

LITTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

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16 April 2017

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at
7.00 pm in The Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, Little Eaton**

A G E N D A

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 27.4.16.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. To note reports received from Parish Council sub-committees.
4. To note reports received from other bodies with LEPC representation.
5. Financial Report.
6. District/County Councillors Reports.
7. Public Speaking.
8. Date of next meeting – 25.4.18.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LITTLE EATON HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, VICARGE LANE ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016**

PRESENT: Councillors A Summerfield (Chairman) B Adams, J Dallison, J Easter, D Hall, S Fogerty, F Williamson, A Machell, J Nicholson, P Mulvey, Councillor C Hart (DCC), Councillor A Stevenson (EBC), 6 members of the public, Parish Clerk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 22 APRIL 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 22.4.15 were approved and signed by the Chair.

Little Eaton Parish Council Chairman's Report

First I would like to pay tribute to Glenda Harrison who has spent decades as the Parish Clerk and the Editor of the Village Newsletter. She has recently decided to move on in her retirement and has now left the Editorial and printing of the newsletter in the hands of the Parish Council.

Thank you Glenda for your work and support over the years

I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their input and work in the running of the Parish Council over the past year.

On the Finance side I see that we are slightly under budget on the Precept, slightly over budget on Concurrent and still have a healthy balance in reserve.

Little Eaton in Bloom have done sterling work throughout the year and have again won awards for the Village.

A highlight of the year is always Carnival Day which was also blessed with good weather on the day. I did walk through the park one evening and wondered what all the white was that covered the grass before I realised that it was the kids really enjoying the wild wet and bubbly race night.

The Village Hall is still a roaring success with ongoing high usage rates and numerous complements about the facility. The Village Hall Committee is largely responsible for this with the background work that they do to ensure that it is kept clean well maintained.

The coloured lights around the Village Hall have proved to be a welcome addition to the Christmas decorations around the village.

The CCTV system has also proved to be valuable in limiting graffiti and vandalism on the park and on one occasion was instrumental in identifying the perpetrators to the Police.

Speeding and, to a lesser extent, inconsiderate parking is an ongoing issue in the Village as it is in all the surrounding villages as well. There has been some speed watch activity that has identified some culprits but with the 'best will in the world' it is not possible to get the manpower to eliminate it completely.

It has been noted that Derbyshire County Council is financially strapped and unwilling to do much more than they must for any requests that we make to them. However our County Councillor is always willing to take up our issues with the authority with variable levels of success to date.

Councillor A Summerfield (Chairman)

Park Working Group Report

The Park Working Group continues to meet monthly throughout the year, including the Park Keeper, this has proved to be invaluable in identifying any issues and planning the general upkeep and maintenance of the Park and other open spaces.

Over the past 12 months the following work has been undertaken:

Park Benches

A programme of renewing & refurbishing the Park benches has been undertaken, we are extremely grateful to the Parishioners who have kindly donated benches

- 4 new benches new installed in the Children's Play Area (1 Parishioner Donation & 3 Parish Council)
- 1 new bench in front of the Monument (Parishioner Donation)
- 2 new benches on the Park bank adjacent to Vicarage Lane (both Parishioner Donations)
- 2 new benches adjacent to the Park footpath (both Parishioner Donations)
- 1 older style concrete bench was re-located at the Pinfold to replace a parishioners bench that was stolen
- The remaining Park benches have been refurbished

Public Toilets

- The Ladies and Gents public toilets have been painted and new toilet roll dispensers installed.

Children's Play Area

- A weekly safety inspection of the Children's Play Area is now being carried out by the Keeper who is a qualified inspector and any findings are recorded in a log book with any issues being immediately addressed.
- The annual independent inspection report has been received with no defects affecting safety
- As well as installing new benches the following work has been undertaken:
 - The roundabout has been refurbished
 - The soft tarmac areas around the tunnels and see saw have been improved
 - A new soft tarmac area has been installed around the slide
 - New small swing seats have been purchased to replace the existing seats
 - The play equipment is being painted
 - The railings around the play area and the pre-school are being painted

Wildlife Meadow

- Regular meetings are held with LEIB who have taken responsibility for the Wildlife Area on the Park which is located between the Tennis Court and Duffield Road.
- This is a long term project and an information board has been erected in the Wildlife Meadow to explain the project to Parishioners. The original park gate has been integrated as a feature into the information board

General Park Maintenance

A programme of maintenance has been ongoing all year including;

- Painting of the fencing in the car park
- Repair of mower store door
- New waste bin in the car park
- Steam cleaning the showers in the Pavilion
- Tree maintenance
 - a. The 6 lime trees on the park bank adjacent to Vicarage Lane have been pruned and dead wood removed
 - b. The dead cherry tree on the Park adjacent to Church Lane has been removed and another cherry tree planted in its place
- Herbicide spraying of car park edges
- Herbicide spraying of Park perimeter, around trees, obstacles and park benches to reduce the amount of strimming required and making the mowing of the Park easier.
- The drain outside the lower store underneath the veranda has been inspected with a camera and cleaned using a high pressure jet.
- Dog Fouling - Erewash BC are now undertaking regular surveillance on the Park
- Waste Bin – replacement waste bin for both litter & dog waste has been installed at vicarage road entrance
- The overhanging vegetation in car park has been cut back

Parks Hire Agreements

- Park Hire Agreements are in place with all Organisations who use Park facilities to ensure that all Parties fully understand the conditions of hire and their responsibilities, including full public liability insurance.

