

Elvaston Parish Council - Chairman Report 2015

1. Flooding . Derby City Council's 'Our City Our River' project should reduce flood risk in Derby. Phase 2 of this will reinforce flood defences at Ambaston and Shardlow. An open day was held in the village hall in March to exhibit the proposed works. We thank Peter Waters for his continued surveillance and monitoring of river levels inspection of the flood bank.

2. Elvaston Country Park.

A single management body will take control of Elvaston Castle from DCC under a lease or similar agreement although the existing management will run it in the interim. Initially, a Development Board has been formed to act in an advisory capacity and will consist of volunteers and inform on planning and private sector bids needed for progressing the Castle's future. The Board is independent of DCC but the two will work together. Transfer of the estate from DCC to the management body will take around 2-3 years.

The parish council is in the process of nominating one of its members to become a representative on the Board which should be in place by mid-May.

3. Broadband. The council has maintained pressure on DCC to upgrade broadband communications in the area but this is proving difficult. Despite the best efforts of our county councillor, Rob Divison, and digital champion, Tony Whaling, we are no nearer to achieving a sufficiently fast service. However, the council will continue to pursue. Thulston and Elvaston are unlikely to receive superfast Broadband due to line length; however they will receive regular broadband by 2018 (hopefully 2017). Ambaston should now be receiving the service.

4. Boulton Moor. Contractors caused various problems during the last year which the council (and SDDC) addressed by complaints and site visits. Due to better communication, more input and regular liaison meetings with SDDC and Persimmon Homes we envisage fewer difficulties in the future.

Re Other issues.

Resignation of Steve Lee - now leaves us needing 2 members (1 rural and 1 BM).

Precept is unchanged for the forthcoming year, set at £10820.

The Harrington Arms became the new site for the remaining defibrillator. (Thank you to both Jonathan Irons and Becky Russell for both their hard work and perseverance to make it happen.)

Arrangements over the village hall grounds maintenance have now been resolved.

Finally – thanks to County Councillor, District Councillors, members and lengthman for their efforts etc. I would like to give a big thank you to Richard Strand for his continued support he has given throughout the year and also a big thank you to Jonathon Irons our Parish Clerk. I would like to thank Peter Waters for coming along to most meetings to give a Sand, Gravel & Flooding Report and I would like to thank all the parishioners who regularly attend our meeting.

Paul Bickerton

Chairman 2014/15

Elvaston Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2015
South Derbyshire District Councillors' Report
by
Mrs Ann Watson, Neil Atkin & Peter Watson

Good Evening Chairman, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, your three elected District Councillors for the Aston Ward, have pleasure in presenting this report, our final one for this current term of office, to Elvaston Parish Council together with the District Council Tax Budget for 2015 – 2016.

Council Tax

For the fifth consecutive year, South Derbyshire District Council will not be increasing its element of Council Tax for 2015/ 2016. The result of this decision is that its element of a Band D property will remain at £150.25, the same as in 2011. Other major preceptors have chosen to increase their precept, which will mean that all Elvaston Parish Council Taxpayers residents will see an increase in their total Council Tax which is collected on their behalf by the District Council.

We, furthermore, are pleased to report that The District Council by prudent control of its finances has an excessive sum of money in reserves. Following discussion with and approval by the District Auditor a 5% rebate of the SDDC precept will be paid to all Council Tax payers in the summer of this year.

We have made many savings in the last five years without any reduction in services to the Community and most importantly we report that we have continually increased the support to the Voluntary Sector by at the least the rate of inflation.

Waste Collection

The kerbside waste collection using in three containers, black, brown and green with an internal black caddy for paper and cardboard is now fully operational and has been most enthusiastically approved by a majority of residents. The kerbside collection has reduced amount being deposited at many of the small collection sites in Parishes, following a review the number of small sites has been reduced. Furthermore the service provided by the 'Clean Team' at a cost of in the order of £40,000 per annum is most appreciated as it assists in our aim of keeping our surroundings clean, tidy and attractively pleasing. Finally there is no charge, nor is one envisaged, for collecting household waste.

Local Plan

The local plan for South Derbyshire was submitted in July last year and following a public examination in the Autumn it is now being examined and reviewed by a Planning Inspector. The examination was attended by your District Councillors with Peter Watson addressing the Inspector twice and responding to a question from her. The comments of that review are taking longer than expected to be announced because we have a duty to co-operate in our agreeing our housing number with two adjoining authorities one of which, Amber Valley, has had its examination suspended. Part 1 is likely to be approved later this year with the public consultation of Part 2 commencing afterwards with approval, hopefully in 2016.

Flooding

The flood prevention proposals by Derby City to protect its residents and properties in a scheme called, Our City Our River, is of considerable concern to the downstream Parishes in the Aston Ward and in particular Ambaston, Elvaston, Shardlow and Thulston. Councillor Peter Watson attended a Drop-In event and has already agreed a meeting with Derby City Planners in the near future together with a site visit shortly prior to the consideration of the Planning Application which is likely to be in September 2015. Your District Council & Councillors will maintain regular contact with the Environment Agency to ensure that they are well aware of the very real risk of flooding if the banks are not raised significantly in the future.

