

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Report
2015 - 16**

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS AND THE WARDS THEY REPRESENT

NARBOROUGH & LITTLETHORPE

Mr Malcolm Ballard	5 Snowdrop Close, Narborough LE19 3YB	2861507
Mr Tom Bates	111 Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HW	2752656
Mr Richard Chapman	Charnwood, Langham Drive, Narborough LE19 3EY	2866316
Mrs Janet Forey	9 Spring Gardens, Littlethorpe LE19 2JH	3679599
Mrs Eileen Hersey	19 Carlton Avenue, Narborough LE19 2DE	2865931
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 Mary Allen	37 Drummond Road, Enderby LE19 4QL	2866780
Mrs Alison Clark	30 Ratcliffe Drive, Huncote LE19 3BA	2866622
Mr Olly Curran	The Greenlands, Forest Rd, Narborough LE19 3LD	2865045
Mrs Pat Harrison	55 Hardwicke Road, Narborough LE19 5LW	2750730
Mr Guy Jackson	67 The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3DY	2864382
Mr Trevor Matthews	7 Hemlock Close, Narborough LE19 2SX	2750672
Mr Terry Richardson	21 The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3DS	2867024

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING 17th MAY 2016

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 2015 – 2016. I have been a councillor now for over 25 years and am just completing my third and final year as Chairman. It has been a real privilege to serve the people of Narborough and Littlethorpe and I will continue in this vein fully supporting our new Chairman.

Firstly as I reflect back not just on last year but also on the previous two I should like to think that I have carried on in the tradition of my predecessors by finishing my time as Chairman with the work, facilities and presence of the Council being further enhanced.

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. 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 any payment and I should like to express my personal thanks to all my fellow councillors for the tireless work they do on behalf of the community.

Parish Councils have considerable powers should they choose to exercise them and 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 and to work within a closely regulated framework and 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 in looking at the staff we require to run an efficient operation and I am confident that with the current team we now have all the necessary skills to maintain and enhance the look of the Parish to a standard envied by similar organisations. I should like to thank them all; not just for their hard work and dedication, but also for the creative suggestions they make to further improve our facilities.

I reported last year that the new depot in the Cemetery was now up and running. It provides a building that will meet the Parish's needs for many years to come and ensures that our staff have the proper facilities. Work continues to blend the building into its surroundings and the disruption and damage caused during its construction has largely been negated. Clearly more needs to be done and councillors are working on a comprehensive scheme to further improve the look of the Cemetery.

The Parish Assets Working Group has continued to move forward with the task of looking at a total re-build of the Parish Centre, providing a facility that meets the needs of our residents. A great deal of work has been done over the last twelve months and as I leave office I am delighted to say that our vision could soon

become a reality; we await the decision of the Planning Authority to secure the necessary planning permission.

The future of the library now looks secure through the work done by a dedicated group of local residents. The Council will continue to support their efforts going forward.

The decision to provide more hanging baskets in the summer followed by their replacement with illuminated Christmas trees continues to meet with the approval of our residents

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 2015 – Village Show

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

November 2015 - Remembrance Sunday

I was honoured to represent the Parish in laying the poppy wreaths at the ceremonies in both Narborough and Littlethorpe. This is a very humbling duty to take on and reminds me of the reasons why I, and my fellow councillors and staff, continue to serve the community and protect that legacy. 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. Our staff continue to keep the monuments looking their best.

December 2015 – 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 2015 – 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 as Chairman. Father Alan Hawker and his wife Elizabeth are great supporters of all the community events which take place in the Parish so it was a real pleasure to be able to reciprocate.

February 2016 - “Chairman’s at Home”

This annual event was attended by 90+ people who had been invited for the work that they do within the local community. It was pleasing to note that the event was attended by our MP, Alberto Costa, and the Chairman of Blaby District Council, Marion Broomhead. This is an event that recognises the contribution that members of the local community make on a daily basis. It was a wonderful evening which demonstrated to me that the community spirit is alive and well and it was great to provide a special award to Jessie and John Pickard for many years of dedicated service.