Police Liaison

- The Park Working Group continue to meet on a regular basis with the Police and the EBC Neighbourhood Warden to review and address any ASB issues. The meetings have been extremely useful in resolving a number of incidents and has resulted in increased patrols

Pavilion

- The lighting around the pavilion has been replaced to provide brighter illumination and security
- The path at the bottom of the Pavilion Stairs have been repaired as they had sunk and become a potential trip hazard
- The CCTV system is being reviewed with a view to improving the picture image & upgrading the system

Church Yard

- The Church Yard is managed by a regular maintenance regime which keeps the grounds in a presentable condition
- The area behind the Parish Rooms has been cleared of all overgrown vegetation and sprayed with herbicide to reduce any further growth.
- The Conifer in the Memorial Garden has been pruned to prevent damage to the lawn area
- The trees by the Lych Gate have been pollarded

Millennium Way

- Millennium Way is mowed regularly throughout the year
- Annual tree maintenance is undertaken

Councillor P Mulvey

Footpaths Group Report

- During the course of the year the PC has received no representations from parishioners in respect of the condition of footpaths in the parish.
- We have begun a comprehensive review of the condition of footpaths within the parish.
- At the time of writing this report the review document is approximately 50 % complete and completion is anticipated before the end of May 2016.
- The Purpose of the review is to identify wants of repair to the physical elements of footpaths; primarily to ensure that they remain safe and accessible for public use on an ongoing basis.
- Having established the need for repairs it is the intention to use the document as a basis for seeking funding for repairs to footpath elements as necessary [eg stiles,gates steps etc].
- The success of such funding requests at a time of significant austerity within public finances, remains to be seen ; but you can be assured that your Parish Council will try our best to secure maintenance funding for this important parish amenity.
- On an ongoing basis the Footpath Group welcomes comment or advice of footpath defects from parish residents.
- On completion of the review document it is intended that it will simply require updating [images and script] on an ongoing basis.

Safer Neighbourhood

PC Russ Crooks moved on to Police another area after many years of service to the village. PCSO Rob Stanesby (12766) has taken over and is already actively supporting activities in and around the village

ROADSAFE report the latest road casualty statistics for 2014 showing there were 1,775 fatalities, an increase of 4% in the number or reported road deaths, almost three-quarters of this increase in fatalities were pedestrians.

The Little Eaton Community Speedwatch Group continue to perform Speedwatches once a month around the village, however speeding continues to be a problem. A total of 12 CSW were performed, one watch was cancelled by the Police. 273 vehicles were recorded travelling over 35mph. Due to a significant increase in vehicle numbers the group now records the total number of vehicles passing during the watch period. On 20th April a total of 767 vehicles were recorded passing the CSW location between 17.00 – 18.00.

The Community Speedwatch Group meets quarterly to discuss safety issues relating to roads and pavements in the village and will again consider participation in the annual BRAKE Road Safety Campaign. Ongoing issues being investigated by the Parish Council are i) regular Laser Gun Checks ii) installation of Visual Activated Signs iii) Pedestrian Refuge around Morley Lane / Alfreton Road iv) pavement extension to properties on Morley Lane v) pedestrian safety around the shops vi) installation of a Red Light Camera on the Puffin Crossing

Derbyshire County Council have refused to a) install rumble strips on Morley Lane near the A38 fly over due to noise to local properties b) install Road Narrowing / Road Deviation chevrons at the summit of Morley Lane near Drum Hill Scout Camp

Highways

Verges Presumably due to cost pressure Derbyshire County Council has refused to repair verges unless the problem constitutes a Health and Safety issue. The Parish Council is therefore investigating possible ways to limit or restrict vehicular damage to verges

Alfreton Road Despite reseeding the area several times throughout the year vehicles continued to drive over the verge to park in the lay-by opposite the school. To prevent ongoing damage the Parish Council obtained permission and had four oak posts installed

Morley Lane / Alfreton Road – erosion and damage by vehicles cutting the corner by driving over the verge has also placed pedestrians in danger. The Parish Council is working with Derbyshire County Council with the aim of identifying a solution to protect pedestrians as well as maintaining the verge

Alfreton Road The Parish Council obtained a Cultivation License for Alfreton Road and Radleigh very generously funded and arranged planting. The plants are small at the moment, however will grow into substantial perennial planting

PARKING There is concern about the availability of parking in the village and inconsiderate parking continues to cause problems in and around the village. The area around the School, on the zig-zags, in the bus stop opposite the Queens Head, on the Co-Op / Newsagent Frontage and blocking drives off Alfreton Road are the main areas of concern. Police enforcement is being carried out and going forward Derbyshire County Council enforcement of the area around the shops and bus stop is being progressed.

