

Year at a Glance

Introduction

The role of the Parish Council is to strive to improve the quality of life for residents and to address issues of concern that may arise. We also manage the cemetery via the Joint Burial Committee.

We provide few services directly, so our role involves liaising with, and trying to influence, other organisations that deliver services (e.g. the County and District Councils) and organisations that impact on life in Everton (e.g. Robin Hood Airport, Bassetlaw Community Health, North East Bassetlaw Forum and Nottinghamshire Police).

In general, I think this has been a successful year for Everton Parish Council; however the important judgement on this is yours, not mine.

People – Your Councillors

Your councillors are elected every four years. This year three existing councillors retired and two new members put themselves forward, so a total of eight candidates have been elected unopposed and we are looking to co-opt an additional councillor.

I'd like to thank all councillors for their service over the past four years, especially those who retired: Barbara de Bel, Lynne Ferrar and Krystyna Martin, who have all made excellent contributions to the Council, and welcome our two new members, Richard Evers and Kevin Scott, who took up office in May.

I would again like to congratulate Liz Jefferies who was made an MBE in the last Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Highlights of the year

I believe that we take a very pro-active approach to our job. This is exemplified in our having a Parish Plan, published after wide consultation in 2004 and which set the direction that residents wanted for the village over the ensuing ten+ years. The Parish Council regularly reviews the plan to ensure that it is still relevant. Some ambitions in the Plan have been achieved; others we are still working on, as is the nature of long term plans. Rather than recap on the plan I will comment on this as I review the main highlights of the year.

Nottinghamshire Best Kept village Competition

Last year Everton won in Category C of the Competition. We have agreed to enter again this year.

The main thing the judges will be looking for is a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, weed-infested pavements, untidy gardens, etc. We've learnt valuable lessons in recent years, and are hoping that individuals and organisations will help us to do well and win more prizes.

Surface Water Drainage

Following the floods of 2007, we liaised with the District Council and eventually discovered that some very old drainage in the area to the south of Gainsborough Road no longer functioned properly.

The District Council has proposed a scheme to remedy this and provisional funding has been allocated, subject to a final Cabinet decision. The District Council is also investigating flooding problems at Harwell.

Affordable Housing

Thanks to pressure from the Parish Council - with continued support from North East Bassetlaw Forum - the District Council, after originally rejecting our case for a small development of affordable housing, has reviewed the case and there is now a possibility of going ahead with this. There are still significant challenges to overcome, but it is back on our agenda.

Tunneltech North

We continue to put pressure on the District Council and Tunneltech to work towards a resolution of the smell nuisance. We're currently waiting for a meeting to be arranged between affected parish councils, our MP and District Council officials.

Street Furniture

As Jack Bell seat at Carr View was beyond repair, we've replaced it with a weatherproof seat. The purchase was financed by the Parish Council, assisted by a donation from North Notts Lions.

The County Council is offering every parish council the choice of a new public seat or notice board, so we've opted for a notice board to replace the ageing one at Carr View. We've provided benches at Pusto Woods, Harwell Woods and the riverbank overlooking Misson, using a grant from the County Council's Building Better Communities fund.

Dog Fouling

The problem has worsened recently, so we asked the District Council to renew the dog fouling notices throughout the Parish, which they've done. We've also utilised a new grant from the District Council to finance the purchase of three new dog waste bins - locations to be decided.

Everton's Green Fayre

The Green Fayre at the Village Hall on 28th November was most successful. It was the first to be held in Bassetlaw, sponsored by North East Bassetlaw Forum, and organised by the Parish Council with the help of the District Council. A considerable number of organisations exhibited.

The Fayre was well attended and over half those responding to a questionnaire said they had been influenced to act by what they had seen. We also received a number of suggestions for community projects and offers of involvement with these, including:

- A small local heat scheme to provide renewable driven hot water for residential and educational buildings
- Community Orchard/Tree Planting/Conservation Projects
- Green Energy for the Church
- An electricity smart meter for the Parish

These suggestions are currently being pursued, and the smart meter, donated by British Gas, has arrived.

Local Health Services

Parish Plan respondents wanted better local access to health services. Our initial discussions with Bassetlaw Community Health failed to produce an outcome, but we've persisted and recently discussed with it about the possibility of bringing certain local health services into Everton. One possibility is a vaccination session for pre-school age children and we have facilitated discussions between the "Cheeky Monkeys" toddler group and PCT personnel. Other possibilities are health checks for the over 60s and 'flu injections.

Crime and Policing

Our local beat manager, P.c. Nathan Thomas, now regularly attends our meetings to discuss local policing matters.

Recent issues have involved speeding on the A631, parking and traffic congestion outside the school, motorbike nuisance on Barrow Hills and the activities of 'lampers'.

Planning

We continue to study all planning applications carefully, before commenting to the District Council, which is now consulting on a new Local Development Framework, which will set the planning scene for many years to come.

We held a workshop with planning officials that we believe influenced their views on some issues in the first draft proposals and we are continuing a dialogue with them to try to ensure that the final proposal is one that will meet the requirements of the Parish, as articulated in the Parish Plan.

Council Tax

Our precept (local council tax) remains at £9,700 for the third successive year. This equates to £27.53 out of a total Band D charge of £1,603.33 - just 1.7% of the total.

Support for local organisations

We receive numerous requests for financial aid, mostly from worthy causes. Our policy is only to support organisations that directly benefit the village. We've continued to give financial support to the Metcalfe Recreation Committee, HEDS, Neighbourhood Watch and the local First Responders teams. We also channel money from the District Council street cleaning grant to the school and Holy Trinity Church.

Closing Remarks

So, as I said at the beginning, I think it's been a good year, but it's your judgement on this that is important.

We are an accredited Quality Parish Council, one of only four in Bassetlaw. Apart from ensuring that we operate to the highest standards this gives us more 'clout' with other organisations, access to (at present) a small amount of additional funding, and potentially stands us in good stead were there to be any local reorganisation of parishes. Our accreditation is due for renewal shortly, and we will be applying for renewal.

David Bardsley
Chairman 2009-10

Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with an opening balance of £9,637.33.15 and ended it with a closing balance of £8,954.54. 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 rent for Parish lands, Parish Paths Partnership grant paid by Nottinghamshire County Council, and grants from Bassetlaw District Council in the form of cemetery grant, concurrent grant, parish grant and street cleaning grant.

We continued to make donations to HEDS Together, the Metcalfe Recreation Committee (support for the Playing Field and Village Hall), Neighbourhood Watch and the local first responder teams.

Our other main service costs related to rights of way maintenance and upkeep of the Cemetery.

Receipts

Annual Precept	9,700.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	2,202.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	1,276.89
Parish Lands Rent	1,633.00
Best Kept Village Competition	125.00
Conference Expenses Donation	225.34
Barrow Hills Gate Donation	100.00
Lion Jack Bell Seat Donation	150.00
Interest on Investments	4.37
Green Fayre Donation	30.00
Miscellaneous	13.06
VAT Refund	<u>207.72</u>
	<u>15,667.38</u>

Payments

Parochial Christmas Party	80.00
Amenity Expenses	1,746.03
Payroll	4,215.46
Administrative Expenses	3,313.14
Registration of Parish Lands	270.00
Cheeky Monkeys	500.00
HEDS Together	350.00
Community First Responders	200.00
Village Hall	650.00
Joint Burial Committee	2,821.00
Parish Paths Partnership	1,022.74
Street Cleaning	554.00
Neighbourhood Watch	257.50
Green Fayre	80.46
Miscellaneous	39.00
VAT on Payments	<u>250.84</u>
	<u>16,350.17</u>

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