

Shoreline Summary

report

From comments that have been made it is obvious that the improvements that have been made to the Village centre have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by many of you.

However they are not the only changes and improvements that have happened in the last twelve months, as you will see from the Chairman's Report below. Some of these changes are not quite as visible as others but are none the less just as important and have not only improved the appearance of the village but have also had a positive effect on many of us.

The Parish Council is proud of what has been achieved on your behalf and hope that you share that pride with us.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2011

As we come to the end of the penultimate year of the present Council, and my first year as Chairman, I feel that yet again we can be proud of the advances the Parish Council has made and the initiatives that we have been able to instigate.

The year was tinged with sadness as we received the news that former Councillor Christine McLeod had lost her life to cancer. As many of you will be aware, Christine was looking forward with great anticipation to her retirement in Southport but sadly succumbed just a few days before her planned move.

Early in the year, the Parish Council became the first in Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire and Cumbria to qualify to operate the new "**Power of Wellbeing**" meaning that it is now able to financially support anything that enhances the village life. This is a prestigious accolade and adds to the government's "**Quality Status**" that the Parish Council achieved four years ago.

The concept of the "**Douglas Linear Park**" took another step forward with the publication in the Spring last year of the commissioned Feasibility Study by 'Gillespies' which studied in depth the possibilities of establishing a Linear Park along the westerly bank of the River Douglas from the Old Church in Becconsall Lane to the Mill at Tarleton. The concept for such a scheme had been originally contained in the West Lancashire District Council 'Local Plan' and was kick started by this Parish Council allocating £2,500 in 2009; this in turn produced further funding from Tarleton Parish Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council. Funding at the present time, as we all know, is tight but we have along with Tarleton PC managed to allocate further funds this year and a Working Group has now been set up under the Chairmanship of Borough Councillor Iain Ashcroft. In addition, a Task Group under the management of "Groundwork Wigan" is now progressing specific issues.



Once again, Arden Lea Nurseries in the form of Duncan Taylor provided the beautiful hanging baskets around the village during the summer months and also gave the new Planter on the corner of Moss Lane and Station Road its first fill of blooms all without cost to the Council or Village; we were also treated to an additional display last Christmas when Duncan provided illuminated wreaths on the new lighting columns in the village centre; we are truly indebted to him.

The Centenary Sports Ground has also seen some significant improvements during the year with substantial additional car parking (*in financial partnership with the "Locker Room"*) being provided and the southerly boundary fence being upgraded in partnership with the Village Hall; a new fence was also provided to the southern boundary of the east end car park. During the coming year further improvements will be made including a landscaping feature at the entrance to the Sports Ground.



The Council has also been busy at the adjacent Village Hall site. Having initially secured a 'Big Lottery' grant through West Lancashire Borough Council, the village is now the proud owners of a £50,000 Fenced Ball Court which is a free access facility for the youths and teenagers of the village and is being managed by the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council fought off competition from the other twenty Parish Councils in West Lancashire to obtain the grant. The Parish Council also obtained a 50% grant to provide CCTV monitoring equipment to assist in the general management of the Ball Court and provide security for the whole site. The Parish Council has also secured monies from a s106 agreement in connection with a recent commercial development, to develop the front of the Village Hall into a small public Amenity Area along with

environmental improvements at the adjacent Sports Ground; work has already started with the provision of wrought iron fencing to improve the vista and give added security.

At the end of March last, we saw the first two stages of the Allotments redevelopment come to fruition with over fifty 'Plotters' signing up for Licences. This has been a truly remarkable journey from the vastly underused site of two years ago to the hive of activity that the site is today; it has been particularly rewarding to hear the positive comments from so many of the gardeners who have made new friends and share in an atmosphere of true camaraderie. The Committee have installed new land drains, cleared the ditches, installed water piping, along with utility ducting for further development and with help from the 'Plotters' marked out over fifty new plots. Work is now underway to provide plots for gardeners with special requirements and raised beds; we are also out to



tender at the present time

for the upgrading of the entrance area and the provision of an on-site car park. All this of course comes at a cost; the Parish Council have allocated £19,000 over two years; we have received a grant of £2,000 from the Food Growing Programme and have secured £14,750 from West Lancs Borough Council s106 monies in connection with the Stables Moss Lane development. It is expected that work on that section of the site marked for Permaculture will commence next year. The committee have been generously supported with help, labour and materials from 'Huntapack' and 'Altys' to whom we are seriously indebted; the Council is also fortunate in having a dedicated Allotments Committee to whom the village owe a great deal. Ongoing day to day management of the site will now be vested in the Plotters themselves through "The Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association"



with the Council Committee taking more of a back seat role.

