



Ashover
Community First

ISSUE no.1
2016/2017

Ashover Parish Council Annual Report 2015/2016

Working for the whole of the Ashover Parish
Website: www.ashover-pc.gov.uk



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Parishioners,

2015 saw a new Parish Council formed. There was no requirement for an election, with two new Councillors Alison Tyson and Martha Hayward, leaving a seat for co-option. After due process, Lucy Hunter-Bott was offered the remaining seat bringing the council up to full strength.

Many training sessions have been attended by Councillors and the clerk, to keep pace with changes in both legislation and new systems of operation.

The creation of a "Neighbourhood Plan" giving the residents the opportunity to develop the parish for the future, began its process. The appointment of "Your Locale" has guided the council through the process. Thanks go to members of the "Steering Group", all of whom have given time and expertise in taking the plan through its due process of public participation. In the absence of a District Council Local Plan, the Ashover Draft Neighbourhood Plan is the only planning document available for Ashover Parish and is now being referred to in comments on planning applications. Additionally and to help in the planning process, your Parish Council commissioned its own traffic survey, which provided supporting information when submitting comments to North East Derbyshire District Council on local planning applications.

With financial help from Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd., an external defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall at Uppertown Social Centre. This is the first of several to be sited throughout the parish. The units can be accessed by a unique code obtained by an emergency call to the 999 service.

Our commitment to keeping parishioners well informed on parish business has been achieved by the introduction of a new website, allowing easy access to a wide range of topics. The new site gives access to all planning applications on the North East Derbyshire planning portal. The Parish Council post box, sited by the sports pavilion, gives an easy contact point to the clerk who is experiencing an ever increasing work load.

Continued on the next page...

Your Parish Council has liaised with the Parish Hall Management Committee on its application for 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' status and this has now been achieved. Further discussions are being held on the management of the sports pavilion and this is ongoing and will be completed as soon as possible.

In liaison with the Parochial Church Council a new plaque has been dedicated to lives lost in all wars and placed on the War Memorial. The cost has been shared between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

Thanks go to the Church for their help with the Christmas event. As usual it was a successful and enjoyable occasion, a testament to the efforts of the organisers and volunteers.

Volunteers have become a vital service to the parish with the newly formed "Tree Group", a working group of the Parish Council and the "Footpaths and Bridleways Group". Special thanks to Richard Felton who walks and helps look after the many miles of paths in the parish and surrounding area. Richard would welcome anyone interested in walking with him to gain knowledge of the area and its many routes.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers, organisations, Members of the Parish Council and its staff who work tirelessly to make and keep the parish of Ashover the special place it is. In view of recent accusations levelled at Councillors and staff and/or any queries that residents may have, please come along and raise them at **The Annual Meeting of Electors to be held on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 6pm in the Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover.**

Councillor Ed Willmot

CHAIRMAN

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

April 2016

ALLOTMENTS

The allotments on Marsh Green are owned by the Parish Council and are presently rented by four parishioners. If you have land you are willing to let out as an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk.

ASHOVER LIGHT RAILWAY SOCIETY (www.alrs.org.uk)

The ALRS is a registered charity aiming to acquire, preserve and restore for public benefit items of historical, architectural, engineering or scientific value in connection with the Ashover Light Railway.

Over the last 12 months the Society has exhibited at a number of local shows (e.g. Ashover, Woolley and Clay Cross) and provided speakers to other organisations.

Our largest artefact is the "Where the Rainbow Ends" cafe which formerly stood at Ashover Butts. We have recently engaged professional consultants with a view to submitting a proposal for Heritage Lottery funding for its re-erection (but not on its original site, unfortunately). The cafe is currently stored in kit form at Peak Rail's Rowsley site.

We are always looking for items connected to the railway to appear, and recently discovered a short film clip of the railway. Until this discovery it was thought that only one clip existed, taken in the vicinity of Ogston Camp. Have any residents of Ashover or around got any photos of the railway we could copy?

Recently the station name board from "Stretton for Ashover" main line station was advertised on a well-known internet auction site, and this has been added to our collection.

New members to our society are always welcome and we can offer the opportunity to get practical "hands on" experience of narrow gauge railway restoration. Contact details available on our website.

David Willmott

ALRS PUBLICITY OFFICER.

ASHOVER COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTRE LTD

The Trustees continue to manage and maintain the Ashover Medical Centre building. The building is still in good order despite the constant use.

Parishioners are reminded that the Trust was set up by the community, and it is the community who are able to benefit from it.

As a guide, during this financial year the Trust has supported many projects. Grant aid has been given to the Mayday Carnival event, the Christmas Lights switch on and the Parish Party. Individual grants have been given to allow young parishioners to enhance their education with trips abroad and the local sports and senior citizens clubs have also been beneficiaries. Ashover Guides and Uppertown social centre have also been successful with grant applications to help various projects.

