us. Your ideas and suggestions would be genuinely welcomed.**

## Chairman's Message

As the old saying goes "time flies" and it only seems like a short while ago since we had the local government elections in April 2016! Following the retirement of three long-serving members, I was pleased to see that Stephen Gawne, Jane Glover and Beth Greenhalgh came forward to fill the vacancies. I would like to again put on record, sincere thanks for the many useful years of dedicated service to Arbory by Brian Rae MBE, Kathryn Edds and Mike Berry. Our new Members have already enjoyed a rather busy year in the role!

With a real prospect for the transfer of further responsibilities from central government to the Commissioners we are going to see more pressures for us to deliver local services, which we will provide to a good standard and at the least cost we can find, in order to keep the burden on our rates to a minimum. There are, however, other aspects that are still beyond our direct control but we will continue to represent your interests and concerns in consultations and meetings with senior Officers and Members of Authorities and Departments. We will actively seek further replacements &/or repairs to infrastructure but, as you know, such work takes time and money not to mention that there's a long waiting list island-wide!

Please enjoy the facilities and activities that are provided in our friendly and safe community. We are lucky to have the freedom and choice to take part in or attend various clubs, neighbourhood and local church or school activities, as well as wonderful cultural and sporting events. Long may they all last, with your kind assistance and support going forward.

Good health and best wishes, Adrian Cowin (Chairman, 2016-17)



Laa Columb Killey procession

## **Refuse Collection**

Once again, we would thank Ian Jones and his men for the excellent service that they provide for the Parish. We are sure that you always find them efficient and helpful.

If you ever do have any problems, please do not hesitate to phone Mr Jones on 494936 or contact our Clerk.

Don't forget the Southern Civic Amenity Site, on the road between Rushen School and the shore. The Site is managed by a committee consisting of a member from each southern local authority and administered on its behalf by the Port St Mary Commissioners office. It is now open every day, except for public holidays.

There are also Bring Sites opposite the Parish Hall, Ballabeg, and at the new Colby AFC grounds, for bottles, paper, cans, plastic bottles and clothing .

## **Street Lights.**

Manx Utilities continues to provides an efficient service for us, largely unnoticed, in maintaining the streetlights in the Parish. Some of the light standards on Ballacriy and elsewhere are getting near the end of their lives, and they will be replaced gradually as required. Again we ask that, if you notice any lights not working, please let our Clerk or one of us know, so that we can have the repair done without delay.

## **Ballamaddrell Allotments.**

Ballamaddrell Allotments are now starting their eighth year. There is a small turnover in plots each year and there are a few now available. So, if you think that you might like to give it a go, please contact the Secretary of the Arbory Allotments Association, Mr John Atkinson on Tel 425649 .

## **Joint Services**

The Parish continues to be represented on several committees providing services jointly with the other southern local authorities and central government:-

Southern Swimming Pool, Arbory Road, Castletown – Representative Adrian Cowin

Southern Civic Amenity Site, Shore Road – Representative Murray Cringle

Marashen Crescent Elderly Persons Housing Committee – Representative Jane Glover.

Southern Road Traffic Liaison Group (with Police and DOI) – Representative Stephen Gawne

Southern Neighbourhood Police Liaison Group – Representative Adrian Cowin.

IOM Municipal Association – Representative Adrian Cowin.

Southern Health Care Trust – Beth Greenhalgh.

## Planning

Plans for current planning applications can be seen at our office – please contact our Clerk to arrange for a convenient time. Plans are also available on-line on the Government website.

The Commissioners role in planning is the right to be considered as an interested party and submit views on any planning application in the Parish – we have no authority to approve or refuse any application. We generally don't comment on small-scale applications, unless we feel that the development would adversely affect a neighbour.

Cronk Cullyn Phase 2 is more or less completed. The development of twenty affordable dwellings on the remainder of Ballacubbon, Colby is in the planning phase.

## Financial

Our Estimates are on the website and you will see that we have felt it prudent this year to increase the rate from 115 pence to 117 pence in the pound, an increase of 1.7%.

This small rise is mainly to meet the cost of hedge trimming, gulley cleaning and road sweeping, new responsibilities that have been passed to us by Central Government, increased charges for the Southern Amenity Site, and for general inflationary cost increases.

**When you get your rates demands, we want to emphasise that less than a fifth of this goes to the Commissioners to be spent on local services. Most of the remainder goes to Central Government, to pay for water and sewerage.**

Tynwald is presently considering a major change in the rating system, based on the value of your property in bands. We have not yet been told the details of how it will work, but there will no doubt be winners and losers.

## Public Facilities

**Play Areas.** There is a small play area, available for all children to use, at Friary Park. There are swings, a slide and climbing frame, with a safety mesh under the grass. The entrance is next to 5 Friary Park.

The playground at Arbory School is available for public use outside school hours and during the school holidays and there is also a good playground at Station Park.

As part of the Cronk Cullyn Phase 2 development conditions, Hartford Homes has provided and equipped a play area on the “village green” site. We will be taking over responsibility for this very shortly.

