

DETHICK, LEA and HOLLOWAY PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

This last year has been busy and reasonably productive. I say reasonably productive since, although the Council is keen to make improvements to the infrastructure of the Parish, much of these can only be implemented by AVBC or DCC, both of which are subject to competing priorities. Notwithstanding, the following is a summary of the main activities undertaken in no particular order of importance.

- The Parish Plan (2015) commissioned by the Parish Council is expected to be in final format in time to be launched at the carnival in June. This will be the product of an enthusiastic steering group and four main focus groups comprising around 25 people. The next challenge will be the implementation of key recommendations.
- Pressure has continued to be applied towards a resolution of footpath 38. This has included a letter to the Secretary of State as well as further communication with the legal department of DCC through Councillor Jackson. The Council has been promised that DCC will make a recommendation during 2011.
- Replacement street signs have been put in place at Yew Tree Hill, Common End and Mill Lane.
- The Council has agreed to a feasibility study by the Scouts regarding the possible relocation of the Scout huts from Christchurch to the Woodland site. An interim report has been requested from the steering group acting on behalf of the Scouts.
- Risk assessments have been undertaken at all locations owned by the Parish Council.
- Three new benches have been purchased and installed. The remaining benches have been restored.
- The post and rail fencing along Church Street has been repaired although a small section needs attention.
- A broken handrail on Hillside has been welded.
- The Council asked DCC to move the 30mph sign to cover the east side of Shaw Lane junction but this was refused.
- The dry stone wall and main gate into the playground at Lea have been repaired.
- The Rocking Horse and chains on the climbing frame have also been repaired.
- The Council has reviewed all its land ownership and has ensured necessary HM Land Registry registration.
- The gibbet stone at the junction of Shaw lane and Dethick Lane was stolen and later returned. The Council has agreed to claim ownership and would like to make a feature of it.
- A full survey of trees in the Memorial Gardens has been undertaken and several will be removed on grounds of safety and in order to make the War Memorial more visible.
- Repairs have been made to the Receiving House roof and to the shelter on the playground at Lea.
- AVBC has agreed to close all its public toilets and has asked the Council to take over the toilets on Church Street. The Council has asked for a detailed breakdown of costs over the last five years before coming to a decision.

- The Council has received concerns over dog fouling and notices have been posted on Church Street. The Council has also agreed to apply for a by-law to prohibit dogs from the playground at Lea.
- The Parish Warden has undertaken a full survey of all street furniture including grit bins, benches, notice boards and tourist information boards. He has also undertaken an audit of the condition of all designated footpaths in the Parish'
- The area around the shelter adjacent to the toilets on Church Street has been cleared and planted.
- Speed checks have been undertaken on Leashaw but the average speed recorded was insufficient to carry out speed enforcement.
- The Council has agreed that the management of the Parish Council website will be undertaken by Mr. D. Sauzier who has also developed a Village website.
- The Council is endeavouring, with the support of Councillor Jackson, to resolve the problem of flooding on the Hollow, Upper Lea.
- At the request of DCC, the Council is preparing a snow strategy for the Parish in the event of extreme weather conditions as experienced in December and January.
- The Council has agreed that the telephone kiosk in Lea be converted into a tourist information facility.
- The Precept for 2011-12 was set at £17000 an increase of 3%
- The Council has responded to a large number of planning applications both for buildings and trees. It is important to stress that the Council's freedom to comment is tightly constrained by external criteria and when appropriate, individual Councillors have declared a personal or prejudicial interest in a particular application and been excluded from the discussion. A planning committee, under the leadership of Councillor Hooker, has proven effective in preparing recommendations to the full Council as indeed have our two tree wardens.

On May 5th there will be no election to the Parish Council since only 8 parishioners have been nominated. These will therefore automatically become the new Council with one vacancy which will be filled through co-option.

On behalf of the parish, I should like to thank retiring Cllr. Janet Ludlam who has served the Council for more than a decade.

In conclusion, I should also like to thank our clerk, Mrs. Linda McCormick for her excellent work together with Councillor C. Jackson and the Police representatives for their support which is much appreciated. I also thank those parishioners who have attended meetings to raise matters of common concern.

Mike Wiser Chairman
17 April 2011