

ORTON WATERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's report

17th April 2013

Membership of Council

We currently have our full complement of 13 councillors, two of whom are City councillors. During the year Sue Allen resigned and was replaced by Iain McLaughlan and Stan Watts was replaced by Susan Bellamy. It is certainly helpful to have City councillors represented as it assists dialogue with the City Council.

Policing

Attendance by the Police tends to be a bit hit and miss but they do keep us informed of incidents and burglaries in the area. Latterly there has been an increase in the number of burglaries and break-ins to cars but this tends to happen during the winter months.

Planning

A total of 61 plans were received with the majority of these being approved. However, there was a retrospective application from Gordon Phillips for conversion of a private garage to business use which was objected to and refused. The conversion of the Chequers Pub to a Tesco Express store was approved, despite local objections and has since resulted in increased litter.

Burial Ground

There have been 15 burials and 6 cremations since inception which has resulted in a healthy profit being made. We have plans to create a sinking fund which should enable us to make further provision when the cemetery is filled. We have been approached by Longueville residents for burial spaces but we are adhering to the policy to restrict use to residents in the Parish.

Grants

A grant of £30,000 was made to the Village Hall to assist with the renovation and we have also made awards to Bushfield Rollers, Orton Quilters and MAGPAS. A further small payment was made to St Botolph's to assist children attending the Gang Show.

During the year there was a major expenditure on the crossing from Orton Brimbles to Nene Park. This has proved very effective and has been much appreciated by walkers gaining access to the park.

Allotments

The working party has continued to help identify problems and action needed on allotments which continue to be in demand. Rats have continued to be a problem!

Play Area

There is need to review the equipment and in particular make provision for handicapped children, especially as the Phoenix School have allotments adjoining the area. We also propose to look at the provision of exercise equipment for adults.

Parish Council Liaison Meetings

Following the demise of the Neighbourhood Councils the Liaison Meetings have been resumed but hopefully with a better sense of purpose. Attendance still seems a little sporadic but hopefully this will improve.

During the year a Parish Council Conference took place at Kingsgate at which the Big Society Guru Philip Blond held forth on his ideas. However, his star is no longer in the ascendant and so less has been heard regarding his ideas.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support during the year and also Alison Brown who has passed seamlessly into the job of Clerk.