

Good evening, this is your Chairman's report for 2017.

Council and Staff:

This has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council having had a new website, a Big Lottery Grant for fitness equipment, new park benches, new swings and a new bus shelter, but to name a few of the projects this year.

Throughout the year the Council saw a change in Councillors.

Cllr Eden was unfortunately disqualified (due to lack of attendance) in April – and we co-opted Cllr Gonulalan in June.

We now have a full complement of 10 Councillors.

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 since March 2015 and is thoroughly enjoying the role. Caroline is now managing the app, website and village hall and is continuing to learn all aspects of Council administration.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our long serving caretaker Nick Shivers. Nick joined the council in April 2003 and left 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. Also our assistant Caretaker Peter Rowlatt resigned in December – he had worked for us since April 2011. Currently we are not replacing this role with a permanent member of staff, and are looking at temporary employment.

We have appointed our new Caretaker Charlie Cadle (May 2016), who is doing a great job and is enjoying working for the

village. Charlie's quality of work is excellent – he is currently working 4 days (Part time hours) per week.

The Council had all our Full Council Minutes bound in red leather books from 1976-2016. This will keep them safe and readable for the future.

Planning Applications:

During the year 16 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

Section 106 Funding – Rearsby Roses

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 73 keys. 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 install bus shelters outside the Rearsby Roses site. It has been approved to add an additional stop heading into Melton nearer to Broome Lane from its current position on Melton Road in front of the field. We hope to see this work completed by the end of May 2017.

Vandalism:

The cost of vandalism for March 16 – March 17 amounted to £230 which is very low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas. In 2015/6 the vandalism cost to the village was £100.00.

Dog Fouling:

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that over 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	2014	2015	2016
Free issue Dog bags	30,900	32,950	41,700
Purchased Bags	13,800	16,400	20,400
Total Bags Issued	44,700	49,350	62,100
Total Cost	£535.30	£432.24	£681.88

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.

We have now made it easier for residents to collect their dog bags, by giving them out at the village library. This gives easier access and more times for collection (hence the large increase in number given out).

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 installed new curtains this year, to make the hall more homely and improve the sound quality.



The committee have applied to Charnwood Borough Council for a “Community Facilities grant” for 50% of the costs of replacing the roof with a new Kingspan composite sheeting roof. This is eco-friendly and will thereby reduce the village halls carbon footprint. The insulation will also be greatly improved by having the roof replaced. They hope to hear if they have been successful by the end of April and works to install the new roof will hopefully begin in the summer. The Parish Council are trustees and have allocated funding towards this project.

The hall is also to house a new Pre-School commencing in September which is offering care from 8am to 4pm Monday – Thursday, and morning care on Friday. This will see a great benefit to the hall in terms of income and a great facility for the children of the village.

East Goscote Library

Mr J Malpus formed a volunteer group and Management Committee who took over the library at the end of May. It is now a “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. The takeover has been a success and residents are now collecting their dog bags giving a better service to them.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the running of the library should contact Mr Malpus.

Parish Phone App/New Website

The launch of the new Parish council smart phone app continues to be a success. This 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 number of people who have installed the app stands at 240 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 find details at the end of this report.



Our website was re-designed in 2016 and is very user-friendly and easy to navigate through. This is another way in which we communicate with our residents and inform them of events, news, road closures etc. that may affect them.



Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has funded a new bus shelter on the Melton Road (Towards Leicester).

Big Lottery Grant for Fitness Equipment

We are very excited to announce our success in being awarded a lottery grant to install an outdoor gym at our Jubilee Playing field. Our office staff worked very hard to achieve this grant and it is much appreciated by all. This area will be a 24/7 open access fitness area to encourage the community to become fitter, reduce obesity and to help improve the general health in our village. This project will improve facilities for adults and youngsters alike, encouraging them to exercise and improve their well-being. It is also hoped that the provision of fitness equipment will offer an alternative, positive activity for youngsters reducing the incidence of Anti-Social behaviour.



Other improvements to our play equipment this year were a new set of flat swings for the mound, and new benches to the Mound play area and village green play area.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Preston has worked hard to form a new "Rearsby Roses neighbourhood Watch group. New signs have been installed around the area and a facebook page has been set-up by its members. There are currently 29 out of the 60 houses signed up to the scheme. A notice was placed in the Long Furrow asking for any residents who wish to set up new areas on the village to contact Cllr Preston for help and advice.

Next Year's Projects Include:

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard the village is maintained, mainly donate to the village hall roof

replacement and we have enrolled the staff into a pension scheme as the new law was enforced.

Finally we will be considering a Christmas event of some sort this year for the elderly of the village.

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: Charlie Cadle, for his hard work in keeping this village up to an extremely high standard for East Goscote Parish Council .

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, and to Caroline Taylor, the admin assistant for her support to Liz.

To PCSO Brian Geeson for the time he spends on our village,

Thank you to the East Goscote Library volunteers and committee for their service to our residents in keeping the library open, and for working so hard to make the East Goscote Christmas celebrations a great 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.

S Lander

Chairman

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