

STEETON WITH EASTBURN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT to the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

21st April 2010. EASTBURN JUNIOR and INFANT SCHOOL.

This is my second annual meeting as Chair. It falls to me to report on the work of the Council in 2009/10. The last parish meeting was held on 22nd April 2009.

There have been 13 full council meetings this year and also many sub-group meetings including, the Eastburn Playing Fields Group, the Joint Transport Working Group and the Community Facility Working Group.

Councillors have also undertaken additional training to help improve the way we operate.

2009/10 has seen two major projects come to fruition. We heard on the 22nd of December that we had been awarded a grant of £10,000, this was the final amount of money needed to enable us proceed with the construction of the additional footpath on Station Road. This has now been completed and there have been many positive comments about this footpath. Its construction has greatly improved safety access for wheelchair and pushchair users.

Early December also saw the last grants we had applied for towards the refurbishment of Eastburn Playing Field awarded. This meant we were able to proceed with our plans, and contractors moved to site on the 4th January, probably the worst day that could have been chosen. The contractors have worked through all the worst of the winter weather and have managed to complete the project. The official opening will be held on Saturday the 24th of April. We have managed to secure the services of Freddie Cougar to perform the opening

Finance.

The full accounts for 2009/10 are available on the website.

The precept for 2010/11 is £25,246 and has increased by 6.2%, this means that the precept for a Band D property has risen from £16.84 in 2009/10 to

£17.88 in 2010/11. The Council has been prudent and tried to keep this rise to a minimum.

The Budget for 2010/11 is £32,135.

We have budgeted for Youth and play provision and also to continue the implementation of projects identified in the Parish Plan.

The reserves at 31st March 2010 are approximately £13,000 and these will be carried forward to 2010/11. This is the level of reserves recommended by the National Association of Local Councils, i.e. approximately 50% of precept.

The levels of reserves have been hit by the poor interest rates that Banks are currently paying.

Savings made by the council and the award of some grants from Bradford Council in 2009/10 have enabled the council keep the precept down below the predicted spending level.

Councillors have continued to work closely with members of other organisations including the Ward Councillors, Silsden Town Councillors, Officers from Highways, Metro, Northern Rail and the Area Co-ordinators Office. The dropped kerbs and informal crossing on Steeton Grove and Station Road were installed in early summer. The Transport Working group has undertaken 3 surveys of Station users. These surveys were conducted to gather quantifiable evidence of what was known anecdotally. The information is being compiled into a report for presentation to Keighley Area Committee and also the Airedale Partnership, this is the overarching group with responsibility for the Aire Valley development.

Visitors

A number of invited guests have attended meetings during this year including, Police, Representatives from KIVCA, PCT and BCEP.

Crime

Once again speeding and inconsiderate parking have been the main issues. Highways have installed speed monitoring equipment at both ends of the

Parish. Data gathered from these will determine the next actions. We also have two Councillors who with the police undertake community speed watch initiatives. Cllr Pam Blagden is the Parish Council representative on the Police Tasking Group. Over the last year the neighbourhood policing team have held regular surgeries as well as PACT meetings.

Youth

This year there has been more engagement between local youths and Bradford Council youth workers. Since October regular youth activity sessions have been held in the community room. This has proved very successful and will continue again this year.

Newsletter and Website.

Newsletters continue to be delivered via the Target newspaper in Steeton and by hand in Eastburn. The website has been upgraded and now has the facility for the community to put information on it. One group has already started to do this.

Other Issues.

Following the positive comments received after the installation of the planters in the Rose Garden the Parish Council decided to convert another bed into a raised planter.

We have also been experimenting with removing the Ivy on the rocks at the entrance to the Memorial Garden. It is felt that the Ivy needs to be removed to tidy up the roadside aspect of the Memorial Garden.

Finally.

I would like to thank Councillors for all their hard work and a special thanks must go to the clerk Cheryl Brown.

David Mullen

Chairman