

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 24.05.07

I would like to begin by reflecting on some of the Council's many achievements on what has been another busy and productive year.

Significant improvements have been made to Woody Heights, the Skate Park, including soundproofing, installing a limestone path, a new gate and more landscaping.

In the old cemetery, a community team from the Probation Service has been busy on most Mondays clearing away the mess of old vegetation, nettle beds, overgrown ivy, painting the railings black and carrying out a much needed tidy up.

The Allotments continue to be much in demand, and we have a long waiting list of prospective plot holders.

A new bus shelter has been installed in the Spalding Road, bringing the number of bus shelters in the Parish up to ten. New information display boards have also been installed.

Three smart new litter bins have been put on the river bank near the bridge, and another at Low Locks.

As far as the Leisure Centre is concerned, continued pressure during the year has brought about some improvements and a greater commitment from the District Council and Leisure Connections to bring forward long overdue changes in the management structure and a willingness to make it into a facility we can be proud of.

Peterborough City Council has the responsibility of maintaining the stone bridge and they have at last responded to our requests to carry out repairs to the parapet and to replace the existing ineffective bollards with four bell bollards.

Through the Grant Aid scheme we have again been able to support a number of community groups.

Moving on to personnel, we welcomed Stuart Wallis to the Council in June. We have continued to part-fund a Police Community Support Officer. Chris Clark has been with us almost a year, long enough to become a familiar figure around the Parish, and to have made an impact. We have continued also with the employment of Maurice Thorpe, our Maintenance Operative.

A quarterly newsletter has been distributed throughout the Parish, and the Deepings Gateway Website has also been maintained. Both have now become established and essential channels of communication between the Council and Parishioners.

Looking forward to this year, we have set money aside to improve the run down area in front of the Manor Court Shops. We also intend to install CCTV at the Thacker's Way Shops, and possibly also at Woody Heights. We are planning at least two campaigns, the first anti-litter, and the second a safer driving/get walking/cycling initiative. We have begun negotiations also with LCC Highways over the installation of a cycle path in 2008 from the Deepings School down to the new housing developments in Frognell.

The usual schedule of meetings has been maintained, monthly Council and regular Committee meetings. Many of our Councillors also represent us on outside bodies.

Finally, I should like to thank my Vice-Chairman, Andy Pelling, and all our Councillors for their hard work, support and good advice during my first year as Chairman. I should also like to thank our Parish Clerk, Sheila Kostyrka, who has proved to be not just a brilliant administrator but whose unflinching enthusiasm has been a great asset to the Council.

Thank you for listening.

Jim Blessett

