

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"I would like to welcome you to this Annual Parish Meeting and thank you again for coming.

In my last report I talked about Burton parish surveys. Out of this came the Burton Parish Plan, ably compiled by Councillor Paul Rogers. From this was produced an action plan highlighting the subjects of concern. There were then put separately on the agenda of our monthly meetings and widely discussed although this process is not complete as there are some twenty-six items. Most have been resolved, some are ongoing and some, like the Youth Shelter for instance, are proving difficult.

This year saw the invasion of the Wheelie Bins and we spent a lot of time at Waste Management meetings, making suggestions and urging caution and apart from a small number of people and a few difficult locations, the system seems to be working, just!

As part of our continuing maintenance programme it was decided that Burton playing field be given a major renovation. All equipment was examined and repairs where necessary and the climbing frame was taken away, shot blasted, painted and restored. The landing area by the roundabout and swings were expanded to conform to new safety regulations and new soft surfaces laid. At this point I want to thank Councillor Bob Mason who, with me as apprentice, organised and supervised the whole operation. Thanks go to all the volunteers, especially Richard Duckett, Ian and Daniel Herd and Edmond Wightman for their help, they were terrific. It was particularly nice to see Richard Duckett on his digger, freely giving his time expanding the safety areas that his father, Ted, had dug out so many years before.

Throughout the year Councillors have attended various training and information courses and also attended and reported on meetings such as Burton Recreation Trust, The Quarry Nature Reserve Committee, The Neighbourhood Forum, Memorial Hall Committee, The Canal Trust, Burton Education Foundation and the Cumbria Association of Local Councils and I am sure I have missed a few. Councillors Kath Unsworth and Jane Hopwood served on the Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee and as I reported last year have gained access to the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund. This grant was awarded to English Nature, and from a list put together by Jane and approved by the Parish Council, have funded the planting of trees within areas of Council owned land, the building of a new dry stonewall alongside the quarry boundary on Clawthorpe Lane, making Dalton Crag more accessible to the public, produced information leaflets and helped with the maintenance of our local nature reserve, in all seventeen projects in and around Burton were undertaken including the transformation of Plains Quarry into, I think, a terrific and very impressive amenity area. These projects and others have been administered by Paul Rogers who took on the post of part-time Project Officer and has done a great job.

The Parish Council is represented on the Burton Morewood School governing body and has helped organise an anti-litter campaign by providing stickers and

a new waste bin at the school entrance. A competition was arranged to name the pathway which runs alongside the school field and the winners were photographed unveiling the sign, although the name, Caterpillar Walk, did not at first meet with universal approval. The Council also provided 50% of the cost of the CCTV. Cameras were installed to cut down on vandalism and this seems to be working well.

In trawling back through last year's minutes I think maybe we can claim a Burton World record in that I find not one mention of dog mess, so well done the dogs!

We are also kept up to date with changes locally, for instance we were informed that The Kings Arms would get a new licensee in July and the Royal would get one in September, November, January, February and would you believe, two in May.

At our monthly meetings we continue to deal with a wide variety of subjects. We have considered 34 planning applications as opposed to 45 the year before. The big disappointment was the rejection by SLDC of the development at Clawthorpe Hall on the grounds that there should be no new housing until 2006. However, it was passed as a Joiners Shop and work units, with our approval.

We continue to press for new pavements, drain and pot hole repairs, and a curb on inappropriate advertising, The plantation by the Motorway, while still needing drainage ditches clearing, has had 1700 replacement trees planted and we have been conducting a long campaign to get rid of the flooding at Clawthorpe which seems to be having some success. When dealing with local authorities, things move slowly but if you keep pushing they do move.

This year I have to express my appreciation to more people than is normal. I would first like to say how grateful I am to Roger Bingham for his continuing interest and support I want to thank Janet Alderson your parish Clerk for all her hard work. The bad news is she has decided to resign and will be very hard to replace but the good news is she is joining us as a Councillor so her experience will not be lost.

Finally as you may know, we have five Councillors leaving us in June. Because of the number I am leaving their individual records to the Burton News but it should be noted that between them. Councillors Kath Unsworth, Kath Hayhurst, Bob Mason, Ken Thorp and Paul Rossi have over eighty years of dedicated public service, a magnificent record and on behalf of Burton I would like to thank them all and thank you all for listening".