So don't be afraid to ask for help! The Trustees will consider requests, and, in these more austere times, help with group projects, or extracurricular educational and recreational activities for school age children, fit well with the Trust objectives.

Contact one of the Trustees – Jacqueline Collins, Andrew King, Ed Willmot, or Philip Clark, on 01245 590356

ASHOVER SHOW 2016

The 85th Ashover Show will be held on Wednesday 10 August 2016. The Show is very proud of its reputation as one of the finest traditional agricultural shows in the country and regularly welcomes over 14,000 visitors each year and offers an enjoyable day out for the whole family.

For up to date information on the show and all of the contact details plus class schedules, please visit our web site at www.ashovershow.co.uk. Advance tickets are available to purchase on line at a reduced price to those on the day and we very much look forward to seeing you.

Jackie Twilley

SHOW SECRETARY

BLUE BADGE SCHEME DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CRACKDOWN CAMPAIGN

People caught misusing their Blue Badge parking permit are being warned by Derbyshire County Council that they face having it confiscated and being fined £1,000 in a new crackdown on cheats. Blue Badges are issued to people with severe mobility problems and a badge holder can display their badge in their car or any vehicle they are travelling in, to park closer to where they need to be. In some areas displaying the badge also allows them to park for free. The county council has launched a new crackdown campaign and its parking enforcement officers will step up the regular checks they carry out in the county's parking hotspots. Strict rules govern the use of a Blue Badge and people shouldn't use one if:-

- it doesn't belong to them – it must not be borrowed or used after the genuine badge holder has died
- the badge holder is not in the car, including when the car is being parked the holder no longer qualifies for the badge or it is out of date.

There are currently just over 52,600 Blue Badge holders across Derbyshire and 5,600 new applications were approved last year. Changes introduced to the scheme by the Government in 2012 have improved administration and made it easier to stop fraudulent production and illegal use of the badges, ensuring only genuine users benefit. All new applicants and people re-applying also have to undergo an assessment to see if they should qualify for a badge.

Information on all applicants is held on a national database and the Blue Badges are now designed to a higher specification, making them more difficult to copy.

As well as the increased number of parking hotspot checks, the council is also launching an amnesty and appealing to anyone who has or uses a badge that they shouldn't to send it back.

Council parking enforcement officers will be paying particular attention to areas where disabled people have reported misuse of Blue Badges, and will be checking that the Blue Badge holder is with the car it is being displayed in.

If they suspect a badge is being misused, they may phone a Blue Badge holder's home to check they are not at home while their Blue Badge is being used by someone else.

People caught misusing the badge risk having it taken off them or fined, and latest figures for 2014 show that the council's parking enforcement officers handed out 26 penalty charge notices for failure to display a valid Blue Badge.

Derbyshire County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Councillor Paul Jones said: "The Blue Badge can be a lifeline to people and help them maintain their independence, as they can use it to get out and about.

"It's really important to us and to genuine Blue Badge holders that people don't misuse the scheme and take up spaces needed by someone with genuine mobility problems.

"It's extremely inconsiderate and in some cases can make the difference between someone being able to get out and be independent and just turning round and going home.

"We want to stop Blue Badge misuse happening across the county, including in designated disabled parking bays, which we know are often misused by people who perhaps don't realise the frustration and inconvenience they are causing.

"We want people to let us know if they suspect someone is misusing a Blue Badge and we want people who are tempted to misuse them to know we make regular checks.

"People can remind themselves of the guidelines by visiting the council's website if they're not clear.

"We can take a badge away from someone who is caught misusing it, or even fine them as a last resort."

People can now report Blue Badge cheats by phoning Call Derbyshire on

01629 533190 or they can email parking@derbyshire.gov.uk

For a reminder of the Blue Badge rules people can visit the county council's website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/bluebadge
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CEMETERY

The Ashover Parish Cemetery is a place used by many to remember their loved ones. It is a place of peace and tranquillity and the Burial Board are dedicated to maintaining the area in a manner that is sympathetic to the surroundings.

The maintenance contract came due for renewal. This was tendered to three parties and has been awarded to a local company for the next twelve months.

Under a separate contract we continue to weed kill the paths and borders to maintain their functionality.

A 'Fees and Charges' list for the cemetery can be found on the Parish Council's website at www.ashover-pc.gov.uk. No increase in charges have been levied for the coming year. This is the seventh consecutive year of no increase in costs for local parish rates.

A tree survey has been undertaken by a professional arboriculturist and identified minor works undertaken.