Overhanging Vegetation and Parking on pavements and verges continues to be a problem the Parish Council will progress with Derbyshire County Council leaving pavements for people

Moor Lane / Brackley Gate Fly tipping, theft and antisocial behaviour is causing extensive damage to the road surface and 4 x 4's off roading through the woods are destroying vegetation, causing deep ruts in the banks, exposing and driving over mature tree roots. The Parish Council is working with Morley Parish Council, Breadsall Priory, Derbyshire Scouts and Brackley Gate Neighbourhood Watch with a view to requesting Derbyshire County Council support Erewash Borough Council and the Police and consider what changes could be made to address these concerns

Going forward it is to be anticipated that the Greenway proposal and A38 developments may impact the village, potentially detrimentally, in relation to parking and volume of traffic respectively. It is hoped that Derbyshire County Council will support residents, however the Parish Council should make use of all possible powers to take action to address and resolve issues and protect the environment of the village

Councillor F Williamson

Finance Report

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 are presented.

We are maintaining your Parish services and continuing to identify and implement improvement programmes where possible.

The Park bench replacement programme is nearly completed and we appreciate the generosity of those parishioners who have donated several seats in addition to the ones supplied by the Parish Council.

Also on the Park, night time security has been improved by the fitting of a movement sensor controlled spot light over the children's play area. Further improvement in this area is being investigated.

The public toilets have been re-painted and secure toilet roll dispensers fitted.

An EBC grant has been secured for refurbishment of the children's play area which has started and will be completed in the next few months.

Repairs and painting of the two telephone boxes in the village, the Book Exchange and the Paint Box, have been undertaken.

Substantial timber posts have been installed opposite the School to deter wayward motorists from parking on the grass and further measures are being considered.

On a brighter note, the Croft Corner Christmas Tree lighting was substantially improved resulting in a canopy of light over the festive period. Similar enhancements were made on the Village Hall on the Park. These will remain for the foreseeable future.

The annual maintenance work around the village, which is a substantial part of the budget, continues with, in particular, tree work on Millennium Way to improve pedestrian's visibility when crossing the B6179.

The Tempest Charity which is administered by the Parish Council is to be wound up and the proceeds given to the Senior Citizens Club, which is within the conditions of the constitution of the charity.

The Parish Council have recommended no change to the precept for this year whilst there is a decrease in the EBC concurrent function budget.

Councillor B Adams.

Charities of Thomas Bates Annual Report 2016

Trustees : The current trustees are ;

Bill Hutchison (Chair) Tel. 831966 email bhutchison29@btinternet.com

Rev. David Barnsley Tel. 585190

Richard Bateman Tel. 831471

Councillor Carol Hart Tel. 01159 322513

Janet Love Tel. 842098

Dr. Barbara Leyland Tel. 840707

Peter Griffiths Tel. 558336

Following her recent illness Janet Easter (Tel. 880829) is no longer Clerk to the Trust but remains as a contact for enquiries

All the clerk's duties are now carried out by the Chairman.

Grants : Grants are awarded to Little Eaton residents or organisations who may be in need of financial assistance and any requests will be considered by the trustees. In the last 12 months no grants have been awarded to individuals but the OAP Hall fund and Little Eaton in Bloom have received payments.

Almshouses : The 3 almshouses in Church Lane are owned and maintained by the Trust and are currently occupied by 3

elderly residents. In the last 12 months a major repair to part of the footpath around the houses has been carried out and a new maintenance contract for the heating systems in the houses has been taken out.

Contact : Enquiries about grants or any information about the Trust should be made to the Chairman or any of the Trustees.

Annual General Meeting : The AGM of the Trust which any resident is welcome to attend will be held in the OAP Hall on Wednesday May 4th at 2 p.m.

Annual Report – Derbyshire County Council Councillor Carol Hart

This is my last year of this 4 year term of office and elections for Derbyshire County Council will be taking place next May, I have decided to put my name forward again next May, all things being equal, and hope to continue representing the Breadsall/West Hallam ward, with apologies to those villages not included in the title of the ward, unfortunately the Electoral Commission do not like the titles of wards to be too wordy!!!

Again as I have said for the past 3 years it is so frustrating to be in opposition, I do still hold the position of Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health which covers Health, Community Safety, Derbyshire Sport, Trading Standards, Libraries amongst other things but I am afraid although everyone knows there have been cuts in the DCC budget I get so upset with some of the cuts that have been proposed over the last year in particular, the first couple of years there were many areas that could be trimmed down and made more efficient and, of course, it does get harder as time goes on and still savings have to be made but it is all about priorities and I am afraid my group have many different priorities to the controlling group.

