

Annual Parish Meeting

Chair's Report 2009

Last year I reported to you on a number of initiatives impacting upon our community which included the Local Development Framework (LDF), Mineral and Waste Plans, Parish Plan, Flooding and flood risk, Memorial Hall extension, Catherine Jonathan Playing Field and numerous planning applications including the gypsy site and the proposed railhead at Burnaston Cross and Egginton Common. This year's report is in much the same vein since in most cases these issues are rumbling on and in some cases getting enormous momentum. So, one by one they are:-

The Local Development Framework

The Core Strategy will be the central plank and the issues paper is currently out for consultation. This strategy will decide where, for the next 20 years, our housing, employment and our transport infrastructure developments will arise. It's a very important document and we are in the process of responding to it. Fundamentally the RSS has been finalised only last week and this tells us that over the next 20 years there is to be an additional 600 homes per year in South Derbyshire, an additional 19 gypsy pitches and Policy 21 on rail linked Distribution Centres. Whilst this is not prescriptive over site size it must have sufficient critical mass for freight train services. The next consultation on the LDF will bring forward preferred sites for all of these issues. This will be most important.

Minerals and Waste Plans

The Minerals and Waste Plans did not materialise. Currently a Development Statement on waste sites to assist developers does not include Egginton Common. However, in a couple of years a new Waste plan will emerge and it is possible that some of the sites in the original plan including Egginton Common, may be back in the frame.

Parish Plan

Two councillors are preparing a document that will go some way towards a draft proposal for a Parish Plan. These are useful things because they can help in the planning process. I am advised by DRCC that these plans can take 2 years to draw up.

Flooding Issues and Monks Bridge

Dredging works will have to be undertaken as the feasibility study for a permanent solution has found not to be cost effective and I will be speaking to the EA about this. I have also been in discussion with the EA this very week about the villages flood defence system and I must say they are lending a very sympathetic ear and I am making progress. Whilst I haven't cancelled my order for the Ark, I think I feel most optimistic.

Memorial Hall

The Parish Council donated £5,000 towards this extension and refurbishment and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the numerous individuals and organisations who contributed so much of their individual time, effort and resources to bring the project to fruition. We should all be retrospectively be celebrating an outstanding achievement that will greatly benefit our community.

Catherine Jonathan Playing Field

Ongoing work, developments and improvements continue to be at the forefront of our endeavours. We have this year refurbished the main gate and we are looking to improve and extend the path. We are investigating the potential for changing facilities, improved vehicular access onto the playing field and to the levelling and reseeded of parts of the pitch.

The small area of woodland adjacent to the car park has had a Tree Preservation Order confirmed and extended to cover the area to the rear of Mabel's Lodge. TPO consent was obtained to crown reduce the Ash Tree for safety reasons.

Environmental Matters

We are undertaking a village gateway project to improve the entrances to the village with planting, improving the appearance of the bridge, and general landscaping around the brook. Many thanks to those residents who help to keep the village clear of litter. I am in dialogue with SDDC as I have great concern over litter, especially around the A38 Y Pass garage area.

Planning Applications

The major planning applications which affect us are:-

The pending Egginton Common Railhead - still now pending but one is expected very soon. The Burnaston Cross Inquiry which is due to take place at the SDDC offices for 2-3 weeks starting on 21st April. The Parish Council made representations at the Appeal Inquiry into the Blue Post Caravan Site which may have implications for its extension.

The Co-joined public Inquiry reported that there should be no housing on the former Willington Power Station Site which might have impacted on Egginton in terms of demands on infrastructure. Eon has since announced that they are to investigate the potential for a new Gas fired Power Station on part of the site.

This is a very quick and selective canter around some of the topics and issues we have dealt with during a very busy political year and I must take this opportunity of thanking my hard working Parish Council colleagues and the Clerk and a considerable number of individuals in the community who have given so much support.