

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2007/2008

Members of the Council and Parishioners – I have pleasure in submitting my report to you regarding the activities carried out by the Blackwell Parish Council during the year 2007/2008.

It is also my responsibility to give you an overview of the Councils plans for the year 2008/2009.

With your approval I propose to review each village in turn and I shall start with

BLACKWELL

a. **Lottery Bid – Sports Pavilion – Scanderlands Playing Field, Blackwell**

In November last an inspection was carried out at the Sports Pavilion by a Surveyor acting on behalf of the Football Foundation who stated he was extremely satisfied with the construction and finish of the Pavilion.

b. **Play Equipment**

The Play Equipment at Scanderlands continues to be extensively used but the downside is that the Play Surface has been vandalised and copious amounts of litter have to be cleared from the area on a regular basis.

c. **Blackwell Youth Club**

The organisers of the Youth Club have had another very successful year – this culminated in 25 youngsters attending, during the Easter 2008 period, an Outdoor Activity Centre in Staffordshire. I understand that those involved had a thoroughly, if somewhat tiring, enjoyable time.

d. **Blackwell Residents Action Group**

This was formed in early 2007 and has been energetically led by their Chairman, Katharine Childs – amongst projects undertaken have been Litter Picks, Bulb Planting, Website etc.,

Council Members are aware that the Group have various projects in mind for the forthcoming year and the Council wish them well.

HILCOTE

a. **Hilcote Community Centre**

As mentioned in the Chairman's Report for 2006/2007 the Community Centre is not owned by the Council but it is pleasing to note the Centre is seeing increasing usage.

b. **Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Group (HELP)**

This Group was formed by a number of residents from Hilcote in 2007 – Mick Davis and Molly Helm are the driving force behind the Group and along with other Members of the Group have undertaken Litter Pick, Fun Day, clearing part of the Normanton Brook, establishing a Community Garden at Hilcote Community Centre, Open Evening etc.

The Group are also hoping to establish a Mining Memorial at the junction of New Lane/Hilcote Lane and once installed the Council have agreed to accept the care and maintenance of it.

c. Speed Humps which were installed at the request of a number of residents at New Lane some years ago by Derbyshire County Council have given cause for concern from a noise aspect by lorries travelling at an excessive speed through the village.

I have, however, been advised that, following the Clerks conversation with a Director of one of the firms involved, lorry speeds have been substantially reduced and the noise minimised.

d. **New Hucknall/Westhouses Trail**

For some considerable time the Council has been aware of nuisance etc. caused by off road motorcyclists – periodically the Police along with the Ranger Service, Derbyshire County Council, have “cracked down” – the Council have been assured that such operations will continue until the problem is eliminated.

NEWTON

a. **Bamford Street Play Area**

I am pleased to report that the Councils refurbished Bamford Street Play Area was officially re-opened by the former Chairman of the Council, Mrs Clare Munks on 4 July 2007.

Unfortunately minor vandalism has occurred at both this site and Charnwood Crescent Playing Field but on a positive note the Council during 2007 entered into a contract with Leisure and

Tourism Department, Bolsover District Council to inspect on a monthly basis and carry out minor repairs.

b. **Newton Community Centre**

The Centre seems to attract the attention of a certain teenage element from within the village who seem determined to create as much noise/nuisance to Centre users and occupiers of adjoining properties as possible – repeated requests have been made to both the Police and Bolsover District Council Community Action Network Ranger Service to eliminate/minimise the problem but to no avail.

c. **Newton Allotments**

The Council was pleased to note that Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association secured funding from the Grot-2-Green Project for new fencing and gate (which has been installed) at the Littlemoor Lane Allotments.

A new Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer of the Association were appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 3 April last and the Council look forward to working with them.

Councillor Nic Willens is the Councils Representative on the Committee.

e. **Newton Carnival Team**

2007/2008 has been another successful year for the team.

As in previous years to supplement their funds they had organised:

1. Newton Carnival – 14 July 2007.
2. Victorian Street Fair – 30 November 2007.
3. Light of Life Service –

The Team had also been successful in securing additional funding towards Christmas Street Lighting and minor improvements at Charnwood Crescent Playing Field.

f. **Newton Community Association**

Dot Willens, along with some of her colleagues from the Association, have been responsible for a number of successful Litter Picks, Film Nights at the Community Centre etc.