We have had many cuts in different services areas, mobile libraries have had their deliveries cut back but I think most areas are still being served even if the service is reduced and the visits are less, school crossing patrols are being cut, some schools are losing their 'lollipop' persons and I can accept that if they have puffin or pelican crossings this might be acceptable but where there are no puffin/pelican crossings I think it is essential that this facility is kept in place, it has been decided that when a 'lollipop' person resigns they will not be replaced, what a pity that DCC has not worked with schools or even the local parish council to see if there is a way of still providing this service. One of the biggest cuts that has been announced is the cut in funding to Community Transport, along with this is now the consultation that is happening about withdrawing all subsidies from bus companies, this would have a massive impact on particularly rural communities including the villages in my ward, some of these services are not heavily used but for the people who use them they are essential, whether it be older people who do not or cannot drive, people working shifts, people wanting to get to hospital for appointments or even visiting, we cannot isolate our communities. Hopefully I have managed to get the message out to the parish councils in my ward about the consultation on bus subsidies and I am hopeful that there will be a good response from my ward area and many people putting forward their reasons for wanting to keep their precious bus service. The Community Transport organisations across Derbyshire delivered a petition to a Full Council meeting recently asking the Cabinet to look again at their decisions to cut funding, the petition was the largest ever received by DCC, some 22,000 signatures, unfortunately although it was debated and supported by my group the Cabinet and back benchers of the controlling Labour Group turned this down. There is also consultation going on to close some of the Children's Centres, again it seems as though the most effect will be felt in the rural areas rather than the urban areas, I think everyone appreciates that some of our most deprived areas need extra help but it should not always be to the detriment of the rural areas.

Still lots of complaints about the state of the roads and pavements, the Government has given councils some extra funding for getting the potholes repaired, I believe it the amount was, I believe, £1.6 M. DCC say that this is a drop in the ocean, what I cannot understand is that although we have not had a bad winter over Derbyshire there has still been an overspend on this budget, goodness knows what will happen if we have a bad winter!! The frustration again is that I have just been handed a list of work that will hopefully be carried out in my ward on roads and pavements but unfortunately this is a 5 year plan and there is no indication as to when any of these projects might happen, I understand that all those roads and pavements listed will be inspected and placed in priority order, I can only keep monitoring and lobby if there are areas that are in urgent need of attention.

As you will have probably seen from your recent Council Tax bills DCC have set a precept of 3.99%, there did have to be a referendum called if they wished to precept more than 2% but this year the Government have said that Councils could precept an extra 2% as long as they ring fenced it for Adult Care, because of the pressures on Adult Care basically because most of us are living longer, thank goodness, this was something my group could support.

I have been pleased to help some local organisations in my ward with a grant from my Community Capital Fund but for some reason no organisations in Little Eaton have applied this year, but for the first time since I became a County Councillor I spent all of my year's allocation of £4200 (this has to cover all of my ward of course) but I am pleased to say that the fund is now open again, unfortunately due to the cuts the amount I receive will be £3,800 as the amount has been top sliced by DCC to give to the many Luncheon Clubs that deliver a service across Derbyshire, they cut their funding so are now taking it from the Member Grant Scheme to compensate.

Little Eaton is really no different to many of the villages in my ward and across Derbyshire in that traffic, whether speeding, inconsiderate or even dangerous parking seems to be the biggest problem, and again what upsets people more than anything is the fact that officers seem very reluctant to address problems that local residents are really concerned about, I realise there has to be some way of judging where and how safety measures can be carried out but I know how upsetting it is to hear that many areas are not given priority because there have not been deaths, I very often hear residents say, does there have to be a death for something to be done, and as horrible as it is that is taken into

consideration. My real concerns are to do with the collection of data on accidents, unless there is really serious injury caused it seems as though many accidents are not recorded, even though 'there but for the grace of God there could have been fatalities'.

Again it is unfortunate that the school, shops and a junction are all clustered together, most villages have trouble with school parking but you have additional problems in Little Eaton, I did recently work with Mr. Bateman, the Headteacher and residents who live at the rear of the school to try and solve a problem, hopefully things have improved after some minor alterations and joint working.

As always I will try and do my best for you at Matlock, I know the Council and Councillors sometimes prefer to deal direct with DCC which is fine but always remember if you do need me to follow up problems for you I am here and certainly with the problems just surfacing about the local bus service I am more than happy to get involved after having a similar problem in West Hallam.

Annual Report Erewash Borough Council Councillor Abey Stevenson & Councillor A Summerfield

As in previous years, let's begin with the subject that affects all Council Tax payers. Council tax has changed this year. A band D rated house pays a total of £1584.33 (an increase of £54.55 (3.57%)) made up as follows:-

- £170.91 (up £5 (3.01%) after 0% for six year in a row) to Erewash,
- £1165.17 (up £44.71 (3.99%)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £177.07 (up £3.46 (1.99%)) to the Police Authority.
- £71.17 (up £1.38 (1.98%)) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.19 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 46.8 pence a day for all the services that Erewash provides.

