



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2012**

### **THANKS**

Thanks once again to my fellow councillors Frank Blackburn, Jack Davie, Kath Walton, Sue White, Phil Gerrard & John Watson for each contributing their time, energy, skills, enthusiasm and good humour for another year. My appreciation, also, to the continued excellent, dedicated and professional contribution of Keith Leppingwell, our parish clerk.

### **PROJECTS**

This year has seen some of our projects successfully implemented.

The Daffodil Field Park is now open and planted and we hope this first open public space in the village will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Our allotment site off Whitefield Lane has been fully subscribed and is without doubt an unqualified success, a great example of what this parish council can achieve to support the local community and environment. The council continues to oversee other play areas around the village and the nature reserve on Gravel Hill Lane, and looks to promote and protect the local footpath network and local history.

We have also achieved our objective of installing two vehicle activated traffic speed signs which everyone here asked for and which goes some way in mitigating the effects of traffic through the village. However we will continue to press for further traffic calming measures in Whitley.

We are also continuing to look at how the church can be developed and used for community use.

The council once again joined with Howard and Janet at the George & Dragon to provide an enhanced display of festive lights at Christmas, and the council continues to provide a festive parcel to all senior residents at this time of year.

### **CONCERNS**

The parish council continues to receive complaints regarding HGV traffic and litter related to the ongoing expansion of the mushroom farm on Gravel Hill Lane, and will continue to work to achieve the best outcome for local residents where it can.

The year was, of course, dominated by the prospect of a traveller site at Poplar Farm. The parish council played its part but the overwhelming views of the community and the fantastic skills and commitment of the action group meant that the voice of Whitley residents was very effectively heard and the application withdrawn. A successful outcome, but the parish council maintains that this was a situation that should never have been allowed to develop as it did.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

The council...

maintains a strong representation on many local forums and groups, notably Osgoldcross Forum and Southern CEF group and overall, councillors attend many meetings annually representing Whitley. We also respond and contribute to various consultations, such as the Selby District Council Core Strategy & Development Site Allocation consultations.

involves itself in local and regional planning matters and planning compliance.

monitors and upgrades street furniture such as litter bins, seats, footpaths and lighting where appropriate.

maintains good communications with local police and supports police initiatives such as a public Alcohol Free Zone for the parish.

provides communication and feedback to the community via newsletters and leaflets and through the community website, supported by the parish council.

## **OVERALL**

I believe Whitley Parish Council continues to achieve much and maintains a business-like and responsible approach to getting things done as well as representing, and involving, the community.

Thanks once again to all

*Simon Humphrey*

Chair