

Annual Report 2006/7

It was with great sadness that we had to record the death of Eric Dawson who was a long standing member of the parish council and the district council, representing the Craven ward. He will be remembered by many for his work for the community.

One new member was co-opted this year, Councillor Gladys Emmott, replacing Jason Humphreys after his resignation due to work commitments. Councillor Emmott is one of the three councillors representing Eastburn Ward.

One important development this year is that the parish council will officially take over as trustees of the Eastburn Playing Fields Association, after some legal complications which have been resolved with the help of the Charity Commission. The parish council can now begin to plan for the improvement of the site. It is hoped that grants can be obtained, to add to the £9000 already committed by the council to improve the drainage of the football field, a new play area and a wildlife meadow. A Steering Group is planned and any resident who would like to be involved with this project will be most welcome.

Children from Eastburn Junior and Infant School will help to plan the play area.

A second major development has been the ongoing work on a Parish Plan. A Steering Group was set up in the autumn to further this project. A grant of £4867 was awarded by Bradford Council to help bring this project to fruition. A comprehensive questionnaire was designed and hand delivered to every household in Steeton and Eastburn by members of the council and steering group. The information will be collated and used to determine the content of the Parish Plan. The Plan will set out your vision of the future of the parish. It can be incorporated into Bradford's Local Development Framework and allows the parish council to have a greater say in the provision of services and facilities. It also strengthens any bids we might make to grant awarding bodies.

In September Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council joined forces with Silsden Town Council and the Ward Councillors to set up a Joint Transport Working Group. This group is focusing on issues to do with the railway station, particularly parking and disabled access.

The council is in good financial health and there will be no increase in the amount raised by precept in 2007/8.

The council is considering setting up a Youth Council and a grant of £2000 has been received from Keighley Area Committee to address youth issues.

Liaison with the police is regular and ongoing. Councillor Blagden attends the Police Tasking Meetings and reports back to the council.

Invited guests this year have included Terry Singh, Dog Warden Manager, Councillor Pat Bottomley, Silsden Town Council, and Abina Dorgan-Smith, a rural youth worker.

The parish council website has been upgraded and is updated regularly.

The quarterly newsletter will be delivered with the Target to Steeton and by hand to properties in Eastburn.

We have also installed two new litter bins, established a new agreement with the Bowling Club on public use of the green, addressed fire safety issues at the bowling pavilion, contributed to a new gate at the football field, removed a dangerous tree from the football ground and addressed a myriad of minor issues.

Councillors have attended a minimum of 22 meetings, and some councillors many more, to represent your views and interests.

It has been a busy year!

Lorraine Harding, Chairman