

Chairman's Report

Another busy year for the Parish Council with significant developments on a number of issues most noticeably the A631 where, thanks to pressure from local Parish Councils including Everton, the County Council overturned their opposition to speed cameras.

The effect of these cameras is very evident in the slower speeds and reduction in accidents. There is now a traffic island to assist people crossing the road and also slow traffic through the village as well as a temporary interactive speed warning sign to be alternated between the two A631 village entrances. Mathersey Road has had the 30 mile speed limit visibly extended with more prominent signs erected. An open meeting was very well attended and the feelings of the meeting reinforced the efforts of the Parish Council to obtain action to safeguard lives.

The Parish Council has secured Highways Dept agreement to renew the pavement surfaces on Long Meadows also Everton Sluice Lane pavements have been resurfaced.

Motorcycles are still creating a nuisance notably at Harwell, and the police and Thornely Taylor Estates have been made aware of the problem but are currently unable to take any action.

Vehicle numbers of the problem bikes or trailers which carry the bikes should be advised to the police.

Smells emanating from Tunnel Tech are an ongoing problem. The Parish Council is represented with other Parish Councils and Bassetlaw District on a liaison committee formed to address this issue and some progress has been made.

Following a public meeting the Parish Council sponsored the development of a parish plan which is now nearing completion.

One problem, which was of significance to a large number of Parish Plan questionnaire responders, was the amount of dog fouling on footpaths and verges throughout the parish. Unfortunately the onus is on dog owners to be responsible but new dog fouling warning notices have been placed on lamp posts on all entries to the 30 MPH limit. This is the only area in which it is currently an offence to leave dog foulings uncollected.

A meeting involving members of the Parish Plan Steering Group has been held with a representative of Peel Airports and details of answers to questions raised in the questionnaire have been published in June HEDS.

We continue to scrutinise all planning applications when received from Bassetlaw but we are not always fortunate in having our views acted upon and some developments have been given permission despite our objections. However there have been some successes in blocking planning permissions which the Parish Council considered to be undesirable.

Registration of Parish land is proving a long and involved process but is ongoing and hopefully a conclusion can be reached shortly.

Barrow Hills SSSI site is subject to ongoing management and some work will be necessary this coming winter. This also applies to Parish land at Pusto Hill. So any offers of assistance would be gratefully received.

The Council is intending to obtain Quality Council status and significant moves have been made to meet the exacting criteria. These moves include regular councillors' surgeries and public discussion session at all Parish Council meetings, new complaints procedure, new financial regulations and standing orders, new contract for our Clerk, David Wright, annual published report and a quarterly newsletter and

information leaflet is being planned. We must also congratulate David on being among the first Clerks to achieve the new Clerk's qualification.

The Parish Paths Partnership (between Everton Parish Council and Nottinghamshire County Council) has overseen the cutting of various paths/bridleways and the signs and furniture have been replaced/mended. A full survey of rights of way will be undertaken this year and volunteers would be welcome to help.

The Everton and Scaftworth Joint Burial Committee continues to oversee the maintenance of the cemetery by contractors and also by parishioners who have undertaken two work days this year to improve the standard of the cemetery and thanks go to those parishioners for their help. Safety in the Cemetery for visitors and workers is of great importance which is why some grave stones were laid down, but as the appearance is also important for relatives five fallen gravestones were turned face upwards this year. Each year the balance of the previous year's surplus is put in a separate fund for a future extension to the cemetery and this is slowly mounting up and forms part of the summary of financial accounts.

Summary of the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2004

The Parish Council began the year with a balance of £6,714.47 and ended it with a closing balance £5,082.24. Details of receipts and payments are shown below.

The main source of income was the precept, which is the local charge on the Council Tax. Other sources of income included Parish Plan Grant paid by the Countryside Agency, Parish Paths Partnership Grant paid by Nottinghamshire County Council and grants from Bassetlaw District Council in the form of Cemetery Grant and Street Cleaning Grant. There was no receipt of Parish Land rent, as the tenant paid two year's rent in the previous financial year.

The Parish Council continued to make donations to HEDS Together and the Metcalfe Recreation Committee to support the Playing Field and the Village Hall. 90% of the cost of maintaining the Cemetery is met by the Parish Council, with the remaining 10% being paid by Mr. Thornely Taylor on behalf of Scaftworth Parish Meeting.

The closing balance of £5,082.24 included an earmarked reserve of £744.80 Parish Paths Partnership grant.

Total fixed assets amounted to £49,450.04.

Receipts	£
Annual Precept	5,400.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	1,978.00
Parish Plan Grant	2,500.00
Interest on Investments	1.95
VAT Refund	119.08
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	<u>1,128.90</u>
	<u>11,127.93</u>

Payments

Parochial Christmas Party	80.00
Amenity Expenses	617.37
Staff Costs	3,302.00
Administrative Expenses	1,406.99
HEDS Together	275.00
Village Hall	575.00
Joint Burial Committee	1,550.00
Closed Churchyard	62.50
VAT on Payments	267.76
Parish Paths Partnership	1,255.00
Street Cleaning	504.00
Parish Plan	2,637.04
Neighbourhood Watch	227.50
	<u>12,760.16</u>

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Everton Parish Council

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