

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Newsletter

Shoreline Summary

Issue 11 Spring 2008

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The present Council will in May this year, come to the end of its four year tenure. Of the eleven Councillors elected in May 2004, six have served for the complete term with casual vacancies being filled by co-option. The Council were particularly saddened by the death of Councillor Gerard Twigger last year.

As Councillor Plant noted in last year's report, the job of Councillor is not, as many would assume, just a title. Many decisions that Members are required to make are controversial by their very nature and it needs a broad back to bear some of the criticisms that can be made. Despite this we have again made steady progress and the Council's affairs remain in excellent order. I would like to record our gratitude to my predecessor, Cllr Richard Plant, who held the office of Chairman for over three years with the current Council and saw it emerge as only the second "**Quality Council**" in West Lancashire.



During the year, we have made considerable progress with our efforts to improve road safety. We were fortunate in securing an "**Accident Investigation and Prevention Report**" (AIP) conducted by Lancashire County Council on the whole of Shore Road/Marsh Road which identified potential hazards and areas needing attention at an estimated cost of £30,000. Work has already started with the complete re-surfacing at The Brow from Guide Road into Station Road. It is anticipated that the remaining work will be completed over the next eighteen months.

Work is now well in hand with provision of street lighting on Shore Road with new columns erected and lantern heads being fixed to the existing overhead power poles. United Utilities are presently making the necessary connections.

During the year we have had our Speed Indicating and Recording Device (SPIRD) in action at two locations in Moss Lane, two locations on Station Road and two locations on Shore Road. The statistics produced will be made available to the Police to assist them in monitoring problem areas.

We have also been working with our neighbouring Councils in Tarleton and North Meols to tackle problems common to all our areas. Specifically we have formed a "**Road Users Working Group**" to address the continuing deterioration of the Moss Roads and the problems of congestion that residents constantly experience, especially from the large Heavy Goods Vehicles which service the various Growers and pack houses in the area.

A total fresh look at the "**Northern Parishes Relief Road**" known locally as the "Green Lane Link" is now also being undertaken following strong representations from the Road Users Working Group and we are indebted to County Councillor Malcolm Barron for his hard work in this regard.

During the year, a full refurbishment of the Station Road Play Area was undertaken at a cost of £24,000 supported by an £8,000 grant from West Lancashire District Council. Old equipment has been fully serviced and re-painted and several new items of equipment installed. In addition fencing and self closing gates have been installed to endeavour to keep dogs out and provide some extra degree of security for users. Safer surfacing has also been provided under the larger pieces of equipment and CCTV monitoring equipment is now in place. Of course despite these additional safety measures, the Play Areas are not classed as "Secure Areas" and it remains the responsibility of those in charge of children to ensure their safety. The whole scheme was produced by the Recreation Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Norma Goodier.

The Council has now also taken over the maintenance of the old railway bridge embankment adjacent to the Play Area from Lancashire County Council and plans are in hand to provide landscaping of the area with details being currently worked up in conjunction with the new Booths Foodstore development. Hopefully, in conjunction with the recently announced £97,000 "**Inspire Scheme**" from West Lancashire District Council, we will now be able to develop a true Village Centre.

A further new style bus shelter with seating, lighting and raised kerbing was installed during the year outside All Saints Church, and a further new one should be erected soon in Chapel Road to service the area around Cropper Gardens for the Southport bound buses. The Shelter outside the Chemist, which was recently struck by a delivery vehicle, will also be replaced soon in conjunction with the carriageway alterations necessitated by the Booths development.

Work on collecting and analysing data for the new Parish Plan was completed in March. This important and arduous work was undertaken by a small group under the Chairmanship of Councillor Steve Kirby and the expert help of Martin Trengove from West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service (CVS). It will provide, in due course, the information required by the Parish Council to enable them to target their efforts towards the services and facilities most needed and requested by our residents. The Final document will be published in June this year. We hope that members of the public will sign up to the various working committees and group which will aim to deliver the villages aspirations on an ongoing basis.

The previous survey of the area was undertaken some six years ago under the stewardship of Councillor Hilary Tompkins and called the "**Rural Evaluation Action Lancashire**" (REAL). This gave the Council the opportunity to provide the services that Residents wanted and has directed much of the expenditure of the last four years. This has included the financial support of the Tarleton High School Sports Hall and Swimming Pool for Community use; the financial backing of the Community Sports Centre project in Hesketh Bank; the major upgrading of the Council's three Play Areas; initiatives in Road Safety included the lighting of Shore Road; the purchase of a Speed Indicating Device (SPIRD) and the reduction of the speed limit on Marsh Road / Shore Road to 50mph.

We are very grateful to County Councillor Malcolm Barron and District Councillor Iain Ashcroft for securing the repairs to the footpaths in Chapel Road.

Of course, this work comes at a cost and it was necessary to raise some larger sums in 2005 and 2006 by way of the Parish Precept. The Council has endeavoured to mitigate this wherever possible by obtaining grants from various bodies and increasing its regular income from projects like the telecommunications mast on the Centenary Sports Ground which had the additional benefit of placing the mast away from residential properties which was of concern to some residents. For the 2008/2009 financial year we have contained the increase to 2% or just an additional 88p per year for a Band D property.

This year we are looking forward to some new innovations including a "**Farmers Market**" at All Saints Church Hall. A working group under the Chairmanship of Councillor Christine McLeod has matters well advanced with the first planned event on Saturday 31st May. We will also see the return of the highly successful Scarecrow competition which was instigated last year under the watchful eye of Councillor Iain Ashcroft.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman, Lesley Standish-Gore and all our Councillors, not just those I have mentioned by name and Ian Cropper our Parish Clerk for their support to me as their Chairman, and their work for the whole community.

Paul Sergeant ~ Parish Council Chairman

FARMERS' MARKET

The first (*of what we hope will become a regular feature in the village*) Farmers' Market will be held at All Saints Church Hall on Saturday 31st May 2008 from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Up to 20 stalls will be there selling a wide variety of local produce including meat, fish, confectionery, plants and baskets of all descriptions of course Robinson's Ice Cream. For a bit of fun there will be a Tombola and Raffle.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day and all proceeds will go to the **Douglas Cardiac Trust**. Do come along to help make the day a success and become a regular event in the village.



THE PARISH PLAN

Following the preparation of a Community Audit Report outlining the results of last year's Parish Plan Questionnaire Survey in which over 400 households in the community took part, a leaflet summarising the views and concerns you identified will be distributed throughout the village next month. An official Launch Event has been arranged for Sunday June 15th and details will be available shortly via posters in the local shops, Parish Council Notice Boards and the website (www.HwBPC.org.uk)

NEW PARISH COUNCIL

On the 1st May, local electors selected eleven Parish Councillors out of thirteen Nominees to represent them for the next four years. Their details are below:-

Cllr. Iain Ashcroft	1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Maureen Baldwin	5 Rankin Avenue, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Paul Blane	92 Station Road, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Norma Goodier	43A Fermor Road, Tarleton
Cllr. Lesley Jackson	Riversdale, Marsh Road, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Steve Kirby	50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Christine McLeod	Primrose Barn, Marsh Road, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Richard Plant	12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Trevor Roberts	79A Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Paul Sergeant	108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Hilary Tompkins	69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank



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