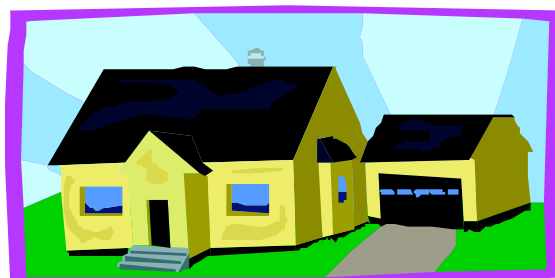


New Council Wards: there are plans to make "super" wards by the time of the next Renfrewshire Council Elections, (2007) with 3 or 4 members for each ward who will be elected by STV (that is you put the candidates in order of preference). They plan to put Howwood in with most of Johnstone and Elderslie. The Community Council think it would be far better to be in with other village communities. There is the danger that Councillors will concentrate on the bigger places where there are more votes, and not bother about us. When all is said and done we want someone who will do their utmost for Howwood. You have until September to send in your opinion, and the CC has sent in its submission. Letters individuals can send will be available at Fred's shop and the Post Office.

More Houses after 2010: Unfortunately the developers who wanted to build in the field behind Beith Road cottages and in front of Kilnknowe Cottages have been partially successful with their challenge. Read this carefully before you jump up and down and say "You told us there would be no new houses there!" Renfrewshire Council and Cllr Nimmo backed your wish for no new houses (they even quoted Community Council minutes to back up their case), but the developers argued that the land is no use for agriculture, had planning permission in 1971 and would not extend the village any closer to Johnstone. The Reporter of the Enquiry who decides such things said: no building before 2010, but if there were not sufficient building sites in Renfrewshire after 2010, then this area should be considered for release from Green Belt.



Focal Point for the Village

In case anyone is not aware Howwood Wildlife and Woodlands successfully bid for money, most of which will go to up-grading the "Triangle" in Station Road opposite Fred's Shop. The land belongs to Renfrewshire Council, so the plan is: Carts Greenspace (who work in the Transport & Planning Department) are making the plans for the Triangle up into a document to go out for tender. From that the best value tender will be chosen and Carts Greenspace will manage the construction. They say it will be complete by 31 October 2005, long before the offer of money runs out. The Triangle will be the start of 5 walks of various lengths in and around the village. Hence the name of the project "Howwood Access Pathways Initiative"...HAPI...which we all will be, when it is complete, and we start taking more exercise and appreciating how bonnie our countryside is! These walks will be marked by sign-posts and bollards with rings of the appropriate colour, and there will be some path improvements and new gates on the routes towards the Temple, Newton of Belltrees and Mid-Hartfield.

Howwood Curling Club is looking for more recruits. contact Jimmy Lochridge on 01475 675550 or go to their website: www.Howwoodcurlingclub.co.uk



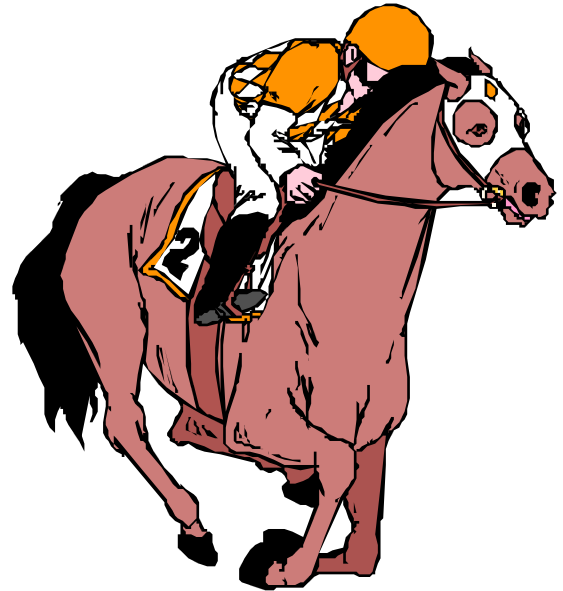
Traffic: There has been much discussion as to what to do about traffic problems outside the shop. The Roads Department have come up with a plan to put "H" bars in front of people's driveways in Station Road, and a voluntary keep clear around the back entrance to Dreadnought Buildings; Yellow Lines having been deemed too drastic and unworkable. Vans and cars should not park on the pavement at any time on either side of the road. The plan would also involve narrowing Main Street at the front of Dreadnought building (which would get a parking bay) and narrowing and bringing forward the Station Road/Main St junctions. This would slow traffic down and improve drivers' sight line at these junctions. The suggestion is not final, and opinions are still being sought.

Race night:

Sat. 1st October 7.30pm

Midton Bowling Club

Tickets £2; (name your own horse £3)
available from the Post Office or from
Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Christine & Robert
Scarsbrook, Rosee Macdonald or Jean Peddie;
come along and spend money, no limit! This
is for Howwood Wildlife and Woodlands to
go towards the HAPI project.



Car Boot & Table Top Sale

Sat. 17th Sept 1pm -3pm Village Hall

Cars £6 Table £8 (inside) must be booked and paid for
before hand. Contact: 01505 702392 to book a space.

Teas & Snacks available in the Lesser Hall, no entry
charge, but donations welcome. All profits will go
towards the "Howwood Access Pathways Initiative
Project" described opposite.

Nuisance Helpline: if you are on the receiving end of anti-social behaviour there is a free helpline: 0800 169 1283 (every day 9am-10pm). Firstly you must report the incident to the Police and ask for your call to be logged (you should get a reference number). You can then report the incident to the Council's Assist Team 01505 325030 (Mon-Thurs 8.45am-4.45pm, Friday 8.45-4pm). It is horrible and frustrating being on the receiving end from people who know all their rights but have no sense of responsibility, but do not take it out on the Police, the Assist Team or anyone else who is trying to help! The one sure way for nothing to be done, is if you do not report what has happened to you. Only then can the facts be gathered and the miscreants dealt with.