

West Hallam Parish Council

Annual Report

Chairman – Cllr. Carol Hart

This is the Annual Report for the last year in this 4 year term and can I start by thanking all of our parish councillors who have served for the last 4 years, their contributions have been excellent, we will miss them all but particularly the very long serving councillors, thankfully Cllr. Bruce Broughton has said he is happy to carry on looking after our website and also to help produce our popular electronic newsletter.

Our Clerk, Kate, has really settled in to her position now and is very helpful and pro-active and very often goes above and beyond her responsibilities in her job description which is very much appreciated and she is certainly now knows who to contact to make things happen locally.

On to the various things that have happened over the last year, we worked with a group of residents to help them form the Friends of Beech Lane group, we gave them the grant money awarded to the Parish Council by Tesco and also Cllrs. Hart, Broughton and Harrison gave contributions from either the DCC or EBC grant schemes, by setting up a 'Friends' group it meant that they could apply for grants that were not available to parish councils. As no doubt many have seen the play area looks so much better, new equipment and particularly the zip wire which is very popular.

As there had been complaints over the winter and spring about the water that gathered at the Hallam Way entrance to Beech Lane recreation ground which is heavily used by parents bringing their children to school it was decided to try and address the problem, work was carried out to alleviate the problem and so far no more problems have occurred.

The centenary of World War 1 featured heavily last year and a special event took place at the West Hallam Well Dressing opening and the Parish Council purchased a beautiful bench and planters with inscriptions inlaid, this is situated at Mapperley cross roads and was very much appreciated by our residents, the bench was going to be dedicated but for various reasons this has not happened yet but hopefully this can be arranged to happen shortly, as usual we also put our large poppies on the lamp posts on the route of the

procession for Remembrance Sunday, again well received. The trees at the rear of the War Memorial have been cut back and we are trying to get a grant towards the cleaning of the War Memorial, but again as said before we have been advised not to clean it too often as it can damage the fabric of the monument.

Talking of lamp posts we had a wonderful display with the hanging baskets again and we have added some in the Dales area, again anyone wanting to sponsor is very welcome to contact the clerk, for each basket sponsored the Parish Council will also provide one to match. The planters have looked good and we are in the process of hopefully doing some more planting shortly on the corner of Millhouse cross roads.

We overspent our budget on cutting back trees and shrubs and although we commissioned a Tree Survey report it has been difficult to keep up with all of the requests, we are responsible for many trees right across the parish.

The Christmas Light Switch On event went really well again with a fantastic turnout of residents, Andy Twigge of Radio Derby did the honours with some children of switching the lights on and Father Christmas made his timely appearance along with some of our Disney characters.

We again ran Easter and Summer play schemes during the holiday breaks, again well received and good feedback from parents and children.

We are nearing completion of an upgrade of our CCTV and also installing wifi in the Powtrell Pavilion.

Our litter pickers have received praise from many residents and they continue to do a fantastic job.

Lastly it was nice to be able to support local organisations such as the Village Hall, Community Centre and Cricket Club when they asked for our support to apply to the EBC Rural Communities Grant Scheme our support is necessary for them to apply and they put forward excellent schemes.