

## Everton Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2006

We're delighted to report that Dr. Lynne Ferrar, of Harwell, has joined the Parish Council as a co-opted Member. Lynne will provide the Harwell perspective, as well as serving the Parish generally.

Liz Jefferies takes over as Chairman, with Robin Maclagan continuing as Vice-Chairman. David Bardsley continues to lead on the Parish Plan, with Liz and John Dunn assisting him on the Parish Plan Working Party. Liz, David and Barbara de Bel continue to represent the Parish on the North East Bassetlaw Forum, and Liz likewise on the NALC Northern Area Committee. David is our new representative on the Tunnel Tech Liaison Group, and we're pleased to say that former councillor Jen Marsh is to stay on the Group. Pat Woods becomes our representative on the Metcalfe Recreation Committee.

Annette Simpson has replaced Nip Martin (retired) as Everton Ward Member on the District Council, and has vowed to work unstintingly to further the interests of the area. She's already agreed to get an appraisal from the County Council on traffic management in Everton – to establish whether there's a case for a one-way system.

### Quality Accreditation

The Parish Council, together with Gringley on the Hill and Misterton Parish Councils, are the first three parish councils in Bassetlaw to be awarded Quality Accreditation by the National Association of Local Councils. We've been working towards this goal since 2003, and had to demonstrate excellence in:

- representing and actively involving all parts of the community
- being effectively and properly managed, with members and the Clerk upholding a high standard of conduct
- working closely with voluntary and community sector groups, and articulating the community's needs and wishes through effective communications.

The Quality Scheme was launched in June 2003, following the publication of the Rural White Paper 2000. It was designed to provide minimum standards to enable parish and town councils to better represent their communities. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations.

Now Everton Parish Council has been independently assessed as one of the best in the country. This puts us on a firm footing for the future.

There are 153 parish and town councils in Nottinghamshire. Everton, Gringley on the Hill and Misterton join the five that have already been awarded Quality status. Of the 10,000 parish and town councils in the UK, Everton, Gringley on the Hill and Misterton are added to just 289 councils that have Quality status.

### Best Kept Village Competition

Everton has made it through to the last four of the competition. Judging is ongoing throughout July. A lot of people have worked hard towards the considerable improvements to the village this summer. Our opposition is Elston, Oxton and Thurgaton. Gringley didn't make it. We decided not to enter Harwell this year, but hopefully things will improve sufficiently to encourage an entry next year.

### Housing Needs Survey

You'll shortly receive your questionnaire. This is a very important exercise for the Parish. Please place your completed questionnaire in one of the ballot boxes in the Parish Church, the Blacksmiths Arms or the Sun Inn.

### A631 – Interactive Signs

We've now got the sign on the eastern approach to the village, but unfortunately the County Council forgot to order the one for the western approach! Anyway, we're assured that the second sign will be installed later this year.

### Parish Plan

Our Parish Plan was published in August 2004. Some good progress has been made in implementing the recommendations contained in it, but it appears that the early enthusiasm for change has waned.

David Bardsley submitted a comprehensive report to the May meeting detailing progress. Over half of the actions contained in the Plan have been discharged. Two initiatives (low cost housing and encouraging better relations between community and school) are still being actively progressed.

A third of actions are outstanding. More than a third of these are accounted for by the youth area, where, after initial enthusiasm, there's been no progress owing to a lack of support.

Work has been carried out on two actions (village post office/shop and refurbishment of the Village Hall), but there has, as yet, been no outcome, and it is felt additional work is needed.

In general we believe this is a reasonable outcome, but a considerable amount of further work is required. It's been decided that the majority of outstanding actions should be progressed directly by the Parish Council.

### Village Charities

Discussion took place at the Annual Parish Meeting about a possible merger of the village charities (Everton United Charities, Wells Educational Foundation and Parochial School Endowment), their objects being irrelevant to Everton in 2006. The Parish Council has since considered the matter, and decided to press for trusteeship to be transferred to us.

### Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the autumn, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details overleaf, and we have a 15-minute public discussion period at the start of Parish Council meetings. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using HEDS Together. You can also read minutes of meetings, etc. at [www.evertonvillage.org.uk](http://www.evertonvillage.org.uk) We've discontinued Councillors' bi-monthly surgeries because hardly anyone attended them. PTO

## Contact Details

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