Cllr Terry Richardson
Chairman 2015 – 2016

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 by the Lead Members of these Working Groups follow:-

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

Annual Awards

Jubilee Cup – it was disappointing that we had no nominations this year but we continue to urge members of the community to bring potential winners to our attention.

Millennium Cup – awarded to Roger Beck for his contribution to the Scouting movement in the parish.

Annual Village Show

As always, a great event and a very enjoyable day. This is an event we are dedicated to retaining and growing.

COUNCIL REVIEW (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)

Another year where a lot of activity has taken place.

We are in the process of replacing all our bins with larger, more hygienic and robust bins which are more resistant to animal predation and vandalism and which quite frankly look better. Further work on our playgrounds continues with new or replacement equipment being installed in both Hardwicke Road and Littlethorpe Parks. The safety surfaces in all parks continue to be renewed or repaired.

In the Cemetery we have had all the trees surveyed to ensure public safety. Regrettably it will be necessary to remove some trees. We have continued to improve the roadways and the staff have made a major contribution with building flowerbeds and carrying out additional planting.

Like all parishes we continue to suffer from acts of vandalism and we would ask all residents to report any incidents to ourselves and the police.

CLOSED CHURCHYARD

Urgent work was undertaken to the wall at the closed churchyard and significant additional work will need to be carried out in this location going forward. The pier at the entrance to the church has finally been rebuilt.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (Planning Applications, Strategic District/County Planning Consultations)

We have an excellent team and all applications are thoroughly researched and considered. The members put in a huge amount of unseen work to ensure, where possible, only appropriate development takes place. The group has been instrumental in securing developer contributions to ensure that the Parish has the financial capacity to meet increased needs. As one small example such funding has paid for the replacement bins and the enhancements to the playgrounds mentioned earlier.

POLICY & FINANCE (Finance, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Health & Safety, Freedom of Information, Code of Conduct, Devolved Responsibilities and Emergency Planning)

Much of the work of this group is done working closely with the Clerk. The Clerk will ensure that the Parish Council remains up to date with current legislation.

The group is working on new agreements for the use of its facilities with both the Football and Cricket Clubs and these should be concluded in the near future.

The group meets on a regular basis to review and update all policies as well as setting the annual precept requirements. The Precept for 2016/17 has been set at £233,250. This represents an overall increase of 15.47% on 2015/16. This increase is largely as a result of the need to rebuild the parish centre but financial planning will ensure that there should not be a need for an increase of this nature going forward.

PROPERTY (Parish Centre, Littlethorpe Village Hall, Parish Improvements)

Christmas Lighting

For the second year we have received a universally favourable response with the 'trees' bringing a smile to the faces of all. Let us hope we can make this a permanent tradition.

Notice Boards

Our team have done, and continue to do, a great job in ensuring that these are in great shape to inform residents of what is taking place.

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

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRACT FROM THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2014/15

INCOME	£	
Balances B/fwd	134,590	1. B/fwd from 2013/14
Annual Precept	198,050	
Total Other Receipts	158,779	3. Income from all services
TOTAL INCOME	491,419	
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	118,147	4. Salaries, wages, PAYE, NI & pension contributions
Loan Repay ments	0	
Total Other Payments	206,144	6. Payments for goods, services and operational costs
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	324,291	
Balance c/fwd to 2015/16	167,127	7. Year end balances
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	168,484	8. Cash & Bank Reserves
TOTAL FIXED & LONG TERM ASSETS	885,878	9. Including buildings, equipment & machinery
TOTAL BORROWINGS	100,000	

T. Heggs
Responsible Financial Officer

Details taken from the Annual Return to 31st March 2015

Approved by the Council's External Auditors:

Grant Thornton UK LLP
Royal Liver Building
Liverpool
L3 1PS

Notice of conclusion of Audit 1st July 2015

Electors' right to inspect unaudited accounts published 24th April 2015