

WITHERSFIELD NEWS

Issues

- This magazine has historically been a church magazine – it is what the church does for the village.
- For many years the printing, collating and stapling of magazines has been *donated* by an individual. Other individuals *voluntarily* edit and distribute the copies around the village, including Hanchett End and Barsey Close. This was about 220 copies before Arboretum.
- Another *volunteer* sorts the advertising and transfers the money raised to the church treasurer.
- With the arrival of The Arboretum development, a further 170 homes are in the village.
- The person who has been printing says the extra copies for the Arboretum are becoming the straw that breaks the proverbial camel's back.
- He is currently doing 100 for Arboretum and these are being delivered by RW.
- He is adamant that it is NOT the cost but the sheer time involved in printing that is forcing him to make this decision.
- He has said that he has found somewhere that would print the magazine for about 16p per copy per issue – making a cost of some £64 per edition. The current person who prints would offer to pay for this “for a few months” as he wishes to continue to do something for the village.
- The church gets the advertising income and prior to the donated printing used to use this for paying for the printing.
- The parish council has been in the habit of putting information into the magazine to circulate to parishioners.
- There does not appear to be anyone in charge of magazine – editor does not talk to others such as distribution person, advertising guru etc. No one is taking a “publisher” responsibility. *Any volunteers??*
- ***IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT THE CURRENT EDITOR IS LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT – Does anyone know anyone who might be interested?***
- The church is considering it's options but would welcome comments on the suggestions below (perhaps putting them in an order of preference) and any other suggestions:
 - Continue as now and increase copies to 400 per edition and let church pick up the tab.
 - Decide to reduce the number of editions to say 6 per year – already on 11 per year
 - See if more people (especially Arboretum) would take an electronic version of WNews.
 - See if current person who donates printing would be prepared to continue to copy the original number (220?) and get others printed elsewhere
 - See if someone from Arboretum would take on delivery to Arboretum
 - No change can be made to number of editions until the end of the advertising year which is in March 2018.
 - Let the magazine “fold” – the PCC is unable to do the work for this – they are just about keeping the church alive.

Any comments gratefully received by RW (who wears PCC and PC hat) in the absence of a publisher. The views of the PC are particularly requested, plus any ideas for a way forward.