

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/15



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS AND THE WARDS THEY REPRESENT

NARBOROUGH & LITTLETHORPE

Mr Malcolm Ballard	11 Foxglove Close, Narborough LE19 3ER	2861507
Mr Tom Bates	111 Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HW	2752656
Mr Gary Cole	26 Princess Street, Narborough LE19 2DH	2863360
Mr Olly Curran	The Greenlands, Forest Rd, Narborough LE19 3LD	2865045
Mr Barry Garner	7 Riverside Court, Littlethorpe LE19 2PT	2867362
Mr Russ Murch	22 Maple Tree Walk, Littlethorpe LE19 2JX	08455 5193040
Mr Kim Richardson	107 Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HW	2849450
Mr Derek Ross	6 Church View, Narborough LE19 2GY	2848810
Mrs Pauline Thomas	66 Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GB	2863641
Mr Alan West	14a Copt Oak Road, Narborough LE19 3EF	2866374
Mr John Williamson	42 Warwick Road, Littlethorpe LE19 2JA	2867562
Mr Steve Woodcock	82 Leicester Road, Narborough LE19 2DG	2867257

THE PASTURES

Mrs Alison Clark	30 Ratcliffe Drive, Huncote LE19 3BA	2866622
Mrs Pat Harrison	55 Hardwicke Road, Narborough LE19 5LW	2750730
Mr Guy Jackson	67 The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3DY	2864382
Mr George Marsh	34 The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3FU	2841930
Mr Trevor Matthews	7 Hemlock Close, Narborough LE19 2SX	2750672
Mrs Val Moore	6 Browning Street, Narborough LE19 3EE	2865759
Mr Terry Richardson	21 The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3DS	2867024

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 19th MAY 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Councillor Mr Terence Richardson

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this Annual Report highlighting the achievements of the Parish Council during the year May 2014 – 2015. I have been a councillor now for over 25 years and am just completing my second year as Chairman. It has been a real privilege to serve the people of Narborough and Littlethorpe and following the recent elections I am pleased that I shall be able to continue to do so.

Firstly I should like to thank all those councillors who have decided to stand down at the recent election for the commitment and work they have put in on behalf of local residents and to thank all those who continue to serve the local community. We start the new four year council term with four vacancies for councillors and I would urge anyone in the community who may be interested to contact the Office for more information and to discuss their eligibility.

The Parish Council has changed greatly since I first joined but its purpose has remained the same, namely to serve the residents of the Parish and through the work it does make Narborough and Littlethorpe a great place in which to live and work. This can only be achieved with the support of the Parishioners and with the help and assistance of my fellow councillors. We are all volunteers who give our time freely and without receiving payment.

Parish councils have considerable powers should they choose to exercise them and have the ability to raise funds through a precept that forms a portion of the council tax we all pay. We therefore have to exercise great care in the decisions we make, working within a closely regulated framework to become ever more 'professional'.

No organisation can run efficiently without the support of its staff and our team, led by our Parish Clerk, Trena, ably assisted by her Deputy, Julie, has once again done a superb job. We have done a great deal of work during the last twelve months in looking at the staffing needed to run an efficient operation and I am pleased to report that we now have a full complement of staff, all of whom have the necessary skills to carry out their roles to a standard envied by similar organisations and I should like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

It is important that the Parish continues to move forward and we have made great strides in recent years. I reported last year that our depot in the cemetery was long past its sell by date. Whilst there has undoubtedly been some disruption, which we have tried to minimise, I am delighted to report that we now have a new building that will meet the Parish's needs for many years to come and ensure that our staff have the proper facilities from which to operate.

The Parish Assets Working Group are now moving forward with the task of looking at a total re-build of the Parish Centre, as once again we need a facility that can meet the needs of our residents. We will keep you all advised of progress and all being well aim to start the building work in the second quarter of 2016.

The appearance of more hanging baskets in the summer, followed by their replacement with illuminated Christmas trees for the festive period, provoked a very positive response from residents. The only slight criticism was could we have put up even more. Like all councils we try to spend tax payers' money wisely so felt we had reached a reasonable compromise on numbers and locations but we will investigate the options of possible sponsorship to see if we can increase the number for this year.

