

**Extraordinary Blo' Norton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September
at 1930 hours Blo' Norton Village Hall**

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb (Chairman); John Olley; Mike Bristow; Ann Lambert, Henry Meiklejohn, Development Officer Norfolk RCC and 12 members of the public

Apologies: Dick Edwards

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which had been convened to discuss the following issues:

- Thinking Fuel – Bulk Buying Scheme
- Planning Application: 3PL/2013/0741/F - Erection of two single-storey, self catering, holiday chalets – Evangeline, The Banks, Blo Norton IP22 2JJ – Mr and Mrs Hewitt
- Planning Applications: 3PL/013/0771/LB and various other references: Replace main and rear lean-to roof coverings, soffit, capping and moulding detail, fascia board, stained softwood barge – 1-5 Fairfields, Blo Norton IP22 2JB – Flagship Housing Group Ltd

Thinking Fuel – Bulk Buying Scheme:

Henry Meiklejohn, Development Officer, Norfolk Rural Community Council (NRCC) spoke of the Thinking fuel – oil bulk buying scheme which was being rolled out across Norfolk. He stated that 72,237 households in Norfolk were in fuel poverty which was due to the increase in heating oil prices every year since 2009 and colder winters in recent years.

Norfolk RCC had partnered with AF Affinity to try and provide rural communities with the option of cheaper fuel, with proceeds of approximately 0.4 pence per litre going to the RCC Community.

Henry explained how thinking fuel had performed and whilst the largest saving had been noted at 8 pence per litre cheaper, average savings were between 1-3 pence. The average saving in 2012 had been 9%. If a householder had ordered the standard household usage of 2000 litres of oil last year with Thinking Fuel the saving, on average, would have been approximately £120 on your annual bill which was the equivalent of 39 days of free heating.

For those in Blo' Norton to benefit from Thinking Fuel a group would need to be set up with a co-ordinator, who would be the contact point (it was agreed the Parish Clerk would undertake this role). There was a £20 annual membership fee (which the Parish Council had agreed to pay) and then the Parish Council would need to complete a Constitution, setting out the criteria of the group and a membership form. Individuals would need to complete Registration forms and return them to the RCC. By doing this, individuals were not committed to purchase their fuel through this scheme.

Payment options – direct debit or credit/debit card (incur a 2% surcharge)

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Card payments would be held and adjusted to reflect any bulk discount or if tank couldn't accommodate full order. Vouchers (allowing payment in instalments) were also available to aid budgeting and there is a prepayment scheme available too.

At the point of ordering for a bulk order – you won't know the price – and the price can potentially go up – if your tank won't take what you have ordered the difference will be refunded to you.

You can order at any time by phoning AF Affinity direct on 01603 881888

You get the best savings through the bulk purchase discount

All the orders are held and then transacted together

Example: if 10 people order 500 litres – instead of receiving the price per litre for 500 litres they each receive the price for 5,000 litres

There are currently around 2,000 members (as of May 2013)

Order before 5pm on first Monday of the month – all orders across the county go in – 2,200 members – 10th of those orders – in excess of 100,000 litres. Effectively gets the price according to size of order.

Advantages of the scheme:

- Does not require group ordering
- Does not require single bank account
- Benefit from countrywide orders for bulk buying
- Flexible can order anytime bulk buying every month
- Everybody pays the same price on bulk orders
- No obligation to buy
- Local groups set up on parish basis but benefit from countywide membership/orders.

01362 698216

www.norfolkrcc.org.uk

Questions

Q: How long from ordering to delivery

A: AF Affinity can take up to 10 days – if need urgent order – just specify. If you need to know specifically when delivery will be – ie access problems – ask them to get driver to notify you the day before. Also if you have unusual access ie a long thin drive that won't take a tanker – then please advise on ordering as then the driver can decide to either take a smaller vehicle or a longer hose.

Q: What is the minimum order?

A: 500 litres

There were no further questions and John Barnet-Lamb thanked Henry Meiklejohn for his time and presentation.

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Planning Applications:

Planning Application: 3PL/2013/0741/F - Erection of two single-storey, self catering, holiday chalets – Evangeline, The Banks, Blo Norton IP22 2JJ – Mr and Mrs Hewitt

John Barnet-Lamb spoke of the site visit that had taken place on Sunday 1 September and asked for views on this application.

Councillors views/concerns included the road is very narrow and it was suggested that whilst the applicants had made provision for one parking space for each holiday property, it should be extended to two parking spaces per property, as this would then ensure cars did not need to park in the road and cause any obstruction.

The Parish Council would encourage Highways department to put slow down signs near to the entrance of the proposed build, to remind those that use this road regularly that there is a new entrance and those driving around this area may not be as familiar with the road as those who use it every day.

The Council agreed to support this application.

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The Councillors agreed to these planning applications as they amounted to household maintenance.

Sandpits Corner, Fen Road:

This issue was discussed as the Parish Council had received multiple complaints. The Parish Council had contacted both Enforcement and Planning Departments at Breckland Council and could report that the Enforcement Officer would be doing a site visit

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