

DETHICK, LEA & HOLLOWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual report 2011-12

There have been eleven meetings of Council since my last report and much has been achieved. However the attendance at meetings by parishioners has been generally disappointing and I would like to encourage more people to attend what is of course an open and public meeting. Council has been pleased to welcome Cllr. Joan Ward as a newly co-opted member.

Below I list, in no particular order, the main issues discussed during the last twelve months.

- It is pleasing to report successful outcomes on two footpaths. The application to have the link between FP32 to 38 put on the Derbyshire Definitive map was submitted by the Parish Council in 1995 but an appeal referred the matter to the Planning Inspectorate. A public Hearing was held on 14 May 2011 and the decision found in favour of the application. The second is the resolution of the pathway from Mill Lane to FP38. DCC has approved that the pathway should become a designated footpath on the Derbyshire map subject to there being no appeals.
- As I reported in my last report the Gibbet Stone was stolen and then returned. The Parish Council, in liaison with the Arkwright Society, has agreed in principle with DCC that it may be securely sited at its original location at the junction of Shaw Lane and Dethick Lane.
- The Telephone kiosk at the junction of Sledgegate Lane and Lea Road has been converted to a local Tourist Information and book exchange bureau.
- The change of Parish Council website management has been effected and the impact has been dramatic through our new webmaster Denis Sauzier. The dual management of the PC website and the Village website by the same webmaster is bringing considerable reciprocal benefit.
- The wall of the Receiving House has been in part repointed with some guttering replaced. However there is still a problem with water ingress which is being further explored.
- Council, on the evidence of historic costs obtained from AVBC, had resolved not to assume responsibility for the public toilets on Church Street.
- Work has been undertaken in the Memorial Gardens with the help of a team from the Parkwood Day Centre to clear rhododendra from in front of the War Memorial in order to make it more visible.
- A feasibility enquiry by the Scouts to AVBC to use the Woodland site for a new Scout Hut did not elicit an encouraging response and the matter has been withdrawn.
- Repairs have been made to walls around the Lea Play area and new signs erected warning dog handlers against the dangers of dog fouling.
- Council has continued to explore possible locations for a Play area in Holloway and approaches have been made to the School ie the Paddock area and Smedleys ie.football field. School Governors rejected the idea on grounds of child safeguarding but the possibility of using the football field is still open although Councillors are concerned that this is in Lea Bridge rather than Holloway and aware that there is already a play area off Nightingale Close. The matter is therefore unlikely to be progressed.

- The Village Plan, commissioned by the Parish Council but under the ownership of the village, has entered its implementation stage. Council will receive periodic reports on its progress. Progress by various working groups will also be reported on the Village website.
- Council has supported the Historical Society in its proposed archaeological excavations in Bow and Lea Wood, subject to the necessary specialist advice and safeguarding.
- DCC has agreed that the Parish Council may paint the railings in front of Lea Chapel.
- Council approved donations to the Village Apple Juicing Event (£25) and to the forthcoming Queen's Jubilee Party at Lea Green on 4 June (£250).
- There continues to be a serious problem with the motor bike events off Bracken Lane not just from a noise pollution but also from an ecological damaging point of view. Council is pressing the AVBC Enforcement Officer to take the necessary action to exercise greater control over the number of events per year etc.
- Council approved a Precept for 2012 of £17500

I would like to thank Linda McCormick for her excellent work as clerk and Derbyshire Councillor Chris Jackson and Borough Councillor David Taylor for their very regular attendance and support at our meetings. Thanks also go to our two PCSO s Donna walker and Tracey Barks for their on-going support. Finally my personal thanks to all members of Council for their support in my role as Chair.

Cllr. Mike Wiser

Chairman April 2012