

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016-2017

This year has seen several changes on the Parish Council. We were very sorry to lose Graham Wigley and Bob Chesham, when they left the village, and Julia Gunning, who resigned due to pressure of work. We were pleased to welcome Kate Scoffings, Sally Simmons (for a second term) and Dennis Lightning.

Highways

This topic is mentioned at most of our meetings, and we have a chance to influence their development in two main ways.

Last year, we reported that the Hildersham junction had been improved, together with a 50 MPH limit on that section of the road, as part of the Local Highways Initiative. It's not clear that this is being observed by all users and, sadly, there have been at least 2 serious accidents in that last year. This year, we should see a 50 MPH limit on the section of Newmarket Road between the A1307 and Granta Park, together with Bourn Bridge Road and Pampisford Road up to the 30 MPH limits. A survey of parents showed that most were keen to see standards improved and for crossing the road outside the school to be made safer. We applied for funding for 2017/18 but need further work on a workable proposal to improve safety outside the school.

The A1307 corridor is included in the Greater Cambridge City Deal. We responded to some of their public consultations last year. There have also been meetings and consultations about an AgriTech development including work on the A1301/A505, which might impact on the A1307. There is a public exhibition of plans at Hinxton in mid-May.

One aspect of the City Deal is to reduce congestion while recognising that the whole area is subject to significant development. Among other things, this means encouraging the use of buses and bicycles. We were pleased to see the off-road cycle route from Abington to Addenbrookes completed by a new cycleway through the Babraham Institute site. We now have three new cycleways to Abington (from Addenbrookes, Sawston and Whittlesford), all in regular use.

Further improvements along the A1307 corridor are being considered, including park & ride improvements, bus priority measures on the A1307 and a new off-road network of 'Greenways' for walking, cycling and equestrian use. There has been some public

consultation already and the details are now being considered by a Local Liaison Forum, which we have joined, with further public consultation in due course.

We used our Speedwatch equipment regularly for most of the year, on Bourn Bridge Road, High Street and Cambridge Road. It was clear that most, but not all, drivers behave quite well in the village but speeding is common on Cambridge Road. We passed details to the police. We also used the equipment to check speeds near the school at peak times; we did not see any speeding but did observe some very poor driving and parking. We would welcome further volunteers so we can increase our coverage.

We also investigated whether anything can be done to improve Fourwentways, which acts as an unofficial lorry park. Sadly, this is accompanied by a lot of unpleasant rubbish. We chased up bin emptying a few times but it seems difficult to get much else done to alleviate the parking problem. We had several complaints about traffic going the wrong way when leaving the services and noticed a missing yellow bollard, which was quickly installed after we pointed it out.

Road flooding can also be a problem. We hope that the occasional floods near the church have now been solved by getting a ditch cleared at Bancroft Park. Some other problems are less easy to fix.

We regularly report minor highways issues; you can also make reports on https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xforms_form.aspx?formID=25&language=en

Planning

The Parish Council has two representatives on the Committee for Abington Housing, which was formed to progress some limited housing developments in the village. The first of the three sites identified, at the top of the High Street and along the north side of Pampisford Road, has now started construction and will provide 20 dwellings, including 8 'affordable'. Plans are well advanced for Linton Road, a larger site close to the allotments, and the third, at Bancroft Farm, is a work in progress. An unexpected addition was a private application for 8 dwellings at the old Strawberry Farm, opposite the top of the High Street along the south side of Pampisford Road.

Examination of the District Council's Local Plan has re-started but it's unlikely to conclude until late this year. A point about Local Green Space (LGS) was examined in January, as there had been several objections, including one relating to Bancroft Farm. The District Council was asked to review all its LGS designations and consider whether Protected Village Amenity Area (PVAA) might be more appropriate. A more detailed note is available on the Parish Council web-site: <https://goo.gl/DgFV4i>

Traffic generated by the Cambridge International School is also a concern, especially as it's quite close to Four Wentways. The 50 MPH limit should help but we were expecting developments at the school to improve the traffic flow at the beginning and end of the school day. We heard a little about their plans at our Annual Meeting a year ago but await further information from the school.

Activity has increased at Granta Park, with a new Gilead building and the pending refurbishment of the old one. The bigger project is the new building for Illumina and a new sports centre, which we understand will be open for village residents to join. We have had discussions about an annoying noise which is often heard from parts of Little Abington and continues at night and weekends. It was traced to air-cooling plant for a TWI building and they are attempting to deaden the sound.

Events

The Parish Councils have arranged or supported a few events over the last year:

- We supported a celebration on Magna Close of the Queen's 90th birthday in June.
- We sponsored a village coach outing to Felixstowe in July.
- We arranged a Village Energy Day at the Abington Institute in October. Representatives from several local companies showed what they could do to improve energy efficiency. We also had representatives from Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Camcycle, the Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

Maintenance and Miscellaneous

We employ a contractor to attend to regular maintenance such as cutting verges, sweeping leaves and bus shelters and keeping footpaths open. Do not forget that it is a landowner's responsibility to keep their hedges and trees trimmed to avoid obstructing footways or street lights. We have had to deal with quite a few fallen trees this year, by chasing owners or, on occasion, taking direct action, with their agreement.