Apart from the obvious Parish Council meetings and the extra Working Group meetings, during the year I have also attended or officiated at several functions on behalf of the Parish Council, some of which are highlighted below:

September 2014 – Village Show

Our flagship event, where entries were again in line with previous years. As always our thanks go to a small team who take on the organisational duties.

September 2014 – Blaby District Council Annual Church Service

This year's service was held at All Saints Church in Narborough where, accompanied by my wife, I had the pleasure of representing the Parish Council.

November 2014 - Remembrance Sunday

I was disappointed that a personal engagement prevented me from laying the poppy wreaths at the ceremonies in both Narborough and Littlethorpe on behalf of the Parish but one of my fellow councillors took on this role. The services seem to be better attended every year and show that the whole community truly values the sacrifices made by previous generations on our behalf. I trust that those who attended the service in Narborough will have noted the additional plaques added to the memorial to recognise those who have fallen since the end of the Second World War.

December 2014 – Blaby District Council Carol Service

A great event as always but a little bit strange for me, as rather than being by my side my wife was singing in the choir.

December 2014 – The 9 Lessons and Carol Service

Held at All Saints Church it was a real privilege to be asked to give one of the readings in my capacity of Chairman. Father Alan Hawker and his wife Elizabeth are great supporters of all the community events that take place in the Parish so it was a real pleasure to be able to reciprocate.

February 2015 - "Chairman's at Home"

This annual event was attended by 90+ people who had been invited in recognition of the work that they do within the local community. It was pleasing to note that the event was attended by our now MP, Alberto Costa, and David Clements, the Chairman of Blaby District Council.

We remember the passing of those stalwarts of the community who have given so much without asking for anything in return and with the presentation of the Jubilee Cup and Millennium Cup recognise those who are keeping that tradition of local community service very much alive.

Cllr Terry Richardson
Chairman 2014-2015

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Much of the work of the Parish Council is conducted through a variety of Working Groups. Regular meetings are arranged as required where members can discuss and research ideas. Recommendations are then brought to full Council for approval.

Reports on the work of these Working Groups follows:-

CIVICS (Annual Awards, Village Show, Crime & Disorder)

Annual awards

Jubilee Cup – awarded to under 18 year olds, this year had two recipients in Georgia Dobson and Alex Whitehouse for their efforts in raising the funding to make the trip to Johannesburg with Brockington College in the summer of 2014, their applications for Council support, their excellent work whilst in Johannesburg and their superb presentation to Council on their return.

Millennium Cup – awarded to a person or persons over 18, this year presented to Alan Jones and Linda Kirby for their work to support the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Working Group, including warden duties at Thorpe Meadow, litter-picking at various sites and growing on and planting out of trees, shrubs and plants on the Council's behalf.

Annual Village Show

The high level of entries continues. The Parish Council is grateful for the continuing sponsorship and support for this annual event by local businesses.

COUNCIL REVIEW (Quality Council, promotional materials, The Journal, leaflets and local information)

Whilst the members of this group do not meet on a regular basis, they continue to work extremely hard through The Journal and our website and other media to ensure that the public are kept fully informed of the activities of the Parish Council.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES (Narborough Park, Littlethorpe Park, Hardwicke Road Play Area, Six-Acre Field, Thorpe Meadows & Cemetery.)

The boardwalk between Thorpe Meadow and Littlethorpe Park was replaced this year with a hardwearing composite structure which should last for many years to come. The footpath from the Black Pad entrance to Narborough Park alongside the children's play area has been replaced with a tarmac slope to enable easy access to the play area for all users. Various other works are ongoing in our open spaces which continue to be improved by our team of staff, comprising maintenance operatives and parish orderlies.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (planning applications, strategic district/county planning consultations)

All applications on which we are consulted are thoroughly explored and carefully deliberated. The members of the Working Group put in a huge amount of unseen work and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Decisions on applications are made by the Planning Authority at Blaby District Council and any consultation observations made by the Parish Council have to be on planning grounds only.

POLICY & FINANCE (Finance, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Health & Safety, Freedom of Information, Code of Conduct, devolved responsibilities & emergency planning)

Much of the work of this group is carried out in consultation with the Clerk. The Clerk will ensure that the Parish Council remains up to date with regards to Government policy.

