

Annual Parish Meeting

Chair's Report 2008

Its been a busy 2007 for the Parish Council, starting with the elections in May and essentially a new PC, who at its first meeting elected me as Chair.

A busy year indeed with many disturbing proposals which may eventually affect our rural parish. With changing national criteria, the County and District Councils are preparing their next major planning strategies or Local development Frameworks which will be replacing the former Structure and Local Plans - long names I know but important documents which establish the development framework -ie where development/building etc will take place over the next 10-12 years. So far we have been consulted on the Minerals and Waste Plans by the County Council, and are about to be consulted on the Core Strategy of the District Council's LDF. The latter is a long process and will take some 2 years to complete. The initial stage is to consult the public on what are to be considered to be the main issues facing the District over the next decade. The District Council will then prepare its Core Strategy which will set out how it intends to address these issues, and what plans/statements etc it is to prepare and the timetable for their preparation.

Part and parcel of this is the development of Parish Plans which are to reflect on a what the parish feels are important local features and needs. The PC is presently investigating what is required and further reports will be made locally in the near future.

In so far as the County Council's LDF's are concerned - you may be aware of the Waste Tip from Hell scenario for the Common and major mineral sites in the Parish - the PC has been in the vanguard of making strenuous objections to their inclusion in the documents which at least has had one major mineral site adjacent to the village being excluded. These plans/documents are to be finalised and submitted to the Secretary of State in October next year when a further opportunity to object will be available before going to a public inquiry.

Flooding and Flood Risk are important and sensitive issues in our village. The Parish Council with others and the local MP continues to lobby the Environment Agency to produce plans for additional measures to secure the village from flooding. These include providing a dry escape route via Ashgrove Lanes and the provision of additional flood storage capacity in the River Dove catchment area above Scropton.

The Parish Council has offered its full support in seeking the extensions and modifications to the Memorial Hall which is the only public building in the village and therefore centre of our community. A donation of £5000 has been made towards its completion. Steve Higgins and his team are to be congratulated on their efforts and he will be outlining the programme for the implementation of the works later.

The Parish Council campaigned long and hard and harnessed your support to retain the Post Office unfortunately without avail. We are now investigating provision of alternative shopping provision.

The Parish Council continues its programme of improvements to the CJPF. We are presently looking at removing the former bonfire rubbish and repairs to the playing field itself. Litter remains a constant problem and the need for a further litter bin is being assessed.

We have been consulted on many planning applications not only within the village but farther afield as we having been keeping a watching brief on several developments outside the parish which could affect flooding or otherwise adversely impact on the parish. Objections have been

strenuously made on several of these including Burnaston Cross and the redevelopment of the Foundry in Willington. Perhaps the most important has been the proposal for a Railhead, heat and power plant and Distribution Depot on the Egginton and Etwall Commons to which very strenuous objections have been made. A further application to extend and intensify the gypsy site off Highbridge Lane has also been the subject of strenuous objections.

We will continue to look out for the communities' interests over the forthcoming year. Thank you.