

Good evening, this is your Chairman's report for 2019. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff:

We currently have 9 councillors This year Martin Webbon and Helen Measures joined the council in place of Lisa Castle and Elaine Garner. Unfortunately, Helen resigned soon after and was replaced by Keith Gregory who was subsequently replaced by David Cannon. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Cllr Lander had to stand down as Chairman and was replaced by myself with Cllr Duffy moving into the Vice Chairman's role. Unfortunately, Councillor Lander then resigned due to work obligations. I have continued as Chairman and I have been supported by my Vice Chairman, Cathy Duffy.

Cllr Malpus completed a Fire Wardens Course and Cllr Webbon completed a new councillor course.

Whilst the Councillors make decisions, our staff work hard to carry out these decisions to the benefit of the village. Our clerk, Liz Pizer, and our administration assistant, Caroline Taylor also keep us in line with legal and regulatory requirements. Liz also supervises work done around the village.

Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretakers role although, Nick Shivers assists when we need an extra pair of hands. Work done by our Caretakers is of a very high standard.

Mr Webbon has continued as Tree Warden on a voluntary basis.

Our thanks go to all councillors and the staff for their continued hard work.

Planning Applications:

During the year 17 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

Remembrance Sunday.

The Council purchased 30 poppies to fix to lamp posts in the run up to Remembrance Day.

Gladmans Development

During 2018, Gladmans Land applied for planning permission to build 270 houses on the remaining Rearsby Roses land. The community came together and fought this proposal and the application was rejected.

As a result, they have appealed and the enquiry will be held in June. Meanwhile they have reapplied for planning permission.

The council would like to thank Rod Axon for his investigations and KEGGS for leading the fight.

Village Facilities

The Tennis Court is still popular with 101 members. During the winter the court has been closed to protect it and the moss has been cleared from its surface by our caretaker Charlie.

Due to Charnwood B C withdrawing the waste recycling centre in the village, the Parish council has negotiated with independent companies in order to maintain this service in the village.

Vandalism:

The cost of vandalism for March 18 – March 19 was again low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas.

Dog Fouling:

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that over **63,000** dog poo bags have been issued to residents this year and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village including a new one on Broome Lane.



The library now distributes the dog bags at 80p per pack of 50, and sales in dog bags continue to rise as they are extremely good bags and represent value for money. Any profit from the sale of the bags is retained by the library as it is managed by the community for the community !

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.

Village Hall:

The Village Hall Committee are still doing a great job maintaining the hall, and managing the bookings and finances.

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 Village Hall now has a new roof which contains 2' of insulation which makes the Hall more energy efficient. The Parish Council are trustees of the Hall and assisted the project financially.



The committee work very hard to keep the hall up to a very high standard and are continually working at improving our village hall.

Replacement CCTV equipment was installed adjacent to the area around the Village Hall.

The hall is having a new kitchen fitted in the Easter holidays and have also financed Solar Panels to the roof as well as LED lighting throughout.

East Goscote Library

The library continues to provide a vital need for East Goscote. As well as the supply of books and computer use, the library has many more functions including the distribution of Dog Bags, Coffee Mornings etc. There will be more about the library later in the meeting.

Parish Phone App/New Website

The success of the Website and the Parish App continues. The website has had 13,051 page views over the last 12 months, and the Parish App has had a total of 723 downloads. To download the app please see details at the end of this report.



Play Equipment

New play equipment has been installed adjacent to Lilac Way. In addition, new steps have been installed alongside the large slide on the mound.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Preston was hoping to expand his Neighbourhood Watch campaign to the rest of the village after the success of its introduction to Rearsby Roses.

A recent meeting to improve Neighbourhood coverage of East Goscote was attended by 28 members of the public and proved very successful. The group is now registered with the information commissioner and is sending out regular NHW information to those who signed up. Anyone wishing to receive the very useful information on Crime, scams and useful advice can ask for a consent form from the Parish Council Office and all Neighbourhood watch information can then be sent direct to their inbox !

Christmas Events

In December, in conjunction with St Hilda's, the Village Hall Committee and the Brownies, two events were organised by the library and funded by East Goscote Parish Council. More about these later in the meeting.

Snow Warden Scheme

East Goscote Parish Council is registered with the County Council Snow Warden Scheme. This means that they supply salt and pay the parish council for clearing snow and ice around the village where it is considered dangerous. Charlie and Nick have worked hard spreading the salt whenever we have had snow or icy conditions this last winter. A new salt bin has been installed at the side of the Chemist.

Trees

Mr Webbon is continually checking trees around the village and reporting back to the council. During the year, the Memorial Oak tree has been replaced free of charge and a dead tree adjacent to Lilac Way has been removed. A number of trees on Lilac Way have been pollarded.

The hedgerow at the side of the mound has been replaced as the old one had failed in places.

Long Furrow

Gareth Roberts continues to design the magazine with help from the committee members. Long Furrow now has a limited number of hard copies printed but it can be found on line. The committee are continuing to listen to comments and review the way it works. More changes are due this year.

The Council continue to support the publication.

Plough

The Plough now has another landlord who has tried to attract new custom using new ideas.

Defibrillator

Lee Smith organised a charity football match to raise funds for a defibrillator for the village. In collaboration with the Council, a defibrillator has been purchased for the pavilion. The council made up the shortfall and agreed to maintain the equipment and provide a steel lockable cabinet.

Leases

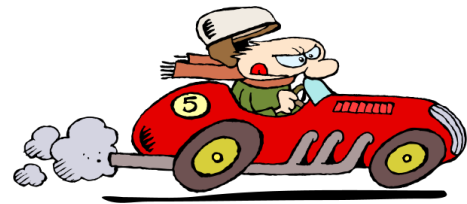
A new lease between the Council and Charnwood Borough Council for the land around the pavilion and Scout Hut has been signed.

We are currently awaiting the completion of the lease between the Council and the Scouts.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Project proved a success and there is a possibility that another will be staged this year.

New speed limits were placed on Broome Lane.



NCS

During the summer a group of students took part in a project to improve the village. This included the creation of a number of raised flower beds, painting the village hall interior and improving the library garden. This was organised by the NCS.

Next Year's Projects Include:

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard the village is being maintained.

We will be looking into ways we can reduce the speed around the village and have a budget to help us with this.

We will be once again supporting our library.

Two new bus shelters are being installed – one on Broome Avenue and one by the playing fields.

We will be considering supporting a special edition of the Long Furrow which will be delivered to every household and also we are looking at ways to improve the drainage on our playing fields.

Finally, we hope to again consider a Christmas event of some sort for the elderly of the village.

Thank You's:

I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor, Mrs Gerrard, County Councillor, Mr Poland, and our MP, Mr Argar for their help and support during the past year.

In addition, I would like to thank our staff for their service and expertise during the year.

To PCSO Harbutt for the time he has spent 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.



Chairman

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