We have had discussions this year with the owners of Ivan Clark's Corner houses about tidying up their site and hedges. As a result, our contractor has helped them to do this.

The new bus shelter on the A1307 has suffered from a mystery impact, possibly a carelessly reversed trailer. It has been inspected and is quite safe (with one missing glass panel) but we hope to make a claim on our insurance for a repair.

There was a day or two when the river ran blue. We were advised that a registered contractor had discharged an unusually large amount of chemical toilet waste into the Linton treatment works. The Environment Agency and Anglian Water checked and do not think any great harm was done. However, it was alarming and a few dead fish were seen. We were advised that such discharges would be limited to larger treatment works in future, so that they are diluted by the greater volumes. We intend to install signs advising how to report such incidents.

People

We were pleased to submit nominations for the District Council's Community Heroes awards. The second-place of the Outstanding Youth Initiative Award, for work supporting young people, was won by Deborah James for Abington Woods. The winner of the Wellbeing Award was Anne Hall.

Once again, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work this year, which seems to have been quite busy. Special thanks to the clerk who keeps us all in order and is now complying with the new 'transparency rules' by putting Parish Council papers on the village website. Her retirement project will be to arrange a better archiving system for the large volume of papers in her garage!

I should note here that I joined the Parish Council in January 2005 and became chairman in 2008; I think it's probably time for a change, so I do not expect to stand at the election next year.

Peter Brunning, Chairman, Little Abington Parish Council

REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2016-17

The balance at the end of the year was just under £21,000 compared to £19,000 at the end of the last financial year. This includes funds set aside (our allocated reserves) for the 2016-17 highways improvement scheme to introduce speed limits on the Newmarket Road and on Bourn Bridge Road, youth initiatives and for rationalisation and electronic archiving of the vast number of documents, some dating back to the 1950s, that the Parish Council has. There are still some S106 funds intended to improve community facilities. The Institute Management Committee and the Recreation Ground Committee seem to have identified suitable projects.

As usual more than half of the Parish Council's costs are for employing the Clerk, village maintenance, footway lighting and our contribution towards the cost of the Recreation Ground. Expenditure was a little below plan mainly because the costs of village maintenance were lower than expected. Significant items of expenditure were a grant towards the cost of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the purchase of a new laptop and associated software. The cost of footway lighting looks high because as well as paying for 2016-17 costs we paid the invoice for lighting in 2015 16. The Parish Council has continued to contribute towards the cost community projects. This includes contributing towards the Parish Nurse scheme (more of this later on the agenda), the Bobby Scheme for victims of crime and a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

Income is higher than plan because we were fortunate to receive a larger grant than expected for verge cutting on the A1307 and, in line with good practice, the Parish Council has started to claim a VAT refund at mid-year.

As usual the accounts are subject to audit. The draft accounts were agreed by the Parish Council this evening. They are subject to review by the internal auditor and they will be reported to the Audit Commission in June. Last year we received a qualified audit because in preparation for market testing for insurance the Parish Council revalued its assets. The external auditor considered this was not in line with agreed practice.

I mentioned the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and the Council Award Scheme in my report last year. LAPC submitted its application for Foundation status some months ago. We are awaiting judgement. Accreditation will provide formal confirmation that LAPC continues to follow good practice guidelines and that it is compliant with the statutory requirements of the Code.

Genevieve Dalton

Clerk to Little Abington Parish Council/Responsible Financial Officer

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

During the last year there have been only 7 approved planning applications (2016:23) of which 5 related to extensions/improvements of existing dwellings, 1 related to the construction of a new house following demolition of current dwelling and 1 (outstanding from prior year) for the construction of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing house. No applications were rejected during the year and there are 2 applications on which decisions are pending (including one for retrospective approval)

The 5 non-residential planning applications, all of which were approved, related to the Perse School playing fields (3 re additional storage container, field shelters & increased parking area), the Greenacre site on Bourn Bridge Road (for change of use of land for siting a mobile home) and the Shell garage (for installation of Adblue tank & dispensers).

The main residential issue for the village continues to be in regard the proposed housing development on Bancroft Farm in Little Abington as part of the Local Plan for the SCDC area. This plan which covers the development of c.60 dwellings across both Great & Little Abington is still under review by a government inspector. The landowner of Bancroft Farm and the attached meadow has raised the question with the inspector as to whether the meadow meets the requirements to be defined as a Local Green Space. Until the inspector issues their report (hopefully sometime later this year) there will be no plans submitted for this site. A challenge to the potential non-classification of the meadow as an LGS has been sent to SCDC which acknowledges its use by the village for many years. Any future development would only be supported within the confines of the former farmyard buildings as per the original proposal.