Currently the Association are endeavouring to secure funding for the provision of a Multi-User Sports Unit at the Councils Charnwood Crescent Playing Field.

WESTHOUSES

a. **Derek Hemingray**

Council Members were shocked to learn of the sudden passing on 12 January 2008 of former Councillor Derek Hemingray.

Derek was a committed Westhouses man and worked tirelessly on behalf of all its residents – he will be sadly missed.

Following consultation with Derek's family the Council unanimously resolved to purchase a wooden seat in memory of Derek and when delivered this will be installed at the Tibshelf Road Playing Field.

a. **Tibshelf Road Playing Field**

Following the efforts of Westhouses Residents Action Group a Multi-User Sportswall has now been installed at this location and I am advised that it is used on a regular basis.

b. **Alfreton Road/Tibshelf Road**

Concerns had been expressed by residents at these two locations regarding motorist speeding - Derbyshire County Council, Highways Department, following pressure from County Councillor Clive Moesby, improved road signage etc. on all the entrance/exits to the village.

c. **Westhouses Residents Action Group.**

The Council continue to receive quarterly reports from Dudley Fowkes, Chairman, Westhouses Residents Action Group.

Further Litter Picks have been held and during the Christmas period additional decorations were purchased and placed on the Christmas Tree which had been erected in the Chapel grounds – Council Members were pleased to learn that before his sudden passing former Councillor Derek Hemingray “switched on” the Christmas Lights.

GENERAL MATTERS

PRECEPT

The Councils Precept for the year 2008/2009 has been increased from £95,000.00 to £105,000.00.

When the Council reviewed its budget in January the running cost of the Council are approximately £65,000.00.

When the Precept was set it was agreed to prioritise the following items:

1. Provision of a Speed Activated Sign.
2. Internal/External decoration and new UPVC windows at Blackwell Community Centre.
3. Internal decoration at Newton Community Centre.
4. Provision of Dog Waste Bins.
5. Provision of Planters.

PARISH CARETAKER

I am pleased to be able to report that effective from 4 June 2007, Richard Walker, South Normanton was appointed the Councils Part-Time Parish Caretaker – during this time Richard has proved to be a conscientious, hardworking individual.

He is pro-active and a number of residents of the Parish have commented on his commitment and dedication.

Richard is also employed part-time by Derbyshire County Council for caretaking duties at the Councils Newton Community Centre.

POLICE

After much pressure from both Bolsover District Council and this Council a Beat Officer has been appointed to cover Blackwell and Tibshelf Parishes – PC Adam Podam attended his first Council Meeting on 3 March and Council Members are hoping it won't be his last.

Police Community Support Officer Claire Pass also patrols the Parish but due to transport difficulties, she only has a cycle, she has problems covering Blackwell and Tibshelf Parishes.

ANNUAL PANTOMIME

The Council continues to organise the Annual Pantomime at Blackwell/Newton Community Centres for the children from Blackwell/Newton/Westhouses Primary Schools also the Mother and Toddler Groups.

COUNCILLORS ALAN TOMLINSON AND SALLY GRAY

Most of you are aware both Alan and Sally are elected Members of Bolsover District Council

Alan particularly has put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes to ensure good continued working relationships with the District Council, plus working tirelessly on behalf of local residents.

Sally, who is a relatively new Member to both District and Parish Councils, has sought to foster a good working relationship with all local residents.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLIVE MOESBY

The Council are particularly grateful to Clive for his dedication at County level to improve the Parish as a whole.

COUNCILLOR STEVE THORPE

Following the sudden passing of former Councillor Derek Hemingray, Councillor Steve Thorpe from Westhouses, was co-opted on to the Council at its Meeting on 4 February last.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All Council Members have completed the Register of Interests and agreed to abide by the revised Code of Conduct which became operative on 3 May 2007.

CONCLUSION

The Council will continue to move forward and I am grateful for all the support given to me by fellow Councillors and the Clerk.

Thank you.