

2008 ASHBY PC ANNUAL WEBSITE REPORT

By Mark Rolph (Parish Councillor)

INTRODUCTION

First may I remind you that the website address is a simple one to remember because it is www.ashbystmary.org.uk
This address and an example of its home (i.e. front) page is in the flyer about tonight's meeting which you received through your door recently.

Since its introduction last year the Council has constantly and regularly maintained the information contained on it. Inevitably there were a couple of instances of delayed updating mainly due to the unavailability of personnel to carry this out. The site continues to have 3 webmasters – i.e. those who have access to the site to update it.

AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL WEBPAGES

Whether or not you have looked at the website and it is very much hoped you have, one change that has been made to assist viewers is a date appearing on the home page which instantly tells the viewer when it was last updated. This date indicates when any content within the whole site has been amended or updated. This if the date is the same as when last viewed, there have been no changes. The Council wishes to leave this date only shown on the home page, thereby encouraging viewers to look through the website.

The most common alteration to the website has been, and will be, the addition of the draft minutes of its meetings on the MINUTES page. The next most common amendments are likely to be to the DIARY and LATEST NEWS pages with details of upcoming events such as the agenda of the next Council meeting. HOMEWATCH messages are added on a regular basis as they are received – handy if Homewatch recipients wish to review the messages previously circulated to them. That elusive village pimperl, the Ashby rainman continues to supply monthly information which has now been displayed in even more detail for those that are interested. The Council acknowledges Ashby rainman's input for which it is grateful.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Council is very keen to continue to publish dates and details of forthcoming local events and meetings, as it has been doing throughout the past year. The forthcoming traditional and very popular Strawberries and Bubbly evening is but one example. Regular viewers to the website will have noticed the pictures of gatherings such as these now appear on the site. Not only do they add a splash of colour but also capture the spirit of the occasion more than words ever could.

Any parishioner is welcome to contact the Clerk or email the site webmaster with details of an event that has any direct link with the Ashby parish or its parishioners which they wish to publicise. See the CONTACTS page for this – one click on 'contact webmaster' opens a blank email message with the webmaster address already included. Please note it is helpful if plenty of notice is given of a forthcoming event. In addition,

subject to editorial control, the Council is happy to place parishioner's own descriptions of gatherings or meetings relevant to Ashby residents that have taken place.

FUTURE SITE CONTENT

Last year the Council requested parishioners photographs or pictures of 'old' Ashby – historic views, events or activities mainly – for publication to enhance our website. Sadly we have received none and so would like to repeat our request again for the short loan of anything that may be of general interest to villagers and others alike.

After some technical problems, it is pleasing that the Ashby Parish plan can now be viewed on our website. Mindful of its contents regarding the future action list, the Council intends to publish its progress as these actions are dealt with. In addition at least one 'walk-round' Ashby will be added with a number of visual landmarks shown for interest. This will be available to print from the site for anyone who wishes to use this service. Ideas for proposed walks and the visual landmarks would be most welcome.

CONCLUSION

The Council is proud to have provided the website facility which it knows from first hand experience is being viewed more and more by parishioners in particular. We would urge you to please spread the word about its availability. It has a lot of information on it which is clearly useful to persons living in the area, let alone Ashby. It contains full details of the Police, School, Surgeries, County and District Councillors and many other useful items of information.

The Council hopes those that are already regular viewers have found the site to be both beneficial and interesting. For those who haven't, you are urged to view the website to keep in touch with local news and event information. Crucially the site is inexpensive to retain and the Council firmly believes it continues to offer good value for money.

The Council hopes you continue to enjoy the site and all it has to offer.

That concludes my report on the Ashby St Mary website for 2007/08.

Mark Rolph