

Good evening, this is your Chairman's report for 2016.

### **Council and Staff:**

This has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council having had a new village green play area installed, a tennis court, and the new smart phone app, but to name a few of the projects this year.

Throughout the year the Council saw a change in Councillors.

Cllr Vardy and Cllr Jones, who were appointed directly by Charnwood Borough Council to enable the Parish Council to become quorate, left us in April - We thank them for their support. We also saw the resignations of Cllr Hickling and Cllr Porter.

New co-options this year were Cllr Duffy, Cllr Castle, Cllr Merry-Howe, Cllr Garner, Cllr Preston and Cllr Needham. We now have a full complement of 10 Councillors.

Some Councillors undertook general training this year to improve their knowledge; This was a course held at East Goscote Village Hall and carried out by Charnwood Borough Council. Cllr Lander has attended Chairman's Training and Cllr Gerrard attended basic councillor training at the LRALC. Cllr Needham is due to attend the basic councillor training in April.

Our staff team continue to work extremely hard to ensure the village was provided with the support and services it needed.

Our Administration Assistant –Caroline Taylor has been in post for over a year and is thoroughly enjoying the role. Caroline has carried out Clerks level 2 training, a minute taking course and website training.

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to our long serving caretaker Nick Shivers. Nick joined the council in April 2003 and will be leaving us at the end of April 2016 to enjoy his retirement. He has served this village extremely well for 13 years and is loved by many village residents.

There will be a presentation to Nick at our AGM on May 11<sup>th</sup> when you are all welcome to attend.

### **The Vehicle Activated Speed Signs:**



The signs that we share with other Villages have been situated in various locations within the Village.

You will notice that the VAS has been in situ between January and March 2016.

Unfortunately we could not re-run our speedwatch scheme this year as we did not get the community volunteers offering their help.

### **Planning Applications:**

During the year 13 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

### **Section 106 Funding – Rearsby Roses – Tennis Court**

The tennis court located on the Jubilee playing field, was constructed in the Summer of 2015. Charles Lawrence completed the works to an exceptionally high standard and the court is being well utilised. It is available to residents and non-



resident for a small one off fee, which allows you to access the court. Bookings can be made anytime via our Parish phone app and to date we have issued 48 keys. We expect this to double in the run-up to Wimbledon.

This was a resounding success and a great addition to the facilities on our village - all funded by the Section 106 contribution from the Rearsby Roses site.

We are also working with LCC to improve the bus stops and bus shelters outside the Rearsby Roses site. It has been approved to move the stop heading into Melton nearer to Broome Lane from its current position on Melton Road in front of the field.

### **Vandalism:**

The cost of vandalism for March 15 – March 16 amounted to £100 which is very low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas. In 2014/5 the vandalism cost to the village was £800.00.

### **Dog Fouling:**

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that nearly 50,000 dog poo bags have been issued to residents this year and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village.



Details of the issue of dog bags	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Free issue Dog bags	29,000	30,900	32,950
Purchased Bags	11,950	13,800	16,400
Total Bags Issued	40,950	44,700	49,350
Total Cost	£404.92	£535.30	£432.24

Allowing your dog to foul without clearing up afterwards is totally unacceptable behaviour and we need YOUR help to catch those people responsible for spoiling our streets and green spaces. If you know an environmental offender, call 01509 634564 or email: [cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk).

We are hoping to make it easier for residents to collect their dog bags, by giving them out at the village library once it is a community run library, giving easier access and more times for collection.

### **Village Hall:**



The Village Hall Committee are still doing a great job maintaining the hall, and managing the bookings and finances. Although party bookings have been down of late, there are still many users of our village hall.

The car park has been lit throughout the winter from 5pm – 9pm giving users a much safer environment when getting in and out of their cars.

The committee have replaced the porch flat roof this year and carried out a full electrical inspection to ensure the hall meets health and safety standards.

Hire charges for parties have had to be increased due to the increase in Bouncy castle costs.

The committee are currently looking at installing new curtains to the main room to help improve the sound quality.

