



# Glensford Gossip

## Glensford Parish Council

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## Private Security Firm

The Parish Council have decided to employ a private security firm on a three month trial period.

The scheme began in March.

Thank you to all residents who returned the tear off slips. For those who enclosed letters with contact details, you should have received a reply.

In the letter sent out, we stated that the total cost for a year would be approximately £12,000. However, after taking advice from our insurers, we had to employ a firm who had £5,000,000 public liability insurance so that the Council was adequately covered.

Whilst the negative replies outweighed the positives, the Parish Council feel that we must try this on a trial period, as we had a very positive response at the meeting.

There were a number of residents worried about the effect it will have on their council tax bills so I will set out an example below:

For a Band E tax payer, last years Council tax bill was made up of the following:  
Total Bill £1,200 of which 77% went to Suffolk County Council, 8% to the Police, 10% to Babergh District Council and 5% to Glensford Parish Council, which meant

each Band E household was paying approximately £55.50 to Glensford Parish Council. At our precept this year we put £4,000 into contingency funds for the trial period of private security firms. This will mean that each Band E householder will pay £4.22 in the next financial year for the three month trial period.

A lot of residents stated that they would prefer greater police presence. For the past three years we have been promised another police officer, but this has never happened. We have now been promised one this year, hopefully in April, but we will have to watch this space.....

Vandalism is still occurring throughout the village. Greenhouses are being smashed, walls being pulled down, cars are being vandalised, the pavilion has been broken into again as has the container, and the benches at the cemetery have been uprooted and dragged over the graves. We have also had litter bins set alight in the village. We as a Council, want to prevent these things from happening, and are looking at numerous ways in which we can achieve this goal. Although we appreciate that Glensford is no worse hit than any other villages, we want to make

the elderly feel safe if they have to leave their houses at night and to make the offenders realize that we are not going to put up with this anti-social behaviour.

We are hoping that if the present street warden scheme is a success in Bury St Edmunds, once the pilot scheme has finished in March next year, we may be able to have a similar scheme ourselves.

Central Government are continually withdrawing funds from all Councils. Parish Councils will have to continually pay more in order that our villages can enjoy the services they require and are entitled to.

A few anonymous letters were received and I will cover some of the points raised. The question of why we need a pavilion was asked. Glensford Gladiators run football teams from the Rec for boys aged 9-16. We currently have three youth teams and one adult team playing and the pavilion is needed for these people to change.

Another person asked whether money could be spent on cleaning the village. We currently have a street cleaner and a litter picker who mainly do the

Main road but if you know of any problem spots, please let me know. We currently have Community Service workers attending the Rec at weekends to clear the rubbish there and I think those residents who do use the playing field have noticed a vast improvement.

Private prosecutions will now be taken out on anyone found vandalising Council property in the village.

Other comments are covered in this newsletter, e.g. street wardens, drop in centres and parish council meeting dates.

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## Neighbourhood Watch

Following the recruitment drive for more volunteers a number of people have now volunteered to be Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators

There is still time to join the scheme. If interested, please call either Bob Richardson or Penny Molkenthin on 01284 774313

## Youth Facilities Park

You may have seen a questionnaire regarding the re-siting of the Youth Facilities Park, which was produced by Babergh District Council.

Complaints have been received about the noise from the Park and Babergh have decided it will have to be re-sited.

Glemsford Parish Council sided the Youth Facilities Park with the approval of Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council and the police.

Discussions are still ongoing.....

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## Drop in Centre

As you will probably be aware, there are currently no clubs, either youth clubs or drop in centres for the youngsters in the Village.

The youngsters need something to do, especially during the winter evenings.

We would hope to run it from the Village Hall, and to provide some form of entertainment, eg table tennis, uni hoc, games, refreshments etc.

We are currently liasing with the Police and Suffolk County Council to bring this project to fruition.

The Parish Council are keen, together with the Police, to reinstate some form of club for the youth. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this project, please contact the Clerk on 01787 282740.

A questionnaire will be sent out in the next month or so.

## Parish Council Meeting Dates

We have had some queries about notification of parish council meetings. A week before each meeting, notices are displayed in the following places: Broadway Stores, Doctors Surgery, School notice board, Turners Stores, Argents, Mitchells, Library and Village Hall. However, for those of you who do not visit these places, I have set out the meeting dates below. For readers of the East Anglian Daily Times and Suffolk Free Press, minutes of the Parish Council meetings are always sent to the papers and the date of the next meeting can be found at the end of the report. Minutes of all Parish Council meetings are also held by Glemsford Library and the dates of next meetings are set out at the end of each set of Minutes.

6th May 2003	3rd June 2003	8th July 2003		
5th August 2003	9th September 2003	7th October 2003	4th November 2003	2nd December 2003
6th January 2004	3rd February 2004	9th March 2004	6th April 2004	

All meetings are held on a Tuesday evening and start at 7.45 pm. The doors to the Village Hall are **normally** open by 7.30 pm. The Annual Parish Meeting is held on a Wednesday evening and begins at 7.30 pm.

## 1st Glemsford Air Scouts

On 9th October 2002, five scouts from our group went to Bury St. Edmunds Swimming Pool and "**Swam for Asthma**"! Two of the boys swam a mil each, the only girl to take part swam 24 laps and the other two boys did 20 and 10 laps respectively. Considering most of these Scouts have Asthma themselves, I think that this is a great achievement and between themselves they have raised £63.00. Well done and thank you to all those who sponsored them.

Scouts are between 10 1/2 and 14 years old. We meet in the Village Hall on Wednesdays between 7.30 and 9.00 pm. If any boys or girls are interested in finding out more, please come along and see us. You will be very welcome. Our subscription is £1.75 weekly, which can also be paid 1/2 termly or termly in advance.

M R Brown (Snoopy) Scouter

Cub Scouts aged 8 to 10 1/2 years also meet on Wednesdays 6.15 to 7.30 pm so if you are interested please come along and speak to Jerry Brown (Akela) or telephone either of us on 281778.

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