

PARISH COUNCIL – WHITLEY NO.2 PIT

The Parish Council have at last completed the acquisition of No.2 Pit (former sand quarry between A49 and Raddel Lane) by way of a long lease from Cheshire West and Chester Council. In recent weeks work to clear and improve a pathway around the site, safety fencing, and the removal of litter has carried out on behalf of the PC through the Probation Service, using persons required to do Community Service under the Community Payback scheme. We have yet to erect signage and provide safety equipment and after that we can open up the site to all who wish to enjoy a tranquil walk and admire the wildlife. Until then it has to remain closed to the public.

As one of the principal objects of acquisition is to protect and enhance the natural environment and its wildlife, access will be restricted to the circular walk and designated resting areas. Whilst we are sure that the vast majority of users will respect the site and use it in a reasonable manner, many of you will be aware that there have been problems over the years with a small number of youths, mainly from outside the village, swimming in the water, camping, damaging and felling trees, lighting fires, leaving litter and being generally rowdy. Although it is believed that such uses will diminish when the site is regularly used by others, the Parish Council needs to have a means of imposing sanctions against anyone abusing the site. To this end it is proposed to adopt a number of byelaws. These are based on a model form published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Once they have been approved by the Secretary of State they are enforceable in law and breaches will incur a substantial fine as well as giving the Parish Council power to eject offenders from the site.

We are placing a copy of the proposed Byelaws we propose to adopt on Whitley Village website (www.whitleyvillage.org.uk), and on the Village Hall notice board. A copy can be made available for inspection by contacting any Parish Councillor or the Clerk to the Council. Please contact any of those persons if you wish to make any comment on these proposals.

Very briefly, the byelaws will restrict access outside of specified hours; protect wildlife, trees, plants, structures etc; prohibit climbing, grazing, camping, fires, missiles, interference with life-saving equipment, horse riding, cycling, motor vehicles and motor cycles (except in the car park), overnight parking, skateboarding, swimming or entering into the water, ice skating, boating etc and use of model boats, access by animals except dogs under proper control, ball games, fishing, pollution, blocking of the outfall, use of model aircraft, excessive noise, public shows and performances, hot air balloons, kites, and metal detectors.

It also proposed that most of the byelaws will also apply to the Copse opposite the Church at Lower Whitley. The PC has been enhancing this for a number of years so that access through it can be given to the public by means of a permissive path.