

STEETON WITH EASTBURN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT to the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

6th April 2016.. STEETON COMMUNITY HUB

This is the report on the Council's work for 2015/16. The last Parish meeting was held on 1st April 2015

There have been 11 full Council meetings this year and also 10 meetings of the HUB Management Committee.

Projects that we have undertaken this year:-

Improvements to Cartmel Lane. The access strip from Chapel Road has been tarmaced and drainage channels installed. We have also had trees planted to both sides of the road and these, have been interspersed with boulders to stop cars being parked on the amenity land at Chapel Road recreation ground. Funding for the trees came from Yorkshire Bank Community Fund.

The children's playground at the HUB opened in April 2015 and has proved to be a great success and is well used by many families.

The planting and landscaping at the HUB has settled in well and the plants and bulbs are looking good already.

We have received another Award for all Grant to install curtains at the HUB this will help to improve the acoustics in the big room.

The HUB is proving to be very popular and is in use most days of the week, and there have been lots of children's parties at weekends.

The Council commissioned a report into the feasibility of improving the land at Keighley Road Recreation ground, draining and levelling the area to make it useable. We anticipate that the works proposed will cost in the region of £30,000. We have applied to Bradford Council to release the S106 money for play provision that has to be paid by Redrow for the Manor Fields development off Thornhill Road. We have spoken to Steeton Primary School to see what they would like to use the area for and they are excited at the prospect of having a useable outdoor area for games.

We have commissioned an arboricultural specialist to investigate the potential for the opening up of back memorial wood. He has submitted a plan of what he proposes to BMDC to allow them to comment. Once we have this information we will then undertake a public consultation before anything is done.

I am hoping that we will be able to contact the Department for Transport with regard to the piece of land to the west of Steeton Methodist Church. The Steeton Lights Group have expressed an interest to put a Christmas tree on that piece of land, I think this would be a good idea. It would make a fantastic display if we were able to also plant this area up.

The area of rockery at the front Skipton Road edge of the memorial garden, we have informed BMDC that following consultation with residents regarding this area of land, we no longer want them to do any planting here and that the Parish Council will take over the upkeep of this area. We have awarded a contract to our current garden handyman and he will plant the area up with bedding plants and bulbs.

We have recently been informed that we are the first Council in Yorkshire to be awarded Foundation Status of the Local Council Awards Scheme, this means that we have been peer assessed and are deemed to be operating at a high standard and are meeting all the requirements that we are supposed to.

We have also been working in conjunction with the Emergency Planning Officers at Bradford Metropolitan District Council to draw up a community resilience plan for the parish. We are the pilot area for this plan within the Bradford District.

FINANCE

Full accounts for the year 2015/2016 will be available on the Councils website in due course.

After much deliberation the Council decided not to increase the precept this financial year. We were able to do this in part because Bradford Metropolitan District Council decided to pass on the full amount of the rate support grant they received from central Government.

The Budget for 2015/16 is £ 42,810

CRIME

Crime remains low in Steeton and Eastburn but this is no reason for residents to become complacent.

Inconsiderate parking is still a problem, especially at the top of Thornhill Road. We are still waiting for Bradford Metropolitan District Council highways department to get the Traffic Regulation Orders passed for this area.

The other area where parking is a serious problem is School Street and Market Street near to the school. We have had meetings with highways officers and the Ward Co-ordinators office to try to come up with a solution and are still working towards this.

WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER

Publication of our newsletter continues and delivery is being done by Worth Valley publishing. It would appear that things are working well and the vast majority of residents are receiving their copies.

The HUB is now on Facebook and we have also set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council as well as the Neighbourhood plan.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Following our submission to Bradford Metropolitan District Council to be recognised as the legal body allowed to produce a neighbourhood plan for Steeton, Eastburn and Silsden we have been working hard over the last year and are shortly to hold our formal consultation with residents.

I would like to thank Cllrs for their support throughout the year.

Special thanks must go to Rosie Sanderson for the work she has done throughout the year, and especially the work she has done to enable us to be awarded the foundation status.

Cllr David Mullen

Chair