The TWI and Granta Park have continued with their redevelopment and construction of new buildings. Although this area falls within the GAPC domain TWI & Granta Park have continued to liaise with LAPC (including site visits) keeping us advised of progress and changes to plans to ensure any impact on residents is minimised (e.g. noise levels, footpath closures).

Paul Pritchard, Chair of LAPC Planning Committee.

ABINGTON INSTITUTE

The Institute has had another successful year accommodating many village groups, events and private functions. The enormous contribution from volunteers, many of whom are hard at work on behalf of the community many times per week, enables the Institute to remain financially self-supporting.

The old complicated boiler that was difficult to get serviced and repaired has been replaced with a boiler that can be serviced by numerous local companies. Additionally, the heating of individual rooms has been automated so that rooms will be at the right temperature when groups arrive and the heating in that room will be automatically turned off at the end of their session. This will make the most efficient use of our heating whilst putting an end to chilly morning starts.

Another Velux window has been added in the Main Hall to increase the available natural light and like the other two windows, will close automatically if it rains. Two ceiling fans have also been fitted to provide some cooling on the occasions when ventilation from the Velux is insufficient.

Considerable repairs have been made to the decking outside the terrace as the frame its built on was rotting.

John Ellis

LAPC representative on Abington Institute Executive

SEVEN CHURCHES PARISH NURSE PROJECT

REPORT FOR LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – APRIL 2017

1. Purpose

Little Abington Parish Council have financially supported the Parish Nurse Project. Councillors have asked for some information regarding the governance, management and activity of the Project and this note seeks to meet that request.

2. Governance and Management

2.1. The Parish Nurse is employed by Hildersham Parochial Church Council on behalf of the Seven Churches. The Parish Nurse has an honorary contract with the Granta Medical Practices which enables her to have access to the clinical team and systems in the practices and, with appropriate consent, to patient's notes.

2.2. The management of the project is delegated to a Parish Nurse Management Committee which is formally constituted committee of the PCC. The membership of the Management Committee comprises:

- Dr James Morrow – Managing Partner Granta Medical Practices
- Dr Suan Rowland – Retired Consultant in Public Health Medicine
- Mrs Kate Huntsman – Practising Registered General Nurse (PCC Member)
- Keith Day (Chairman) – Retired NHS Director and Chief Executive (Ministry Team and PCC Member)

2.3. The nurse is paid a salary equivalent to the mid-point of NHS Band 5. I am the line manager for the nurse and we meet regularly on a 1/1 basis.

2.4. In addition to her relationship with the individuals mentioned above, the nurse has a named professional supervisor with whom she has regular documented contact.

2.5. Parish Nursing services in the UK operate under the accreditation scheme run by Parish Nursing (Ministries) UK. In order to qualify as an accredited service it is necessary to meet 38 quality standards which cover both the organisational arrangements for the individual service and the practice of the nurse. Arrangements for the CPD, training and revalidation of the nurse are all included within these standards. Our service underwent an assessment visit conducted by Dr Ros Moore, Chief Executive of PNMUK earlier this year and was accredited without reservation. Further quality assurance visits will take place on an annual basis.

2.6. As well as being a Christian and a Registered Nurse, a Parish Nurse cannot practice until she/he has successfully completed a two week training course operated by PNMUK.

3. Activity

3.1. The Parish Nurse Project is subject to a formal evaluation process using the "action evaluation" methodology. Although initially it was the intention to capture information on a village by village basis this was dropped at an early stage as it was clear that in small communities it would be very difficult to maintain confidentiality if details of activity were identified to individual location particularly the smaller ones.

3.2. Given the nature of the service numbers of individuals requiring interventions can vary considerably from week to week in any given location as can of course the amount of time that it is necessary to devote to any particular case and

without complicated weighting formulae such numerical data is in danger of being meaningless. The whole emphasis of the evaluation process adopted it to assess impact and effectiveness for the patient which is demonstrated in the full Evaluation Report of the first 10 months a copy of which has been provided to the Clerk.

3.3. The Parish Nurse has made a significant number of interventions in the Abingtons both individually and collectively at the Forget Me Not Club. One user of the service was recently prepared to give testimony to the value of the service at a recent Diocesan event promoting parish nursing and others have made entirely unsolicited financial contributions to the service in token of their appreciation.

4. Conclusion

I appreciate that it may well be difficult, from these brief notes, for Councillors to gain a measure of the scope and value of the work of the Parish Nurse in Little Abington and thus I would be more than happy, if that were your wish, to bring Claire Gillett to a meeting of the Council in order that we could describe to you in more detail the type of work she has been performing and the significant ongoing demand which we perceive.

Keith Day
16th April 2017