The group meets on a regular basis to revisit and update all policies as well as setting the annual precept requirements. The Precept for 2014/15 was set at £198,050. This represented a small increase on the previous year and after taking into account new residents is a less than 1% increase overall.

PARISH ASSETS DEVELOPMENT (Redevelopment of facilities at the Cemetery and the Parish Centre)

The new work shop/storage facilities in the Cemetery have been installed and the staff facilities completely refurbished. Currently palisade fencing is being erected around the working site to provide additional security and once finished and planted will bring a softer look to this area.

The group is now considering new ideas to demolish and rebuild the Parish Centre to provide a modern complex of hall, meeting rooms and Parish office.

PROPERTY (Parish Centre & Littlethorpe Village Hall, Parish improvements (not included within parks & playgrounds))

Regular maintenance is carried out at both halls to ensure they remain available for lettings to our residents and others.

CLOSED CHURCHYARD at All Saints' Parish Church

It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the closed churchyard. Urgent work was undertaken to remove the pillar at the entrance gate and Cllr Ross has been in constant contact with the Diocese to arrange the rebuild of the pillar. The Council has recently been granted permission to do so and now awaits a mutually convenient date for the contract to be carried out. Significant additional work will need to be undertaken in this location going forward as both the wall and paving will require maintenance in the near future.

APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

The Parish is represented on several external bodies by various Councillors, these are;-

Leicestershire & Rutland Association for Local Councils
Narborough & Littlethorpe Sports Association
Narborough Quarry Landfill Site Liaison Committee
Narborough & Littlethorpe Twinning Association
Community Forum

FROM THE OFFICE

So, 2014 closed with the anticipated excitement of an election.

Unfortunately, even before the country went to the polls on 7 May we already knew that there would be no elections for Parish Councillors; there just were not enough candidates to make this possible.

However, we thank those that have left us this year and understand that life brings other priorities that need dealing with first and we welcome back those fourteen Members that did stand again. We also look forward to co-opting 4 other members of the community in the forthcoming months.

2014/15 was a year of great change in the Cemetery, with a new building finally being installed to allow our team a useful, well equipped home to work from. After enduring several months of upheaval and mess the team is now happily ensconced in new premises and is gradually working on bringing the grounds up to an even better standard than before.

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff, comprising a Parish Orderly dedicated to looking after "The Pastures" side of the Parish and a Parish Maintenance Operative who brings some useful skills to the maintenance team. You may have noticed, if you are a user of the Recreation Ground, one of the team's first successful tasks to replace the fencing alongside the cricket ground.

Many of our residents and indeed others passing through our villages have made very pleasing comments on our roundabout flowerbeds and the bed outside the Parish Centre, all part of the tasks which our team undertakes with great pride.

We aim to work gradually through all our open spaces and facilities to ensure a better parish for us all.

Since the end of March we have launched a new parish website www.narboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk which is provided by 2Commune, and Julie and I are very pleased to be able to use our new email addresses clerk@narboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk and deputyclerk@narboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk. It is a long process moving our documentation over and we hope you will understand that it will take some time to have everything available. In the meantime, if you require anything urgently please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

As usual we continue to open on weekday mornings and look forward to meeting with you all when you visit.

Trena Heggs, Clerk to the Parish Council and Julie Whitehouse, Deputy Clerk

11.5.15

EXTRACT FROM THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

EXTRACT FROM THE LATEST AUDITED END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2013-14

INCOME	£	
Balances B/fwd	89,420	1. B/fwd from 2012/13
Annual Precept	186,670	
Total Other Receipts	50,781	3. Income from all services
TOTAL INCOME	326,871	
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	124,421	4. Salaries, wages, PAYE, NI & pension contributions
Loan Repayments	0	
Total Other Payments	67,860	6. Payments for goods, services and operational costs
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	192,281	
Balance c/fwd to 2014/15	134,590	7. Year end balances
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	136,014	8. Cash & Bank Reserves
TOTAL FIXED & LONG TERM ASSETS	809,626	9. Including buildings, equipment & machinery
TOTAL BORROWINGS	0	

Details taken from the Annual Return to 31st March 2014

Approved by the Council's External Auditors:
Grant Thornton UK LLP
Royal Liver Building
Liverpool
L3 1PS

Notice of conclusion of Audit and Electors right to inspect accounts
Published 22 August 2014