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**YOUR COUNCIL MEETS APPROX
EVERY SIX WEEKS. THE DATES
FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:**

**12TH JANUARY 2009
23RD FEBRUARY 2009
6TH APRIL 2009**

**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST.
CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HALL
BLACKPOOL RD LEA**

**COMMENCING AT 7.30PM
(Please enter by the rear
door)**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.leaparishcouncil.com**

- ◆ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
- ◆ THE NEXT AGENDA
- ◆ THE CLERK'S REPORTS
- ◆ NOTICE BOARD

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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PARISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

**LEA AND COTTAM PARISH
COUNCIL EXTENDS TO ALL
ITS RESIDENTS BEST WISHES
FOR THE CHRISTMAS
SEASON AND A HOPE THAT
THE NEW YEAR WILL
BRING HAPPINESS TO ALL**



PARISH PLAN

The Parish Council at its October Meeting discussed the question of whether or not it should facilitate the creation of a Parish Plan.

A Parish Plan is a document put together by the community following consultation with all its residents which reflects the issues that need to be addressed and services that need to be looked at in order to improve the facilities and services in the area.

The start point for any such plan must be the involvement of the local community and the formation of a Steering Group made up of residents and a small number of Parish Councillors who then appoint from the Steering Group a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who along with the other members then produce a consultation document for distribution to each household of the Parish.

As a starter a small working group of Parish Councillors is now investigating whether there is sufficient local interest amongst residents, local business and community groups to progress the idea.

If you are interested in knowing more or would like to be involved please get in contact with either Cllr Coward, Lambert or Edwards.

CHRISTMAS TREE

For a number of years we have seen the festive season heralded by the erection of a Christmas Tree outside St Christopher's Church in Lea. This event involves a short service and the official lighting by the Chairman of the Parish Council. It has been suggested that a similar event should take place in Cottam and enquiries are now being made to ascertain the costs of providing such a facility by perhaps using an existing fir tree in the grounds of Cottam Primary School which would seem to be an ideal location. If such a plan were to go ahead then it is anticipated that this could be achieved for Christmas 2009 and a lighting ceremony take place involving the local school.

GROUND MAINTENANCE IN THE COTTAM AREA

Following a number of concerns raised by local residents the Parish Council have taken the initiative to supplement existing maintenance services in the Cottam area by undertaking low level maintenance and other additional works that might be identified with the aim of enhancing the level of services in the area for the benefit of residents. This has meant an increase in the hours of our lengthsman however this should reflect in an improvement to the visual amenity of the area with works such as path edging, litter picking, weed removal, general cleaning and bench maintenance in the main communal areas being done on a more frequent basis than hitherto. Residents may already have noticed a significant improvement to the area outside the primary school which has been power washed, weeded and generally cleaned in order to make it much more attractive.

BLACKPOOL ROAD PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENT STUDY

An accident survey on Blackpool Road has been completed relating to an area from Riversway to Lea Road traffic signals. It has identified that 24 personal injury accidents occurred over the 5 year period ending 31 December 2007. The report which has looked at both speed, accident records and safety measures makes a number of recommendations which are now subject to consultation with both Preston CC and the Police and include amongst others a safety barrier near to the junction with Riversway at the western end of the study route, improved anti skidding surfaces in some areas, waiting restrictions on part of the route and signal improvements at Lea Road junction. Following the consultation and final approval funding will need to be agreed and a full consultation undertaken with those directly affected by any works proposed as a result of the recommendations.

SPEED TRAPS AT RESIDENT REQUEST

The Parish Council has over the last 15 months been using its Speed Indicator Device to try to educate motorists with regard to speed limits within the Parish and encourage them to drive within the limits and thus improve road safety.

Areas of significant concern have been Hoyles Lane and Blackpool Road where recordings have shown that over 75% of vehicles are travelling at levels above the speed limit and that there has been no significant drop in these figures over this period of time.



The Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety has recently announced that in response to resident concerns and backed by speed testing information they are to include both Hoyles Lane and Blackpool Road Lea on the list of 'Community Concern Sites' which will result in regular visits by the mobile speed enforcement detectors probably from the end of this year.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the sites as it has done in the past and would now expect as a result of enforcement to see a reduction in speed generally in these specific areas.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council attended along with other Parish Councillors the Preston City Remembrance Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council