Val Custance has been our Mayor for the last year and has done excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries.

Abey Stevenson as Deputy Mayor is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 12th May

The latest annual audit inspection again shows that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. We note that the Borough is still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have done excellent work to shield the electorate from the full impact of this to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all. It has become increasingly difficult to find more spending cuts and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 for the current year 2016/2017 as noted above.

There have been many successful projects in the Borough over the past year and we had considerable success in obtaining external funding for many of them. Unsurprisingly these are predominantly in Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the most densely populated areas. Some of the highlights are:-

- The Councillor Community Grant Scheme has been used by us to benefit worthy causes in Little Eaton, Breadsall, Morley and Stanley.
- Borough car park charges have been changed but some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit www.ereash.gov.uk for specific details.
- The Borough vehicle fleet has been aging and replacement plan for vans and refuse trucks etc. is both budgeted for and is still on target.

The move of the Registry Office to Ilkeston Town Hall has proved to be very popular for weddings and the Council have received numerous comments praising the location.

The Boundary Commission proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 51 down to 47 as of last year has resulted in an increased workload for us but we are still available for residents to contact us if they need our help.

Public Speaking

Parishioners questioned the Parish Council reserve policy and the availability of the accounts.

Parishioners gave thanks to Mr & Mrs Harrison for their involvement in the newsletter. A parishioner was in agreement with the tribute to Glenda Harrison.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26 April 2017.

Signed

Chairman Date

LEPC Annual Parish Meeting April 2017

Chairman's Report for 2016/2017 – Councillor Alan Summerfield

I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their input and work in the running of the Parish Council over the past year.

It was with regret that I accepted Councillor Fogerty's resignation for reasons that were making it difficult for him to play an active part in the role and wished him well for the future. We currently still have a vacancy on the Council which has been advertised.

On the Finance side I see that we kept to our budgets with some slight variance over the year and still have a healthy balance in reserve. It is noted that the Concurrent Function payments are being eroded as the Borough Council is under pressure from Government grant cuts.

Little Eaton in Bloom have done excellent work throughout the year and have again won awards for the Village. I thought that the 'flower pot statues' around the village were particularly good especially the speed camera opposite the Co-op. They have also been working on new projects for the coming year including changes to the large flower bed at the front of Croft Corner.

A highlight of the year is always Carnival Day which was again blessed with good weather on the day. Thanks go to the Carnival Committee for the hard work that it takes to make this event a great success.

The Village Hall is still managing to keep high usage rates and receives accolades for the standard of the facility. The Village Hall Committee and the helpful booking clerk are largely responsible for this with the background work that they do to ensure that it is kept clean well maintained and welcoming for the users.

Speeding and, to a lesser extent, inconsiderate parking is an ongoing issue in the Village. There has been some speed watch activity that has identified some culprits but with the 'best will in the world' it is not possible to get the manpower to eliminate it completely.

It has been noted that Derbyshire County Council is still financially strapped and unwilling to do much more than they must for any requests that we make to them. For example it can take three months for them to repair a faulty street light although they were prompt to repair a damaged pavement that was a potential danger to the school children. Our County Councillor is always willing to take up our issues with the authority but meets with variable levels of success.

Footpaths Group Report 2016-2017 – Councillor Nicholson

- In May of 2016 the footpaths review and report document was completed following a comprehensive walking survey of the Parish footpaths.
- The purpose of the review was to identify repairs required to the physical elements of the footpaths; primarily to ensure that they remain safe and accessible for public use on an ongoing basis.
- This document identified a number of wants of repair which have been reported to DCC for action.
- To date repair works have been scheduled to :
- Footpaths 4[Alfreton Rd to B6179]-new steps and hand rail.
- Footpath 12[Windy lane]-repairs to upper steps and rails done.
- Footpath 19[Peckwash Mill]-landowner of collapsing boundary wall approached and advised to repair.
- Footpath 36[B6179- Moor Lane] –New wooden steps and renewal of handrail quoted for.
- Other necessary repairs to stiles and the like are the subject of continuing review as they are the responsibility of landowners.
- A recent approach about the footpath running adjacent to 37 Crabtree Hill is being pursued; in the first instance to establish whether it is, in fact, an adopted footpath.
- Whilst DCC funding is very limited, we remain committed to reporting and chasing up necessary repair items as they arise.
- Representations from Parishioners concerning the condition of footpaths continue to be welcome.

Park Working Group Report 2016/17 – Councillor Mulvey

The Park Working Group continues to meet monthly throughout the year, including the Park Keeper, this has proved to be invaluable in identifying any issues and planning the general upkeep and maintenance of the Park, Churchyard and Millennium Way. Over the past 12 months the following work has been undertaken:

Park Benches

A programme of renewing & refurbishing the Park benches has been undertaken over the last 18 months and we are extremely grateful to the Parishioners who have kindly donated benches

- 1 new bench, donated by a Parishioner, will be installed in the Children's Play Area in the next few months.

