

Good evening, this is your Chair's report for 2023. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff:

This year we have had three new councillors join the Council – Anne-Marie Harris, Rhonda Fazackerley and Danique Westerveld.

One Councillor resigned – Shane Mousley I would like to thank him for his service and efforts.

At present we have a full complement. From May there will be five councillors returned unopposed.

However, five councillors are not seeking another term.

I would like to thank Cllr Westerveld and Cllr Oakes for their contributions and work for the Council.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Cllr Axon, Cllr Cannon, and Cllr Shivers who have undertaken many projects for EGPC over the last few years and have gone above and beyond to serve the village.

I'd like to use this opportunity to highlight the excellent work of the Council's staff.

Our new admin assistant has been promoted to Deputy Clerk and increased her hours. Charlotte Turlington is working very hard to support our Clerk and is currently building up her knowledge.

Liz Pizer our Clerk has worked for the village for 30 years and has now reduced her hours. Liz ensures the legal duties of the council are fulfilled, as well as providing admin support and staff supervision.

Her work is vital in enabling the Council to perform its function and getting things done for our village.

Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretaker's role and provides exemplary work around the village. He is assisted by Paul Harper who helps when needed.

A heartfelt thank you to all Staff and Councillors this year.

Planning Applications:

During the year 22 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

The council submitted a detailed response to the Reserved Matters application that came out earlier this year for the Land off Melton Road and have supported residents to engage with the process. Thank you to Cllr Axon who, once again, conducted considerable research on behalf of the Council.

The outcome of this final stage in the planning process is expected in the summer, with works likely to commence later in the year or early next year.

The Local Plan Examination hearings concluded at the end of February, after some delay. EGPC was represented during the hearings by Cllrs Needham, Axon, and Cannon, where we expressed our concerns relating to the Plans effect on East Goscote and the surrounding areas.

Remembrance Sunday.

Cllrs Shivers and Cllr Needham attended the Remembrance service on behalf of the Council. The council marked the event with the poppies on the lampposts.

Village Facilities

The Tennis Court continues to be popular with 175 members. During the winter the court gets closed for protection and the surface then cleared by our caretaker Charlie.

Resurfacing to our Lilac Way play area has been completed along with the Re-tarmacking of the multi sports court.

Vandalism:

The cost of vandalism for March 22 – March 23 amounted to £637 which is extremely low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas and the theft of a bin lid which meant having to order a new bin at a cost of £200. We have also recently had damage to our bus shelter which will cost in excess of £300 to repair.

Dog Fouling:



This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that thousands of poo bags are sold and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village.

The library continues to distribute dog bags at £1 per pack of 50 and any profit from the sale of the bags is retained by the library towards its upkeep.

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.

The council agreed to install information signs to deter dog fouling and encourage people to behave responsibly and

ensure their dogs were under control when using the playing fields.

East Goscote Library

The Chair of the library has sent the following report on behalf of the Community Library:

The past twelve months have been easier than past years now that we are more accustomed to the way we should work. We continue to have the support of East Goscote PC as well as St Hilda's Church.

Sales of various items have not raised as much as expected but is better than last year and we are happy with the income.

To reduce energy usage we have replaced the heaters but this has not worked as the unit cost has risen.

Broomfield School continue to have regular visits to the library, and we have appointed a School Liaison Officer. The village playgroups are attending the library on a regular basis.

We have 19 volunteers including a gardener, who work to a DIY manual rota system. We have never failed to open due to volunteer shortage during the past twelve months.

The Coffee Mornings continue to contribute extra income.

The Santa evenings continue to be successful.

Due to grants to cover us during COVID, we are in a comfortable financial basis.

We have purchased an amount of Adult and Childrens furniture using our S106 grant from a development at Queniborough.

Use of the standard library services is stable but footfall has dropped considerably more since COVID.

We are developing a plant swap in the library grounds.

The sale of poo bags continues to be a useful fund-raiser although support has reduced a little since December 2022.

The Romp and Rhyme sessions for youngsters have restarted and parents are able to bring their children to the playgroup sessions.

Broomfield School now make frequent visits to the library. Rearsby School now have forged a link with the library. Their school choir came to the library just before Christmas to perform carols for residents of the village.

Parish Phone App/New Website

The success of the website and the App continues. Our Parish app has had a total of 1162 downloads, which again, is up on previous years.

To download the app please see details at the end of this report.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Harris has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. More NW volunteers are required around the village.

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.

Long Furrow

This long-standing magazine continues to be published quarterly and has been able to return to colour prints and full distribution.

Gareth Roberts continues to design the magazine with help from the committee members and John Malpus has is the editor.

Volunteer distributors are always needed so please get in touch with the delivery coordinator, using the contact details provided in the Long Furrow magazine.

The Council continue to support the publication.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Project posters to remind people to drive slowly around our village were installed recently and data was received from LCC regarding the speeds. A new Vehicle Activated Sign will be installed in the spring along Long Furrow adjacent to the brook.

Coronation event Celebrations

A village celebration will take place on Monday 8th May 2-5pm on the area outside of the Village Hall. As with the Jubilee event last year, there will be free children's activities, stalls and a band. Thank you to Charlotte and Cllrs Fazakerley, Harris, and Tate for helping to organise and those who have or will be volunteering their time.

Meeting day

It was agreed at Full Council in November 2022 to change the meeting date to the second Monday of each month, rather than the Wednesday.

Tree Work

LCC have carried out work to most of their trees. The Parish Council Contractor carried out 3 days of tree work to trees around the playing field, village green and Lilac Way

The PC arranged defibrillator training with East Midlands Ambulance Service. This was very well attended by our residents and lots of positive comments were received.

Police Beat Surgeries

These are being held at the Community Library on the First and third Wednesdays between 11am and 12 noon. Cllrs Shivers & Needham met with the PCSO last month to discuss possible solutions and police assistance with speeding and parking issues.

Parish Priorities

A survey was undertaken to establish what facilities etc residents felt were the most important to try and secure through any future funding that may come to the village.

Only 24 replies were received so EGPC did not feel that the responses were an accurate reflection and are now considering how else we might engage residents in this process.

Christmas Event

A very successful event was held in December 2022 for people aged over 65 living the village. It was very positive, and we received great feedback from those who attended. Thank you to all who helped to organise and gave time on the day.

Greener Goscote

A group of local residents regularly volunteer to undertake projects such as litter picks and maintaining the recycling centre behind Merchants Common. They help add to our green and colourful village with the planting of trees, wildflowers and other plants which encourage and support wildlife (see wildflower & tree planting above). Thank you to these volunteers for their time and hard work.

Next Year's Projects Include:

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard the village is being maintained. We are hoping to replace the access gate to the Playing fields and install a new base to the bus shelter on Long Furrow.

Thank You's:

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, our current 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.

Chair (Laurie Needham)

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