**Millennium Wood, Colby.** A quiet place for you to use for a family picnic or just for a pleasant rest amongst the trees. Some thinning and general tidying has taken place over the winter.

**Parish Hall, Ballabeg.** The Parish Hall is available for hire for clubs, social functions, children’s parties and so on. It can accommodate up to 100 people and has comfortable seating, a stage, kitchen, central heating, toilets, etc. A wide variety of clubs use the Hall – Tai Chi, Judo, Yoga, Tae Kwando, Fencing, Dancing, two Keep Fit classes, Art classes, Spanish classes, etc – we are sure that you would receive a warm welcome if you wished to join any of these groups.

**Halley McLiag, Ballabeg.** The Halley MacLiag Meeting Room is also available for hire, and can accommodate 12 people around a boardroom type table, and has heating and a toilet.

## Other

### Police

We continue to be members of the Southern Policing Partnership and have regular monthly meetings with the Police. We are very fortunate that Arbory remains a low-crime area, but these meetings provide an opportunity to air any concerns about policing in the area. Don’t hesitate to let us know if there are ever any issues that you wish us to raise.

### Libraries

We make a financial contribution towards the running of the libraries at Port Erin and Castletown and to the Mobile Family Library. They all have good facilities and we urge you to make use of them as much as you can. Fuller information on these can be found on the Parish website or direct from the three libraries.

### Traffic and Roads

We continue to work behind the scenes with the DoI and the Police to try to improve the highways and footpaths. We do not undertake the repairs but we point out various issues and chase for completion of some actions. You may have noticed that the DOI now have a website and an app, on which the public can report potholes, other road problems, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, vandalism, etc. at [www.reportaproblem.im](http://www.reportaproblem.im)

### Southern Swimming Pool

Opening times and other information are to be found on their website. [www.southernswimmingpool.im](http://www.southernswimmingpool.im) or by phoning 823930.

### Traffic in Ballabeg

Concern was raised last year about the dangers when children walk to Arbory School, the on-going parking problem at the School, and various other traffic related issues in the village. Nothing very much has happened in the past year, but we continue to press for

improvements. We have requested speed checks in certain places following comments from concerned residents. The Police will schedule further good work in the area according to availability of their resources.

### **Main Road**

The DOI has made improvements in the highway between Colby and Ballabeg, to improve the surface and to try to alleviate the problem of water and mud flowing off the adjoining fields. Only a few problems still remain, but it has certainly been improved.

### **Dogs**

A reminder again that there is a dogs byelaw in operation in Arbory – dogs are forbidden on certain places and must be kept under proper control in other areas. Also dog owners can now be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000 for allowing their animals to wander loose in public places and for not picking up any excreta left by their dog in controlled areas and on ANY public highway and pavement.

Please let us know if dog fouling becomes a problem in any neighbourhood. We have found that a CCTV camera located in any problem spot is very helpful.

### **Hedge Trimming, Street Sweeping, Gulley Cleaning**

We now have responsibility for the above routine highways functions. We are NOT responsible for the Southern 100 course or the Shore Road – they still come under the DOI Highways Department. Such things as holes in the road, white lines, speed limits, etc, also still remain with the DOI.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

The new government has many problems on its plate and the issue of local government reform appears to have gone on the back burner for the time being.

## **Parish Website**

The Arbory Parish Website is at [www.arbory.org](http://www.arbory.org) has been re-designed. Amongst other things it contains the Minutes of our Meetings, notes on the things that we do on your behalf etc. Also find news and information about the many recreational activities that go on in Arbory e.g. W.I., Yoga, British Legion, Colby Football Club, – please see <http://www.arbory.org/community-groups/>

Please have a regular look at our minutes – they are published a day or two after our meetings. True, a lot of our work is routine, some might say trivial, but changing the world is not our job. Nevertheless we believe that local democracy is very important, and that part of that is keeping you informed about what we are doing and how we are spending your money.

**We now also have a Facebook presence, with almost 450 followers - please have a look for reminders about local events, road closures, etc**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. **GARDEN COMPETITION.** We are again holding the annual competition, and judging will take place during the third week in July. We are reducing the number of categories this time.
2. **LAA COLUMB KILLEY**, the annual parish festival, will be held on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**, in the field opposite Arbory School. Full details can be found on [www.laacolumbkilley.org](http://www.laacolumbkilley.org)  
There is to be a special Laa Columb Killey morning service at 10.30 am on **Sunday 18th June** at the Arbory Parish Church.
3. **NATIONAL WEEK CONCERT.** A concert, featuring Meadowside Choral Society, Arbory School Choir, and other performers, will be held in the Parish Church at 3.00pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Everyone will be most welcome.
4. **IOM FLOWER FESTIVAL** . To be held from 2nd July to 8th July, with the theme 'Charity Is ....' Ballabeg Chapel are participating. And are also holding a Manx themed Tay and Concert on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm at Ballabeg Methodist Chapel Hall, Ballabeg.

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