Public Toilets

- The Ladies and Gents public toilets have been painted and new toilet roll dispensers installed.

Children's Play Area

- A weekly safety inspection of the Children's Play Area is carried out by the Park Keeper who is a qualified inspector and any findings are recorded in a log book with any issues being immediately addressed.
- The annual independent inspection report has been received with no defects affecting safety
- As well as installing new benches the following work has been undertaken:
 - New small swing seats have been installed
 - The play equipment has been painted
 - The railings around the play area and the pre-school have been painted
 - The springie rocking horse has been refurbished following vandalism

Wildlife Meadow

- Regular meetings are held with LEIB who have taken responsibility for the Wildlife Meadow on the Park which is located between the Tennis Court and Duffield Road.
- The area is managed as a joint enterprise with the Park Working Group and LEIB
- This is a long term project and an information board has been erected in the Wildlife Meadow to explain the project to Parishioners. The original park gate has been integrated as a feature into the information board

General Park Maintenance

A programme of maintenance has been ongoing all year including;

- Repair of fencing in the car park
- New waste bin in the car park
- Herbicide spraying of car park edges
- Herbicide spraying of Park perimeter, around trees, obstacles and park benches to reduce the amount of strimming required and making the mowing of the Park easier.
- Dog Fouling - Erewash BC are continuing regular surveillance on the Park
- The overhanging trees, shrubs and ground level vegetation in the car park has been cut back
- The wooden park gate at the Duffield Rd / Church Lane entrance is to be replaced
- The park steps leading from the car park next to the Children's Play Area are to be refurbished

Parks Hire Agreements

- Park Hire Agreements are in place with all Organisations who use Park facilities to ensure that all Parties fully understand the conditions of hire and their responsibilities, including full public liability insurance.
- Following the unfortunate demise of Little Eaton Cricket Club a Hire Agreement has been signed with Stainsby Hall Cricket Club to play their 3rd & 4th Team games on St Peters Park. This retains the cricket square and facilities to be enjoyed by all.
- The Tennis Club have jet cleaned the tennis courts and are planning to re-surface the courts in the next 12 months

Police Liaison

- The Park Working Group continue to liaise with the Police and the EBC Neighbourhood Warden to review and address any ASB issues. This is extremely useful in resolving a number of incidents and has resulted in increased patrols

Pavilion

- The CCTV system has been upgraded to improve the picture image & increase the number of cameras
- Repairs have been carried out to the Dressing Room Doors, Sports Lounge Door, Kitchen Sliding Doors and the kitchen door
- Currently reviewing the refurbishment of the corridor and dressing room floors and the dressing rooms

Church Yard

- The Church Yard is managed by a regular maintenance regime which keeps the grounds in a presentable condition. The contract has recently been awarded to Fox Landscaping Ltd
- The upper branches of the tree adjacent to the Church building have been pruned to prevent any damage to the building roof and guttering
- A new bench, donated by a Parishioner, has been installed in the Churchyard

Millennium Way

- Millennium Way is mowed regularly throughout the year
- Annual tree maintenance is undertaken of the three copses

Youth café report 2016/2017 – Councillor Machell

The Youth Cafe` is still thriving with between 20 to 40 students attending each session.

Claire Howard the current leader for the Youth Cafe` intends to stand down when the schools break up for the summer break. She has two or three mums who she hopes will step up and take her place.

I am hoping to get one of the current supporters (Parent) of the YC to come on to the Village Hall Management Committee and attend our monthly meetings. They will then have a chance to put forward any new idea`s they might have directly to the committee and feel part of the process.

Last Carnival the YC ran a tuck shop and sold burgers during carnival week raising over £300 which helped to purchase video games etc. They intend to do the same again this Carnival.

There will also be some movement on the mum`s who help support and work in a rota to make the Youth Cafe` viable. September will hopefully see the mum`s replaced who have moved on and a new Leader in place.

It is hoped then when the Youth Cafe` starts up again in September they are going to look at organising events. The climbing wall from DCC/Erewash is a possibility.

The future going forward with the Youth Cafe` looks very healthy and a real big thankyou must go to all the mum`s who turn up to help rain ,hail or shine.

There are some of the helpers who want to meet the Park Committee to look at new play equipment on the park, the meeting date has yet to be arranged.

