



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MAY 2010

THANKS

As the incoming Chair, I should like to thank my predecessor Cllr. Jack Davie for his unique and extraordinary commitment to this parish council and for his continued championing of the needs of the local community over many years. I also thank my fellow councillors Frank Blackburn, Kath Walton, Sue White, Phil Gerrard & John Watson for each contributing their time, energy, skills, enthusiasm and good humour throughout the year. My appreciation, also, to our clerk Keith Leppingwell. This council is extremely fortunate to have Keith providing such a professional and complete service as well as his own commitment to the community as a resident himself. Thanks also to the various friends and family members who have helped with leafleting, planting, and generally supporting the parish council throughout the year.

We have also very much welcomed the level of community involvement and support in the work of the council. This has included people attending the CEF to make their views known about traffic and quality of life in the village, getting involved in plans for the Daffodil Field where we had a good turn-out at the open day at the church, and people being actively involved in taking forward the plans for allotments.

Gillian Ivey, Sue Ryder and John McCartney also do an excellent job representing Whitley at district and county level.

PROJECTS

This has been a busy, productive and exciting year for the council. We finally have ownership of some land, the Daffodil Field, which will become the first significant public open space in the village. A landscaped green park for recreational use integrated into the current play area next to Whitley Farm Close. Also planned is the purchase of land for allotments, a project that has seen much local interest. The council also maintains (or expects to in the future) the other play areas at the southern end of the village as well as the nature reserve on Gravel Hill Lane. Also supported by the council is a major project to convert All Saints church to a combined place of worship and community space. When completed, this will provide an excellent indoor space for a variety of community activities as well as securing this delightful Victorian building for the future of the village. We are also engaged in initiatives to enhance and improve access to the public footpaths in the parish, and support the recreational and environmental opportunities provided by the local rural landscape and canal lock / towpath area.

At Christmas the council joined with Howard and Janet at the George & Dragon to provide an enhanced display of festive lights. The council also provides a Christmas parcel to all senior residents.

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 well over a hundred meetings annually representing Whitley. We also respond and contribute to various consultations, such as the Selby District Council Core Strategy consultation.

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 and administered by Dave Broadbent.

CONCERNS

Traffic issues and safety along the A19 have repeatedly been the main concern for residents of Whitley. The council continues to push for effective measures to reduce speeding and the impact of traffic, and supports efforts by the community to have an effective voice in this.

OVERALL

I believe Whitley Parish Council has achieved much this year and maintained a business-like and responsible approach to getting things done as well as representing, and involving, the community.

Thanks to all

Simon Humphrey

Chair