

## Year at a Glance

Council Tax is always a big issue, and the Parish Council's precept (local council tax) has risen from a total of £6,764 to £8,440. This means that on a Band D property residents now pay £25.28 per year for Parish Council services. The increase is due to new national pay scales for parish clerks, increased and new donations to local organisations and increased overheads, coupled with the phased abolition of concurrent grant from Bassetlaw District Council. Double taxation occurs through the Parish Council having to charge extra precept for local services that are already available in non-parished areas such as Retford and Worksop. Concurrent Grant was introduced by the District Council in 1974 to help mitigate the effect of double taxation. Fortunately, last year's change of control of the District Council has led to a rethink about double taxation which is ongoing.

Implementation of the Parish Plan is now underway, with David Bardsley chairing the Working Party. Four 'Action Groups' were formed, one for each of the main themes of the Plan: Environment & Conservation, Community, Facilities and Youth. Progress has been made on the following Issues:

- We've continued to press for improvements relating to the A631 and a solution to parking problems on High Street. The County Council is presently progressing the installation of the beacon on the new crossing reservation and looking at the provision of permanent interactive traffic signs at either end of the village.
- A dog dirt bin has been provided at to the entrance to Barrow Hills SSSI and thanks go to local residents who kindly empty it.
- A meeting has been held with the operators of Robin Hood Airport, and details of proposed flights and flight paths were published in HEDS Together. The Parish Council, via it's membership of the North East Bassetlaw Forum, will be represented on the Robin Hood Airport consultative committee and will address concerns expressed in the Plan.
- We take account of the views expressed in the Plan in reviewing planning applications.
- We've entered the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition

- A meeting has been held with representatives of the Police and Neighbourhood Watch to further address concerns over crime. Resulting from this the District Council has installed improved street lighting at Carr View/High Street, the Chief Constable has promised improved responses to calls to the Police and our Community Police Officer now holds a joint 'surgery' along with Parish Councillors.
- Enquiries about a mains gas supply have shown this not to be an economic proposition.
- Despite strong indications in response to the questionnaire used to inform the Plan, there was insufficient support to establish a formal 'good neighbours' scheme.
- The Community Group is currently working on compiling a leaflet of 'useful numbers' to give every household via HEDS Together, and to post to the village web site. A sub-group has been working with the Metcalfe Trustees on potential refurbishment of the Village Hall/Tea Rooms
- Adult education evening classes have been established, run at the School
- Enquiries over the re-establishment of a Post Office have shown that this is very unlikely; however the possibility of a village community shop is being pursued with Nottinghamshire RCC.
- The Facilities Group is currently considering ways of working with the village school to access funding that will promote further links with the community.
- The Youth Group has disbanded, due to lack of enthusiasm, although a group continues to produce a youth version of HEDS Together, and the Parish Council is to give further thought to the bike track proposal.

Turning to other issues, we're working towards the legal re-establishment of the former right of way from Eel Pool Road to Mattersey, and we're also looking into the possibility of formalising the public footpath along Nutcroft Way into Harwell Woods.

Grave concern continues to be expressed about motorcycle scrambling in Harwell Woods. This is something we're working hard on in association with the Police and Thornely Taylor Estates.

The County Council has kindly agreed to replace the demolished bus shelter west of Everton.

The Tunnel Tech odour issue rumbles on. New government guidelines are being redrafted, and liaison meetings continue, but there's nothing positive to report yet.

In addition to our usual donations, we're now assisting Five Villages First Responders, based in Misterton, and also Blyth Neighbourhood First Responder Unit. These organisations provide community emergency medical cover.

As ever, Planning takes up a large amount of time, and attracts plenty of interest from residents. We remain particularly concerned over the need to preserve the rural nature of Harwell as a hamlet and by some decisions of the District Council.

The Cemetery is looking good. We use a contractor for the main work, although members of the Joint Burial Committee and local volunteers carry out other care and maintenance work.

As part of our Quality accreditation initiative, we've been running bi-monthly Councillors' surgeries on Saturday mornings for a year now. We've not had many visitors, so presumably everyone's happy? We also try to make information available by publishing approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets and quarterly newsletters as widely as possible. We keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using HEDS Together.

The Quality Initiative has meant more work both for councillors and, more especially, its Clerk, David Wright. David was the first Clerk in Nottinghamshire to complete the Certificate in Local Council Administration, a new, essential qualification for Quality status. We were also very proud of the fact that David was awarded the runner-up prize in the national Clerk of the Year Competition.

Next May a new Parish Council will be elected, so it's time for residents to start thinking about becoming a councillor.

## Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with an opening balance of £5,082.24 and ended it with a closing balance of £4,834.74. 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 the balance of the 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, Concurrent Grant and Street Cleaning Grant.

The Parish Council continued to make donations to HEDS Together and the Metcalfe Recreation Committee (support for the Playing Field and Village Hall), together with new donations mentioned earlier in this report. Street Cleaning Grant was distributed to Holy Trinity Church (bus shelter cleaning) and the School and Brownies who keep the Parish clean and tidy.

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

Final payments were made on the Parish Plan.

### Receipts

Annual Precept	6,764.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	1,759.00
Parish Plan Grant	2,500.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	1,283.70
Parish Lands Rent	1,633.00
Interest on Investments	36.50
VAT Refund	264.86
Electricity Wayleaves	11.20
	<u>14,252.26</u>

### Payments

Parochial Christmas Party	80.00
Amenity Expenses	600.00
Payroll	3,263.48
Administrative Expenses	2,252.98
HEDS Together	275.00
Community First Responders	150.00
Village Hall	575.00
Joint Burial Committee	1,764.00
Parish Paths Partnership	1,516.19
Street Cleaning	514.00
Parish Plan	3,008.37
Neighbourhood Watch	225.40
VAT on Payments	<u>275.34</u>
	<u>14,499.76</u>

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## Everton Parish Council

# Annual Report 2004-2005