Neighbourhood Plan Update 2017 – Councillor Williamson

Little Eaton Parish Council facilitated a session on 20th March 2017 to raise resident awareness of Neighbourhood Planning. The session was well attended with 30 residents subsequently registering with the e-mail address to be kept up to date with progress. A verbal update was presented to the March PC meeting at which Cllrs were authorised to progress with regular reports to the PC

The formal report will be presented to the PC on 26th April 2017 detailing the feedback from the Awareness Session and recommending the way forward. In addition, a proposal to 'Define the Neighbourhood Area' will be submitted to the April PC meeting. Defining the Neighbourhood Area is the first step to initiate the process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Little Eaton. The application, to Define the Neighbourhood Area, will be sent to Erewash Borough Council (EBC) and processed by the planning authority. The application is publicised (over 4 weeks) and account is taken of any representations made at an EBC Planning Committee. The result will be received no later than 8 weeks from the day after publication so potentially the PC will be notified of the decision around mid-July. Members of the current NP Planning Group also plan to be available at Little Eaton Carnival Crowning Sunday” on 25th June 2017 to engage with residents, receive suggestions and ideas on what residents want a Little Eaton NP to include, how best to communicate progress and encourage resident participation with the development of the NP.

Highways Report 2016/2017 – Councillor Williamson

Regular Quarterly reports are submitted to the Parish Council (PC), feedback is posted on the PC Web Site www.littleeatonparishcouncil.com and provided to residents in the quarterly newsletters distributed to all residences in the village

Speeding The Little Eaton Community Speedwatch Group (CSW) continue to perform Speedwatches around the village, however speeding continues to be a problem. A total of 12 CSW were arranged, however, two were cancelled as no equipment was available and four had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. There has been a significant increase in the volume of traffic passing Speedwatch locations and unfortunately over the year an increase in the number of collisions. This has meant that the village now reaches the statistics necessary for funds to be made available from the

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Collision Reduction 2017-18 budget to introduce 2 Vehicle Activated Signs on Alfreton Road

Community Speedwatch Group currently meets quarterly to discuss safety issues relating to roads, verges and pavements in the village. The link with the PC and frequency of meetings is being reviewed in 2017-18. The CSW Group will promote participation in the annual BRAKE Road Safety Campaign. Ongoing issues being progressed by the CSW Group include petitioning CREST for regular Laser Gun Checks, a Pedestrian Refuge around Morley Lane / Alfreton Road, traffic priority passing areas on Morley Lane and Duffield Road (to replace the current humps), Pedestrian Safety, inconsiderate and illegal parking around the shops which continue to be a problem.

Verges Unfortunately Derbyshire County Council do not repair verges unless the problem constitutes a Health and Safety issue. This means that damage caused by vehicles parking on or driving over the verge will not be repaired.

Morley Lane / Alfreton Road – erosion and damage by vehicles cutting the corner by driving over the verge has also placed pedestrians in danger. Derbyshire County Council refused a request for an objects license as it would reduce the visibility splay. A suitable alternative will be progressed with DCC

Alfreton Road- the Parish Council has a Cultivation License for part of Millennium Way, however not the section including the Garden Centre or at the Little Eaton Roundabout. The Parish Council has petitioned DCC to address the damage caused by delivery vans outside the Garden Centre and after regular complaints the vans parked on the verge at the roundabout have been removed and the posts replaced

Parking continues to be concern about the availability of parking in the village and inconsiderate parking continues to cause problems in and around the village. The area around the School, on the zig-zags, in the bus stop opposite the Queens Head, on the Co-Op / Newsagent Frontage and blocking drives off Alfreton Road are the main areas of concern. Police enforcement continues and the DCC enforcement team have been contacted to attend during the year.

Moor Lane / Brackley Gate Fly tipping, theft and antisocial behaviour continues to cause extensive damage to the road surface with 4 x 4's off roading through the woods destroying vegetation, causing deep ruts in the banks, exposing and driving over mature tree roots. After months of trying to engage with DCC Officers, the Parish Council registered a formal complaint with DCC regarding lack of progress. This complaint was upheld and a site meeting was finally held on 19th December 2016. Unfortunately no formal report or response from this meeting has been received despite regular, almost monthly, requests which severely limits how the PC and other interested parties can progress.

A38 - the publication of the Preferred Route Announcement was delayed again in 2016 and is now expected in summer 2017. Highways England continue to facilitate Stakeholder Reference Group meetings which have received and reviewed several alternative options from Breadsall Parish Council and Action Group. The PC considers these proposals are unacceptable to Little Eaton as they all propose movement of the roundabout towards Little Eaton, increasing the volume of concrete and reducing the possibility of mitigation planting. The PC met with Pauline Laytham M.P. to formally express its support for the Preferred Option

Bus Stops in the village were identified as requiring cleaning, removal of vegetation to allow clear access and cutting back of trees to allow sight of approaching buses. Despite several follow up's some Bus Stops still require further attention which will continue to be actioned by the PC

Pavements around the village continue to be contaminated by residents and visitors leaving dog poo on pavements. The PC is working closely with the EBC Neighbourhood Warden Team, pavement stencils and cameras are being placed to evidence fixed penalty fines to offenders

As last year, overhanging vegetation and Parking on pavements and verges continues to be a problem the Parish Council will progress with Derbyshire County Council leaving pavements for people

Charities of Thomas Bates Annual Report 2017- Bill Hutchison

Trustees : The current trustees are ;

Bill Hutchison (Chair) Tel. 831966 email bhutchison29@btinternet.com, Rev. David Barnsley Tel. 585190
Richard Bateman Tel. 831471, Councillor Carol Hart Tel. 01159 322513
Janet Love Tel. 842098, Dr. Barbara Leyland Tel. 840707, Peter Griffiths Tel. 558336

Grants : Grants are awarded to Little Eaton residents or organisations who may be in need of financial assistance and any requests will be considered by the trustees. In the last 12 months no grants have been awarded to individuals but the Local History Society has received a payment.

