

Chairman's Report for Huncote Parish Council May 2015 to April 2016

This year has been one of consolidation and continuing progression.

I would like as always give my thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their continued support and unflagging energy. It is with regret that due to work commitments Anne Grundy has had to stand down from the council. This now leaves two vacancies within the council. If you think you could work with your community then please do not hesitate to come forward and talk to us.

Stuart Bacon, the Parish Council clerk, is continuing his proactive commitment in helping us to achieve our goals, especially with securing a piece of land along Forest Road for future village possibilities. Land does not very often become available for parish councils to buy so we can look upon this as an investment for our village.

A well sent thank you is given to Bruce Smith, Dave Strange and Keith Baum who are the council handymen and they always do a great job between them.

The Jelson development along Narborough Road is still progressing with houses being occupied as soon as they become available. A warm welcome goes to all the new residents there as well as those new residents elsewhere in the village. The frontage to this development has greatly improved as it has progressed and now looks part of the village.

The Westleigh development at the top of Denman Lane, previously refused by Blaby District Council has been to an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate which was held in April this year. The Parish Council put the parishioners' case for refusal along with the help of some prominent members of the pressure group and other individuals. My thanks go to all of these people although we are still awaiting the decision of the Inspector.

The Fosse Village Development Plan formulated by the 10 Parish Councils is still progressing and hopefully we can complete it this year. The plan is currently being presented to Blaby District Council for assessment and will eventually be offered for planning discussion to the public for ratifying. If approved this locally prepared plan will become part of the planning strategy for the parish councils' areas.

The recreation ground improvements have been well received in the village and are enjoyed by young and old alike. You will have noticed that we have planted some new saplings on the den (that area of free grass adjacent to the community centre) and hopefully these will grow to maintain and improve the appearance of this area.

The Christmas tree and decorations on the Green were again a success. We will continue to try to be innovative in our displays and general enhancements within the village. The summer hanging baskets added to the village

appearance and once again were well maintained by the local shopkeepers without whom the baskets would have failed to bloom.

Crime instances within the village remain to be minor and very few. Our young people should be commended for their attitude towards the village equipment and pride in their village. The Council also supports various groups within the village with grants if you are a member of, or organise a group, whatever your age group, then you can apply to the council who will consider your application.

Sadly, there is still an ongoing problem with dog fouling. I hope residents are fully aware of the new By-laws enforceable by Blaby District Council. If you own a dog please ensure you have always have 'poo-bags' to hand and that these are disposed of in the red dog foul bins provided. There are hefty fines if not!

We are still pushing for a pedestrian crossing in the village. As ever the traffic situation continues to be troublesome. Despite our efforts we have made no progress with this but we will continue to pressurise the authorities to provide better road safety for the villagers.

The nature walk around the embankment opened this year. It is now possible to do a complete circuit from Huncote to Croft recreation ground, at the end of Winston Avenue and back. It's a very pleasurable walk indeed, well worth investigating if you have not already walked along the route yet.

The various liaison groups are still working hard to represent the village interests regarding the quarry works and related issues.

Again, I would like to thank Maggie Wright, District Councillor for her continued support in keeping us up to date on Blaby District Council decisions. County Councillor, Mr Ernie White also supplies input from Leicestershire County Council and my thanks goes also to him.

My thoughts go to those families who have lost loved ones this last year. I hope they will find support and friendship from our village members and families to help them with their grief and loss.

I still enjoy helping the community and I hope to continue to do so in the future. I consider that village life is important and we must all strive to keep our village links.

Finally, Congratulation to Leicester City Football Club!! A truly remarkable achievement!

Alec Knight

Chairman

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