As reported last year, the Council was successful back in 2007 in getting the speed limit on Shore Road reduced from the National Limit to 50 mph. Following on from this, the Council secured a full safety survey resulting in an approved scheme of improved signage and road markings throughout its length and a permanent electronic speed warning device on the easterly approach to All Saints School. It is expected that this work will be completed during the winter of 2011/2012

The biggest development for some time came to fruition in November last with the opening of the new "Booths Foodstore" on Station Road which has dramatically improved the street scene of Hesketh Bank.



This coupled with the "Inspire Scheme" pavement works carried out by West Lancashire Borough Council, the road improvement works, including the pedestrian crossing and bus shelters, carried out by Booths under a Section 278 development scheme and the new Heritage Lighting Columns installed by the Parish Council has given the village a 'real' centre.



Turning to the current financial year and again being mindful of the current economic climate, the Council have reviewed all its activities and costs and as a result have managed to reduce the 2011/2012 parish precept by 2.1%; a band D property in Hesketh Bank will pay just 74p per week during the current financial year. I'm also pleased to confirm that for the sixth year in succession, we have received an un-qualified report from our Internal and External Auditors who found our affairs to be in good order.

After my first year as Chairman of the Council, I am proud of the progress we have made together; we are recognised as one of the most progressive and productive Parishes in the area. Our Clerk has represented us on the Executive of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership, The County and District Parish Charter groups and the West Lancashire Local Development Framework Delivery Group as well as representing West Lancashire Parishes further abroad. Maintaining a high profile outside the Parish has assisted us in attracting some £250,000 in grants over the past two years.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ian Cropper our Parish Clerk, my Vice-Chairman, Iain Ashcroft and all our Councillors for the work they have undertaken and their support to me as their Chairman, during the past year.

Cllr Steve Kirby

At the Annual Assembly Councillor Paul Blane talked about the development of the Poor Marsh Site and Mr Sean Case, Chairman of HABALGA (Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association); spoke about the project from the Associations perspective. A report will appear in the next edition of Shoreline.

Meanwhile below is a photographic record of the changes of the site and the seasons.



SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW



Once again we have secured two tickets for Southport Flower Show which is staged this year from the 18th to the 21st of August at Victoria Park Southport. This is the biggest independent Flower Show in the UK with a showground bigger than Chelsea or Hampton Court and weather permitting will attract over 100,000 visitors this year over the four day event.

For your chance to win the two tickets worth up to £41 just answer this simple question: *What is the botanical name for the "Poached Egg Plant" ?* Send your answer by post or email to the Parish Clerk to arrive no later than the 1st of August 2011: the winner will be drawn from all the correct answers received. The runner up will receive two National Trust one visit passes.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Residents discuss the Local Development Framework with staff members from the Borough Council at a special presentation at Booths Foodstore on the 2nd of June



DOG FOULING

**WOULDN'T IT BE
GREAT
IF DOGS CLEARED
UP
AFTER
THEMSELVES?**



But it's up to you
Please clean up after
your dog

Dog fouling continues to be a nuisance to the whole community. Regrettably, many inconsiderate owners still fail to remove faeces left by their pets in all areas of the village including the recreation ground where young children play. Apart from leaving themselves open to a fixed penalty ticket of £80 or a summary conviction of £1,000, the distress that these selfish individuals cause is immense and give dogs a bad name which they don't deserve.

West Lancashire Borough Council offer free bags for the removal of faeces and these can be collected from the village hall on Council meeting evenings which are held on the first Monday of the month.

You can also leave anonymous messages for the Council if you are aware of incidents and these will be followed up – just ring 01772-978256 and wait for the voicemail to answer. Please help to keep the village clean!

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2011

As previously mentioned the Parish Council has proudly entered Hesketh Bank in several categories of The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition this year to showcase the improvements that have been made in and around the centre of the Village. Judging commences on 11th June 2011 and will continue for a number of weeks. There is no way of knowing when the Judges will visit the Village, or if in fact they have already done so.

In the hope that we will be judged later than rather than sooner The Parish Council is asking for your support by keeping your own gardens and hedges tidy and reporting any public areas that need attention.



THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to thank Duncan Taylor and family for donating the beautiful hanging baskets and stocking the existing planter. We would also like to thank you in anticipation of you stocking the other planter, still to be delivered as this goes to print.

Thanks are also due to the Co-op for their generosity and help with making the Village Centre look festive for the Royal Wedding day and to Amelio's and Bob Foster for their help with the bunting.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS



Mr Fred Gorse, of Cropper Gardens, pictured here with his youngest Great Granddaughter Amelia, celebrated his 100th Birthday on Friday 10th June.

The Parish Council send their congratulations and birthday wishes to him.

PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue
Cllr. Paul Blane 92 Station Road – Cllr Martin Forshaw 7 Becconsall Lane
Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road
Cllr. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane - Cllr. Richard Plant 12 Granville Avenue
Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane - Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road
Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane



PARISH CLERK Ian T Cropper, Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire, PR9 7PG
Tel: 01704 778005 Fax: 02030 511934 Email: Clerk@HwbPC.org.uk