

Cottingham Parish Council

Chairman's 2015 /2016 Annual Report

I have pleasure in presenting this, my third Annual Report to you. The past year has been a very busy and varied one for the Parish Council.

The following items have not been resolved in the last 12 months since my last report.

The problem of "Parking on Grass Verges" continues to take up our time and there have been a number of site visits. This is an issue is proving very difficult to resolve.

The Parish Council had to deal with the aftermath of the collapse of the wall behind the bus shelter on Corby Road in the previous year. The matter of ownership has not been resolved.

In the Dale we have had to deal with several fallen trees but the memorial tree planting scheme has now started. The fencing around the Dale will require a lot of attention in the next few months once the fallen trees have been dealt with. The 'pond' in the dale requires attention and the water levels need to be raised. Sources of funding for this project include the County Councillor's Empowering Councillors and Communities Fund.

On a more positive note there has been progress on other fronts.

The proposed new Joint Conservation Area has come to the end of its second consultation period and we hope that it will be adopted soon.

The application for development of the land behind Cottingham Hall has again had planning permission refused but there will be a final appeal in early May. Our case will be strengthened by the adoption of the North Northants. J.C.S and the new Conservation area. I would again like to pay tribute to the support we have received from Middleton Parish Council, Jane Smith and Pete Bowman (LE16) and the many residents who have made their views known to the Planning Authority.

The Parish Council continues to work diligently with the Highways Authority and Corby Borough Council in dealing with such serious issues as dog fouling, pot holes and parking problems in the village. The speed limits in Corby Road and Mill Road have been extended to allow better visibility of the speed restriction signs. New parking restrictions are to operate around the junction of Corby Road, Church Street, High Street, School Lane, and Rockingham Road.

The Council is an active partner in establishing a new Village Hall on the recreation ground. It has representation on the Working Party which has dedicated time to drawing up plans. These have been submitted but a number of queries have been raised.

The School has become an academy but we are unsure at the present time how this affects ownership of that part of the Recreation Group formerly owned by NCC.

Congratulations are due to Anne Davison and her assistants. The Village received a Highly Commended Award in the Village of the Year award.

The need for the interests of the Village to be recognised is shown by the Council's representation on such bodies as CPRE and the Rural Area Forum

Cottingham Parish Council's request to Corby Borough Council to have the Parish designated as an area suitable to develop a neighbourhood plan has been accepted. At the moment we are awaiting the approval of the new Conservation Area. Once this has been approved, a period of consultation within Cottingham will take place before the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted. This could take a year for approval before a local referendum is necessary. This applies to Cottingham residents only as Middleton Parish Council have decided not to proceed with a joint application for both Parishes. (Although the views of our neighbours must be taken into consideration before submission, only Cottingham residents can vote for final approval {50% of those voting must be in favour of adoption})

We have welcomed 1 new councillor this year, David Grayson. He is already proving his worth. We still need 2 more councillors to achieve a full Council and would welcome any resident who feels that they have a contribution to make.

I cannot fail to mention in this report the unstinting work done by our Parish Clerk, Peter Taylor. His experience, diligence and patience set an example to us all.

Thanks also go to my fellow councillors, in particular Clive Ashworth, the Vice Chairman whose commitment to planning and background knowledge of the Parish Council has been invaluable. Mention also to Suzanne Preston, Mark Tooley, Jon Dixon, Diana Sharvill and Cllrs. Heggs and Rutt and finally our dedicated contractor Steve Morphy.

I look forward to ensuring the views of the electorate are taken account of by the Parish Council and that we continue to help maintain our village at its current high standard.

Owen Davison

Chairman.

Cottingham Parish Council