Boulton Moor Housing

Building of the houses has commenced by Persimmon Homes and it must be reported that their attitude to the local communities in particular with the floating of the requirements of the building consent with regards to highway cleanliness, dust and noise was most unsatisfactory. A Liaison Group has been established, chaired by a District Councillor, which will meet at least twice a year to constructively programme, progress and concerns of the Local Community, District Council and County Council. It must be recorded that following the issue of a noise enforcement there was a reduction in the noise level, however there are still concern with working hours, site safety and vandalism by persons entering the site.

Shardlow Gravel

No sand and gravel has been extracted from Shardlow Quarry for a number of years because the low demand. The only activity has been the supplying of ready-mixed mortar from the plant using sand from another quarry. It is expected that restoration works of sub-soiling and top-soiling, by the new owner, of the filled ground will commence shortly, however, the date of commencement has not been finalised because a protected species of great crested newts has been found on the site.

Donington Park Race Track

Relations with the owners and operators are considerably better than under the previous two ownerships. Noise is still an issue on certain days, mainly depending on the wind direction. District Councillors Neil Atkin and Peter Watson attend the bi-annual Liaison Meeting to represent your interests even though the effect on Elvaston is not as great as other parishes in the Aston Ward.

East Midlands Airport

As previously reported Elvaston Parish is slightly effected by the East Midlands Airport, albeit the noise is now less than some years ago. The amount of freight and passenger traffic is now on the increase following the last few years of decline albeit with quieter aircraft. District Councillor Peter Watson as Chairman of Environmental Services attends the liaison meetings to ensure that any Parish views are heard and presented vociferously as required.

Social Housing

Fifty new council houses, for the first time in many years, are being built on land owned by the District Council in Overseal, Coton Park & Pennine Way which increase the number of affordable homes in the District.

Thanks to the community

This last year 2014 /15 has been successful in our achievements so we wish to thank you for your support not only in this year but and throughout the last four years.

SDDCllr Mrs Ann Watson

SDDCllr Neil Atkin

SDDCllr Peter Watson

13th April 2015

In addition SDDCllr Neil Atkin reported that he received generator noise complaints from several BM residents to which Persimmon Homes has apologised. The company said it was connected to break-ins experienced recently. However, as this breaches H&S regulations SDDC officers will visit after-hours. At Easter a group of youths drove a bulldozer towards houses at BM and some residents took photographs. DCllr Atkin told the Safer Neighbourhood Team and an investigation is now ongoing.

County Councillor report – Rob Davison. Elvaston

1. An interim management body for Elvaston Castle is now being formed which will take around 18 months.
2. The flood meeting with various relevant organisations held on 2nd April proved worthwhile and roles seem to have become clearer.
3. Cllr Davison attended SDDC's Local Plan meeting; he is concerned about road congestion and infrastructure capacity.
4. DCC has raised its element of the Council Tax by 2%.
5. The creation of a combined authority of 10 councils plus Derby City Council is proposed; this will attract money and accelerate decision making processes. Nottingham councils and City Council are proposing a similar arrangement.
6. The new Care Act, originating in 1948, is designed to update legislation and will give more rights to disabled and other impaired members of society. Adult care, carers and care homes are all to be addressed and a cap on individual's care costs has been set at £72k, costs in excess of this are free.
7. Superfast broadband is being phased into service in the local area. Cllr Strand believed the speed will still be unacceptable in 3 years' time. Cllr Davison will pursue once again at County Hall.
8. Persimmon Homes' housebuilding at Boulton Moor continues to create problems as the Local Plan progresses. Future sanctions will be imposed if necessary.
9. Some invites to the last Waste Liaison Meeting may have gone astray.

Elvaston Budget Report 2014/15

Expenditure.

Over the past financial year expenditure increased from £14400 to £16223 (final audited figures). There is no definitive reason for the higher expenditure; many costs proved lower although these were offset by one-off costs of £2232 for a new defibrillator and £700 increase in S.137 costs. Regarding the latter, a grant not awarded to the Plan Steering Group last year was paid this year (equating therefore to £1400 of funding in total). All other expenditure items were reasonably within budget.

As a result, at the start of this financial year Council now holds around £25k in reserve.

Notwithstanding the above the Council maintains a contingency fund to provide funds for any unforeseen expenses.

Income.

The Council is keen to retain surplus reserves while not compromising expenditure on services and projects. Audited figures show a total balance brought forward from last year plus income of £41589, less expenditure of £16223 which equates to a healthy balance of £25366. Accordingly, the Receipts & Payments book shows a bank reconciled figure of £25366.

The SDDC's s.136 concurrent functions grant increased from £6478 to £6647.

Council is conscious of avoiding any poor state of reserves which has threatened many with bankruptcy while at the same time striving to deliver services designed for a modern village.

This year.

Council requested the same level of precept from District Council and considers this to represent good value to parishioners.

Precept.

The Precept of £10820 divided by 1398 parishioners = £7.74 per year, 0.15p per week per parishioner.

The Government's regulation over a revised tax base (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) was introduced 2 years ago. It is a replacement benefit system to help pensioners, disabled and low income households. This provides a discount for such recipients that reduces the overall number of properties liable for Council Tax.

Elvaston had its CT base i.e. number of liable properties increased from 698 last year to 699 in the forthcoming year. Council has asked SDDC for the same level of precept as last year (£10820); added to this the Government's Local Council Tax Support Grant award is £210.