

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 9th April 2013 Presented by Councillor John Peebles Chairman of the Parish Council</p>

Once again it has been a great privilege to have chaired Crigglestone Parish Council over the past year. We have very good members dedicated to this Parish, and two more than capable officers who have given us their full support. And so on behalf of the Council I thank Janet our Parish Clerk for the extra work that she does on our behalf. Also to Julia our Responsible Financial officer for her participation throughout the time she was with us. Due to work commitments Julia resigned last December. A very good number of candidates applied for the position of RFO and Assistant Clerk. A short list of six was made, and out of this Jayne Venables was appointed. Jayne is a former local government officer from South Yorkshire with good financial knowledge. I thank Jayne for her contribution to date.

A major preoccupation this year has been the fight against Taylor Wimpey's proposals for housing off Durkar Lane. The campaign was very well fought by the residents, St James School Governors and the Parish Council but very badly let down by all throughout the planning system. Yes, there was a very good case against the development but the odds were stacked against us. Planning permission was granted in September and, as we know, building work is well under way.

2012 was of course the year of the Queen's Jubilee and the Parish Council marked the event with a commemorative bench installed in front of the Village Institute.

The 8th of August 2012 saw a Grand Opening of the BMX track in Betty Eastwood Park after resurfacing work had been carried out. The tape was cut by District Cllr Maureen Cummings who was a District and Parish Cllr. here in Crigglestone as well as Parish Clerk. The event was very well attended by residents and the youth. The police donated four BMX/mountain bikes that they had reconditioned and were raffled off to the young people who attended the event.

The Steering Group's recommendations of the Community Plan were presented to the Parish Council to implement. There were members of the Steering Group who took some of the issues on as did Councillors. But the main bulk once again seemed to fall on our Clerk. Some partners were very helpful but there were the usual obstacles, mainly due to Government cuts. There was a decent response to Police issues. Apart from Re-Connect putting on a local service transporting residents to the local surgeries, chemists and Asda, there was little or no response from Metro or Arriva on main bus issues.

When the Community Centre closed it was decided by the Parish Council that the Memorial painting of the 1942 Crigglestone colliery disaster should be housed in the Village Institute for safe keeping. At a well-attended event held on the weekend of 8 and 9 September, in the presence of District and Parish Councillors, relatives of miners who were killed in the accident and local residents, Canon Ian Gaskell, our local vicar, performed a very touching re-dedication ceremony.

Over the weekend our local historian Keith Wainwright put on a display with old photographs of both Crigglestone and Newmillerdam collieries. There was also a display of the achievements of the Community Plan together with presentations from Pennine Community and Wakefield Council's recycling team. The Community Plan was signed off and Steering Group and Clerk thanked for their hard work.

Police attend all PC meetings to give monthly reports on crime, anti-social behaviour and speeding issues within the Parish. Whether it is Inspector Clare, Sgt Day, a Police

Officer or PCSO giving the report, I feel that they are dedicated in trying to lower the crime rate within the area as a whole. And may I say to all residents they are approachable as they patrol the parish. In 2012/13 the Parish Council allocated £8,000 from its budget for extra policing throughout the Parish.

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee in conjunction with the Friends of Betty Eastwood Park are now very active and committed bodies in the improvements that they have undertaken in the Park and this has been remarked upon by residents using it. However there have been cases of residents adjoining the park using the park to dump their rubbish. This is fly tipping and will not be tolerated: enforcement action will be taken against them.

Again the hanging baskets once established were a nice show throughout the Parish. I once again thank all sponsors. Such a pity it's a short season for them but this is due to late frosts. Further bulb planting has taken place on roadside verges in Newmillerdam by local residents. This coming year they have again applied to enter the Village in Bloom competition. So I hope that residents who leave recycling bins outside will give their support by putting them out of view.

Two grants were made this year. Sandal & Chevet Guides meeting at Crigglestone Methodist Church towards Brownies' craft supplies. And the Friends of Betty Eastwood Park towards insurance costs. Financial help was given to the Hall Green Community Centre towards the costs of their new Christmas tree.

There was a very good selection of candidates' names put forward this year for the Community Hero Award. It is hoped that this can be achieved in the coming years. Len and Cynthia Binns were the winners for their work at the Hall Green Community Centre. They have for many years been involved with various groups, but recently become very much so with the youth in the area.

The Remembrance Services in 2012 were held at Newmillerdam Cenotaph followed by the service at St James Church. This was followed by a short wreath laying service at Crigglestone Cenotaph. All services were well attended.

Residents can still keep in touch with Parish Council news by visiting the web site which was given a total restructure, and the presentation is far superior to the old site and so far has had a very good response. You can also read what we are doing in the Wakefield Express and the Parish Link from St. James Church. There is also the Newsletter that we are now distributing three times a year.

Once again the Parish Councillors give great input, they are all residents of the Parish and also want what is best for it. To them all I give my thanks and also to Cllr Daniels our Vice Chair for the help that he gives me over the year.

J Peebles

Chair Crigglestone Parish Council