

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Report
2016 - 17**

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 S Gamble	10 Herdsmans Close, Littlethorpe LE19 2AE	2750628
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 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 16th MAY 2017

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

I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of Narborough Parish Council in the year 2016/17. This is my annual report to the Council.

The big project for the Council has been the plan to re-build the Parish Centre in Narborough. Plans were drawn up and planning permission was finally obtained in June. The new building will be larger than the present one, and the design is quite dramatic and yet in keeping with the old village centre. We have secured long-term Government borrowing to finance this project, we have acquired some additional land from Blaby District Council, and we have temporarily re-located the Parish Council office into Blaby District Council's building whilst the demolition and re-construction takes place. As this report goes out, the contractors have been appointed and the demolition of the existing building should be underway soon. When the new Parish Centre is completed in 2018, it will be a modern and multi-use facility to serve the two villages.

We have reorganised the office staff hours in a way that benefits both the Council and our Clerk and Deputy Clerk, and we are currently reviewing their job roles and pay scales.

In our parks, open spaces and flower gardens our grounds staff have carried out tree maintenance and planting schemes, in addition to the usual mowing, litter picking and clearance work. The sensory garden at Narborough Park is to be refurbished as a flower garden and it is hoped to put the plaque from the old shelter there. Regrettably, again this year, acts of vandalism by a selfish minority at all of our sites have been an unwelcome distraction. We ask residents who witness any anti-social behavior to report it to the Police.

The cemetery is still undergoing a programme of improvement. We have tidied up a number of areas, repainted the wrought iron fencing and made a few gravestones safer. The area around the war memorial has been opened up and new memorial benches placed there; it looks much improved. This work continues into 2017. At the same time we are also reviewing the cemetery rules and regulations to see if any changes need to be made to bring them up to date.

We also improve the environment of our 2 villages with hanging baskets, flower beds and planters. We are looking at providing a street map board in the centre of Narborough village. We are also supporting a local resident who is pressuring the rail companies to improve both our train service and our station.

The Reality Youth Bus visited Narborough Park throughout the year during term time and the Wheels Mobile Skate Park provided welcome entertainment over the summer. The Council continues to provide free space for our younger people to enjoy the youth bus and the skate park, and I welcome this and any further ideas for youth provision. This summer we are planning a youngsters' fun day on the park, as we will not be able to accommodate the skate park due to space restrictions.

Still on the community theme, the Village Show was organised by Councillors and staff in September and was another successful event. Although entries were slightly down on the previous year, the quality was still high and this show is now a major event in our year. In addition, the library in Narborough passed from the County Council to a community volunteer group in October, and is now a well-managed community-run library, thanks to these local volunteers.

I was proud to be at the annual Remembrance Service in Littlethorpe in November. As always there were many local people there, young and old, to commemorate our local men and women who served, and fell, in the wars to protect our freedom. We will never forget.

Special thanks to our Vice Chairman for attending the Services at both Narborough and Littlethorpe and laying wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council. At the moment the names on the Littlethorpe memorial are incomplete and described incorrectly so, during 2017, the Council needs to decide what to do to correct this.

Both Narborough and Littlethorpe have suffered more large-scale housing development. Our villages continue to grow in size and population, although the local facilities do not always grow with them. As a Council we have resisted some development, but it is an ongoing fight against Government targets to build more and more housing. Like so many other villages, we are in danger of changing from traditional village communities to dormitory towns and we must continue to work to keep our communities alive.

We have still not completed and signed off the proposed new leases with the football and cricket clubs, who play at the Council-owned sports and recreation ground. This has been a personal frustration for me for years as the first draft was drawn up in 2013, and since then has been back and forth between the Council, our legal advisors and the sports clubs. I believe that we are close to completion now, following which we will hand over the remaining cricket buildings to the cricket club, and let both clubs manage their own buildings and the Council's grounds. I will continue to argue for the Council to provide for and support sport and recreation in the parish, especially for our younger people, as I believe that it is a very beneficial use of public money.

The Parish Council also provides and manages 2 village halls, 3 parks and open spaces, 3 play areas, a sports and recreation ground, a cemetery, an allotment site, a natural meadow, 2 memorials and many notice boards, benches and bins. These are managed from the office and maintained by our grounds staff, and I would like to thank our Clerk, our Deputy Clerk, and all of our grounds staff for their hard work throughout the year, not to mention having to work with the Councillors! Our staff all have a great 'can do' attitude and find ways to get the job done.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman Alison Clark for standing in for me on occasion, our Working Group leaders, fellow Councillors and staff for their support throughout the year. I'm sure that the residents of our two villages appreciate what we do.

During the year I attended:

Sunday 12th June: Choral Evensong for Queen's 90th Birthday, Leicester Cathedral

Saturday 2nd July: Blaby District Council's Chairman's Afternoon Tea

Monday 11th July: Leicestershire County Council's Annual Parish Seminar, County Hall: we talked about Highways, budget cuts and emergency planning

Saturday 30th July: Littlethorpe Gala, a nice sunny day

Tuesday 30th August: Annual meeting with Narborough & Littlethorpe Leisure Gardeners' Association, who appreciated the good working relationship with the Council

Sunday 18th September: Blaby District Council's Civic Service at Blaby Methodist Church

Sunday 2nd October: County Civic Service at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Wednesday 5th October: Blaby District Council's Planning Seminar

Saturday 29th October: Narborough & Littlethorpe Community Library's official re-opening

Sunday 13th November: Littlethorpe Remembrance Service

Wednesday 7th December: Blaby District Council's Carol Service

The Vice-Chairman attended on my behalf:

Saturday 11th June: Narborough & Littlethorpe Community Library's Summer Fayre at Parish Centre

Monday 20th June: Raising of Flag for Armed Forces Day, Blaby District Council

Sunday 13th November: Narborough Remembrance Service and Littlethorpe Remembrance Service

Kim Richardson, Chairman
Narborough Parish Council

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2015/16

INCOME	£	
Balances B/fwd	167,127	1. B/fwd from 2014/15
Annual Precept	202,000	
Total Other Receipts	91,356	3. Income from all services
TOTAL INCOME	460,483	
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	135,398	4. Salaries, wages, PAYE, NI & pension contributions
Loan Repayments	8,198	
Total Other Payments	157,719	6. Payments for goods, services and operational costs
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	301,315	
Balance c/fwd to 2016/17	159,168	7. Year end balances
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	163,090	8. Cash & Bank Reserves
TOTAL FIXED & LONG TERM ASSETS	932,295	9. Including buildings, equipment & machinery
TOTAL BORROWINGS	94,544	

T. Heggs
Responsible Financial Officer

Details taken from the Annual Return to 31st March 2016

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

Notice of conclusion of Audit 28th September 2016
Electors' right to inspect unaudited accounts published 2nd June 2016