### **East Goscote Library**

Mr J Malpus has formed a volunteer group and Management Committee who have been holding regular meetings with a view to taking over the library at the end of May. The volunteers have been offered a training programme consisting of 5 modules which is also due to take place in May. An opening event will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June where it is hoped our residents will come along to celebrate the re-opening of the now “community-run library”. The parish council gave a £1000 donation to the management committee to help with the start-

up costs although LCC still retain ownership of the building and are giving funding to the library for the first two years. We wish Mr Malpus every success in the continuation of the library services which would have closed if he had not put all the work in to keep it going. Anyone interested in getting involved in the running of the library should contact Mr Malpus.

### **Parish Phone App**

Our Clerk has worked extremely hard this year to launch the new Parish council smart phone app. The SLCC branded it a "Parish council first" and ran a great editorial in their January edition of the Clerks magazine.

The parish council were inspired by the concept which allows information and services to become more accessible, engaging and convenient for all ages. The app gives the ability for residents to instantly submit a photo if they see a problem on the village, the Clerk can send out instant notifications of any news and key events on the village, and the tennis court can be instantly booked on the app. The app allows you to view council information and read the latest Long Furrow. The app was first marketed in the Long Furrow November magazine, since then the number of people who have installed the app has risen to 142 although we expect this to keep growing. We hope to work with local organisations and the police to be able to send out more village information and crime alerts. To download the app details are at the end of this report.



## **Bus Shelter**

The Parish Council has funded a new bus shelter for the Long Furrow (adjacent to the brook).

## **Village Green Play Area Upgrade**

Cllrs Lander and Cllrs Castle worked very hard meeting with contractors to come up with the best facilities for our Village Green Play area. Several options were presented to



Councillors and consultation carried out with Broomfield School, the Guides, Brownies and pre-school. The consultation proved that the basket swing was the most popular item. The budget for the work was £17,500 and we managed to have 7 new pieces of equipment installed on safety matting and a new colourful bench. The material we chose was recycled plastic as this has a 20 year guarantee.



Thanks to everyone involved including the Office staff, Caretakers and Cllr Castle and Cllr Lander who monitored the works at every stage.

Other improvements to our play equipment this year were two new gates to the Lilac Way play area improving the safety.



## **Council Van**

The Council van has been improved this year with new signage, a new timing belt and two new front tyres.

## **Next Year's Projects Include:**

For next year we hope to apply for a grant to improve further the facilities on the village. Subject to discussions grants are available for "healthy living" projects up to £10,000.

Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations – The council have agreed that a tree will be planted in honour of the Queen's birthday on the playing fields (The Chase area). Also a planting event will be held with Broomfield School children who will be planting commemorative Cornflower seeds around the playing field edges.

We also hope to further upgrade the bus shelters around the village, and a new noticeboard will be purchased for Weavers Wynd. The mound play area may require a new set of swings, subject to the professional play equipment check, and the village green may have one additional piece of equipment.

Finally we will be considering a Christmas event of some sort this year.

## **Thank You's:**

Thanks to all Councillor's past and present for all their support, my Vice Chairman John Malpus, thanks to our County Councillor Dave Houseman MBE and Borough Councillor Sue Gerrard

Thanks to a brilliant Staff Team : Nick Shivers and Peter Rowlatt for their hard work in keeping this village up to an extremely high standard for East Goscote Parish Council .

To PCSO Brian Geeson for the time he spends on our village,  
To Parish Clerk Mrs Liz Pizer for all her hard work in managing the village, the pavilion and the village hall, and for her personal support to me this past year, Caroline Taylor, the assistant clerk for her support to Liz.

Thank you to the East Goscote Village Preschool staff and everyone who came together, to make the East Goscote Christmas celebrations such a fantastic community event once again.

And finally to all the people of East Goscote who have not only supported me, but the Parish Council, throughout this year to ensure our village continues to flourish.

**DOWNLOAD HERE USING YOUR SCANNER OR GO INTO YOUR APP STORE AND SIMPLY -  
SEARCH "EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL"**



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