

Year at a Glance

I should commence by saying that we lost a valued friend and past councillor when Bob Troop sadly died in 2006. We've planted a tree in the recreation ground in Bob's memory. We identified this with a plaque and have also identified the tree planted in memory of Jack Bell with a similar plaque.

Our Parish Plan, published in 2004, is a "living document". We're currently reviewing and updating it to take account of subsequent developments. Much of what follows relates to it.

Our Housing Needs Survey is now complete, with the key conclusion being a clear need for affordable housing in Everton - a small development (maximum of 5) of two and three bedroom dwellings, via a shared purchase scheme, or possibly a combination of shared purchase and rental. We've discussed this conclusion with Bassetlaw District Council Housing and Planning Departments, who accept it and advise that the District Council would consider a planning application for affordable housing within or adjacent to the village envelope.

We've established a small project team and our first step has been to meet ACIS Group (a 'not-for-profit' housing association based in Gainsborough) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) with a view to identifying potential sites. ACIS have experience of working in partnership with local parish councils in order to provide affordable housing. Our aspiration is to have achieved the build and sale/rental of the units by the end of 2009. This is at present a target rather than a firm plan, but should be achievable if all goes well. It must be emphasised that this project is not certain of success, but is something we will pursue vigorously, with a view to meeting the needs of local people and improving the sustainability of the Everton community.

Following a response from Everton Primary School to our review of the Parish Plan, a meeting of over 30 people took place in the Village Hall in February. The meeting was in unanimous agreement to moving the vision forward. To do this, a School & Community Group has been formed, and a number of initiatives are being investigated with the relevant bodies. These include:

- A new school study room, suitable for community use, possibly including visiting healthcare services.
- An extension to the playground to cater for older children and the school/community's wish for additional sports facilities which could be met by a 'sports barn'. This could be an addition to future re-development of the Tea Rooms/Changing Rooms area at the Recreation Ground.

- A single, modern community website.
- A single parish emergency plan.
- Better use of the Mattersey school mini bus.

We achieved third place in Category C of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition last year - an excellent achievement and a credit to all the people of Everton who made an effort. We're hoping that individuals and organisations will help Everton to do well again this year. We'll have the added attraction of a new flowerbed at Carr View, which has been established with the help of sponsorship by Everton Nurseries and County Councillor Bullivant and the assistance of the Guides. It will be managed by Everton Garden Holders. Once again, there was no interest in entering the competition from Harwell, due largely to the perceived problems caused by visitors.

On now to highway matters, and much-needed footway works have been carried out on the east side of High Street. Potholes are to be repaired at Long Meadows, and full resurfacing is a possibility. We're trying to get a safe crossing point on Chapel Lane. We've been pressing for repairs and re-surfacing to the A631 footpath to Bawtry (including a possible cycle lane) - some interim improvements have been made and the County Council is considering more comprehensive improvements.

We're pressing the County Council for greater consultation with us on plans for road improvements generally, thus better meeting local needs and saving taxpayers' money.

The occasional smell from Tunnel Tech still persists. We asked for the current expansion of the site to be put on hold until the efficacy of the new enclosure arrangements was proved, but to no avail. We continue to keep the situation under review.

Daneshill Household Waste and Recycling Centre is to close on 31st March 2009, despite our protests.

We continue to study all planning applications carefully. We feel that the District Council does not always give the weight to our comments that they deserve. We strongly supported the recent Everton Nurseries application to open a new coffee shop, deli and general store. We attended the appeal against the rejection of this application by the District Council, but without success.

The County Council granted planning permission for a sand and gravel quarry at Sturton-le-Steeple, despite opposition from a number of parish councils. We attended the meeting at County Hall to speak against the environmental impact of the increased traffic on the A631. Our local County and District Councillors supported us. Unfortunately the application was approved.

The police have established 'Safer Neighbourhood Groups', to discuss local concerns and set priorities. We are represented by Robin Maclagan on our local group. We have reservations in that the groups do not have burglary and car crime on their agendas, and the court is still out on their effectiveness. A welcome development has been the appointment of PCSO Stephanie Jones, who has Everton within her beat. However, after only a short time, she has been given responsibility for Misterton and West Stockwith on top of her existing beat. This is bad news, as she will inevitably have less time to spend in Everton, and we have strongly protested.

As regards Community Speedwatch, we've written to the Chief Constable, asking that Nottinghamshire Police agree to provide personal accident insurance cover for volunteers. Until cover is provided, we can't promote Community Speedwatch in Everton.

Regarding last summer's floods, the County Council has responded to our request to test the surface water drainage on Gainsborough Road and Mattersey Road, and we're awaiting feedback. The District Council is looking at feasibility studies relating to village drainage systems affected by flooding.

Plans to consolidate trusteeship of the village charities in the Parish Council have finally been dropped, as the trustees of the Parochial School Endowment have decided to retain trusteeship.

The Cemetery remains in good condition and the contractor responsible for the maintenance continues to do an excellent job.

To issue praise is inevitably to run the risk of missing others equally deserving, but I should like to highlight the HEDS team, who perform a valuable role in an age when good communications are so vital; the Recreation Committee, who look after the day to day running of the village hall and recreation ground, and the Metcalfe Trustees, who provide the vast bulk of the funding for these excellent facilities and are embarking on the refurbishment of the village hall.

I'd like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for their good work over the past year. The Council is very fortunate to have David Wright as its Clerk. I'd like to thank David for all his sound advice and hard work over the year.

Finally it has to be said that it is the residents of Everton who make it such a good place to live in.

David Bardsley
Chairman 2007-08

Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with an opening balance of £8,251.47 and ended it with a closing balance of £7,832.15. 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 and street cleaning grant.

The Parish Council continued to make donations to HEDS Together, the Metcalfe Recreation Committee (support for the Playing Field and Village Hall) and the local first responder teams. Street Cleaning Grant was distributed to Holy Trinity Church (bus shelter cleaning) and the School and Brownies who help to keep the Parish clean and tidy.

Our other main service costs related to rights of way maintenance, upkeep of the Cemetery, valuer's fees (new tenancy of Parish lands) and Neighbourhood Watch.

Receipts

Annual Precept	9,300.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	1,435.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	1,526.89
Flowerbed Grant	35.00
Parish Lands Rent	1,633.00
Interest on Investments	196.67
Electricity Wayleave	12.39
VAT Refund	316.99
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	14,455.94

Payments

Parochial Christmas Party	80.00
Amenity Expenses	1,086.22
Payroll	3,980.37
Administrative Expenses	3,965.17
HEDS Together	350.00
Community First Responders	200.00
Village Hall	1,000.00
Joint Burial Committee	2,438.00
Parish Paths Partnership	590.25
Street Cleaning	547.00
Neighbourhood Watch	227.50
VAT on Payments	410.75
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	14,875.26

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Everton Parish Council



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