Almshouses : The 3 almshouses in Church Lane are owned and maintained by the Trust and are currently occupied by 3 elderly residents. In the last twelve months the tenant at No. 5 moved to a nursing home and a new tenant has moved in.

In the interim period the house was redecorated throughout, new carpets and kitchen flooring were laid and electrical alterations carried out. Further work to the footpath has been carried out to complete the repair work outside the properties.

Contact : Enquiries about grants or any information about the Trust should be made to the Chairman or any of the Trustees.

Annual General Meeting : The AGM of the Trust which any resident is welcome to attend will be held in later in the year on a date to be announced.

Finance Group Report 2016/2017- Councillor B Adams

The audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2017 are presented.

Little Eaton Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 2016/2017

Opening Balance Natwest 203	1.4.16	29,820.71
Opening Balance Natwest 171	1.4.16	16,693.73
Sub Total		46,514.44
Income received Natwest 203	2016/2017	10.20
Income received Natwest 171	2016/2017	40,140.30
Sub Total		40,150.50
Expenditure	2016/2017	46,371.12
Closing Balance Natwest 203	31.3.17	29,830.91
Closing Balance Natwest 171	31.3.17	10,462.91
		40,293.82
Closing Balance per cashbook	31.3.17	40,293.82

We continue to identify and implement improvement programmes throughout the Parish and welcome proposals from parishioners.

Noticeboards in the village have been refurbished and are now more acceptable to drawing pins having had a durable but much softer surface applied.

Support for Little Eaton in Bloom continues with a maintenance programme for the wildlife area on the Park and annual grants towards winter and summer planting plus supporting a project to improve Croft Corner.

Refurbishment of the children's play area on the Park and painting of the surrounding railings has been completed with the help of an EBC grant. Also, increased security in this area has been achieved with enhanced CCTV equipment.

A programme is planned to improve the steps from the car park to the park by some re-aligning and more even spacing of the steps. This will be completed this year.

Contracts for the annual maintenance work around the village have been reviewed and renewed for 2017 and 2018 and represent considerable increases on current values. These include Croft Corner, Millennium Way, the Park Bank and the Churchyard.

However the Parish Council continue to take advantage of financial grants where possible and recommended no increase in the precept for this year despite another decrease in the EBC concurrent function budget.

Erewash Councillor report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2017 Councillors A Stevenson & A Summerfield

As in previous years, let's begin with the subject that affects all Council Tax payers. Council tax has changed this year. A band D rated house pays a total of £1640.75 (an increase of £56.42 (3.56%)) made up as follows:-

- £175.91 (up £5 (2.93%) to Erewash,
- £1211.66 (up £56.43 (3.99%)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £180.60 (up £3.53 (1.99%)) to the Police Authority.
- £72.58 (up £1.40 (1.98%)) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.50 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 49.5 pence a day for all the services that Erewash provides.

Abey Stevenson has been our Mayor for the last year with his wife Anne as Mayoress and they have been very busy doing excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries. Mary Hopkinson as Deputy Mayor for the last year is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 18th May

The Erewash annual auditor is Ernst and Young and their inspection confirms the previous audit last year by KPMG showing that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. Erewash must be doing something right since two different auditors have come to similar conclusions. We note that the Borough is still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have done excellent work to shield the electorate from the full impact of this to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all. It has become increasingly difficult to find more spending cuts without impacting services and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 for the current year 2017/2018 as noted above.

There have been many successful projects in the Borough over the past year and we had considerable success in obtaining external funding for many of them. Unsurprisingly these are predominantly in Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the most densely populated areas. Some of the highlights are:-

- The Councillor Community Grant Scheme has been used by us to benefit worthy causes in Little Eaton, Breadsall, Morley and Stanley.
- Borough car park charges have been changed slightly again but some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit www.ereash.gov.uk for specific details.
- The bandstand in Victoria Park has been refurbished and brought back into regular use although there was one occasion that it suffered unauthorised use by vandals.
- The Erewash in Bloom competition has proved to be popular across the Borough and will continue running this year

There has been yet another new Police Inspector for our area and to date we seem to be getting a better service with the changes he introduced. .

A future event that may be of interest is a 'fly-by' of a Wellington bomber and possibly a Spitfire escort has been organised by the Royal British legion to commemorate the crash of a Wellington near Stanley during WWII. This is timed to co-ordinate with the annual Stanley Gala on the 1st July after a service at Stanley Church. It has been approved by the RAF but will only be confirmed nearer the date.