

## **Year at a Glance**

### **People**

I'd again like to heartily congratulate Ann Hickman on winning the Good Neighbour Award in the BBC Nottingham Reach Out Awards. Well done, Ann, you thoroughly deserve this accolade for all the selfless community work you carry out in the village.

I'd also like to give a special thank you to Chris Chadburn who has until recently attended to the dog bins at Harwell, keeping them clean and available for use at all times.

### **Achievements**

We didn't do very well at all last year in Category C of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition last year, following our glorious Wilko Best of Notts in 2006, and third place in 2007. Nevertheless, undeterred, we're trying again.

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 we're hoping that individuals and organisations will help us to do well and win prizes.

A group undertook a litter-pick in the village recent, and were pleasantly surprised at the lack of litter - doubtless the work of a few individuals who regularly care for their neighbourhood.

A benefit of being one of Bassetlaw's few Quality Councils is the opportunity to apply for a grant under the County Council's Community Empowerment Scheme. We were very pleased to obtain a grant of £500 for the new Cheeky Monkeys mother and toddler group.

### **Village Entrance Signs**

Several local villages now have attractive signs at their village entrances. Some years ago we consulted the village on this issue, but the feedback we received was limited and negative. However, funding for such schemes is now more-easily available (although not certain), and so we're looking again. Locations would be Bawtry Road, Gainsborough Road and Mattersey Road.

### **Bottle Bank**

Thanks go to the management of the Blacksmiths Arms, who have, in partnership with the District Council, located a bottle bank on the pub car park. There are three containers, for clear, brown and green glass.

### **Park and Stride**

Working in partnership with the School, we've introduce a park and stride scheme in order to ease congestion around the school.

### **Flooding**

Councillor David Bardsley toured the village problem areas with Mr. I. Davies, of Bassetlaw District Council in January. A preliminary report has since been received from Mr. Davies, which confirms that, from initial observations, it appears that any natural watercourses which served the properties off Gainsborough Road have ceased to exist over time, and any piped systems have been built over, blocked-off or had lost their outfalls and become blocked.

Further detailed investigation needs to be carried out to establish where the various piped systems run and outfall to. This will involve generating flows and dye testing, plus CCTV work. Some topographical survey work will also be required.

The District Council has applied to Defra and the Environment Agency for funding towards such small schemes, and an assurance was given by Mr. Davies that the District Council was committed to reducing flood risk and working with local communities and landowners.

### **Harwell Woods**

We're experiencing real problems at Harwell Woods, with large numbers of people riding bikes there. The bikes and their riders usually arrive in vans, which are parked at the top of Pinfold Lane for several hours at a time, thus causing a nuisance generally, particularly to householders. For the information of residents, Pinfold Lane is a public footpath and private road. Other motorists should not use it, as vehicles are prohibited on public footpaths. Furthermore, the right of way through the woods, beginning at the end of Pinfold Lane, is also a public footpath, and so bicycles are prohibited on it. Bike riding in the woods is also an act of trespass against the landowners, Thornely Taylor Estates Ltd. and (in the case of the Site of Special Scientific Interest) Everton Parish Council.

We're passing on details of vehicle registration numbers to the Police whenever we see such vehicles, but the vigilance of the general public would also be appreciated. Harwell Woods is a special place, containing a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which needs to be protected from damage by bike riders.

We also suffered a serious loss over Easter, when the main gate at the end of Pinfold Lane, and a stretch of fencing, were removed and burnt. The Police are investigating the matter and have taken the details of a number of suspects. However, the cost of temporary works to breach the gap, followed by purchase of a new gate and fencing, is going to fall mainly on the shoulders of Parish residents through their Council Tax. Unfortunately, insurance cover for gates and fences is only available against vehicular and animal damage. We approached Thornely Taylor Estates Co. for financial assistance with the cost of replacement, and they have made a significant contribution.

### **Affordable Housing**

Although Year at a Glance is a summary of my report to the Annual Parish Meeting in April, when I said that we were still working on this issue, a fortnight later we decided to put it on the back burner, as the results of our public consultation exercise failed to show sufficient need.

### **Tunneltech North**

We continue to work towards a resolution of the smell nuisance. We're currently waiting to assess whether any improvements arise from the recent improvement works at the factory.

### **Planning**

As always, we study all planning applications carefully, before making our observations to the District Council.

### **Cemetery**

We're pleased to say that the Cemetery remains in really good condition. The contractors continue to do an excellent job.

### **Council Tax**

Our precept has not risen this year, remaining at £9,700.

### **Closing Remarks**

So we look forward to another year, hopefully with successes in a number of areas. Thank you to all the councillors, to David Wright, Clerk to the Council, and to members of the public who have helped in the past year.

John Dunn  
Chairman 2008-09

## Summary of the Accounts

The Parish Council began the year with an opening balance of £7,832.15 and ended it with a closing balance of £9,637.33. 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. We also obtained a grant on behalf of Cheeky Monkeys Mother and Toddler Group.

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 who help to keep the Parish clean and tidy.

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

### Receipts

Annual Precept	9,700.00
Bassetlaw Annual Grants	1,482.00
Parish Paths Partnership Grant	1,456.89
Mother & Toddler Group Grant	500.00
Parish Lands Rent	1,633.00
Seismic Survey Fee	300.00
Interest on Investments	113.34
Miscellaneous	22.74
VAT Refund	<u>410.28</u>
	15,618.25

### Payments

Parochial Christmas Party	80.00
Amenity Expenses	1,184.52
Payroll	4,132.43
Administrative Expenses	2,796.90
HEDS Together	350.00
Community First Responders	200.00
Village Hall	650.00
Joint Burial Committee	2,821.00
Parish Paths Partnership	565.00
Street Cleaning	540.00
Neighbourhood Watch	227.50
Miscellaneous	58.00
VAT on Payments	<u>207.72</u>
	<u>13,813.07</u>

## Contact Details

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# Everton Parish Council



# Annual Report 2008-2009