The main cemetery wall has been identified as being structurally unsafe and is in process of being rebuilt by a local craftsman. This work completes the length of wall previously rebuilt a number of years ago

Chris Miller

CHAIRMAN OF THE BURIAL BOARD

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 6TH DECEMBER 2015

For the second year running, the switch-on post lighting up event was conducted in the Church, removing all concerns about bad weather and much appreciated last year and this by all the attendees. Some of those attending had never visited the Church before and were expressing their appreciation of its historic interior and attractions.

Cloaked in white sparkling lights the switch-on was carried out by Richard Felton with the aid of Town Crier, Merrick Bull, watched by a crowd of children and their parents and friends.

That part of the ceremony completed some 300 filed into the Church, led by Maude the Donkey, to the tune of "Little Donkey" played by Ashover Brass band and sung by the Church choir, which was then followed by carol singing.

To the delight of the children Father Christmas suddenly appeared from the rear of the Church and took his place in the grotto, and a queue of excited children quickly formed. Whilst Father Christmas spoke to the children, parents and others were refreshed by mince pies and mulled wine or a soft drink.

Further carol singing took place until every child had seen Santa, when the crowd then slowly dispersed to the sound of Christmas music.

Many thanks go to Richard Felton, Merrick the Town Crier, all the helpers of this year's event and to Ashover Brass band and the choir who helped to make it such a success.

A special "thank you" goes to Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd who annually make it possible with generous donations.

Christine Brocksope

COMMON LAND

Your Council continues to monitor common land, carrying out maintenance where necessary. Parish Council approval has been given for some trees on common land to be managed by the Tree Working Group.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT Ashover Social Car Scheme

A new integrated community car scheme commenced in March 2013 covering Ashover Parish. The previous Ashover Social car scheme started following a demand identified in Ashover's Parish Plan in 2006 and has proved very popular for residents denied the use of a car to get to Hospital, Doctors,

Shops etc. In conjunction with Derbyshire County Council and in discussions with the Chesterfield and Amber Valley Community Car scheme organisers, arrangements were made which retained the best of the old scheme and added extra value and services by switching the booking system to a new venue and with a new phone number...**01773 746652**. Ashover is a very large Parish with minimal bus and taxi services and large distances and many remote dwellings to cater for. The combined Social Car scheme now covering Chesterfield, Ashover and Amber Valley is supported by the NHS, Derby City and Derbyshire County, Derbyshire County Council, CT4TC Community Transport for Town and Country, the Ashover scheme is endorsed by Ashover Parish Council

COMMUNICATION

If you wish to report on events within the parish to the local press, this can be done via the "Grass Roots" section of 'The Derbyshire Times' by e-mailing:- grassroots@derbyshiretimes.co.uk or telephoning (01246) 504525.

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON MEETINGS

Following a review, two District/Parish Liaison Group events will now be held each year, with presentations and liaison on various issues. Your Parish Council is represented at the majority of these meetings.

CRICKET CLUB

Last year in my report I commented on the optimism within the club with regard to the coming season. It turned out that the optimism was not misplaced as our club had its most successful season in recent history. Congratulations should go to the players of our Saturday 1st and 2nd XI's for winning their respective leagues. Our Sunday teams also sampled success with the 1st XI coming runners up in their league and our developmental 2nd XI coming fourth in their section. This has resulted in all four sides

being promoted for the coming season which puts them in the highest grade of cricket that we have played in since the heady days of Clive Baxter & Co.

Our junior section continues to be the envy of many clubs with some 150 youngsters currently enjoying cricket in the superb facilities that our club offers in the village of Ashover. I would like to thank the many people that give up their time to help with the junior teams as people should not underestimate the huge amount of effort that is needed to produce the amount of cricket that our club provides.

Thanks should also be given to the people of the village, Ashover School and the Parish Council for their continued support.

David Cooke

CHAIRMAN, ASHOVER CRICKET CLUB

DEFIBRILLATORS

Ashover Parish Council has installed two defibrillators, one at Uppertown and one outside the medical centre in Ashover. Further sites are planned in Kelstedge, Milltown, Alton and Littlemoor. The units are being provided via grant aid from Ashover Medical Centre Ltd. IF YOU NEED TO USE ONE OF THE DEFIBRILLATORS REMEMBER - IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 999 AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE CODE TO THE CABINET AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

DOG MESS

Dog mess is unfortunately an unpleasant aspect of dog ownership. It is every owner's duty to clean up after their dog – there is no excuse for leaving it behind.

North East Derbyshire District Council is committed to ensuring that dog owner's act in a responsible way. IT IS AN OFFENCE TO FAIL TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG AND COULD RESULT IN A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE OF £50.00 OR PROSECUTION AND A FINE OF UP TO £1,000.00.

Why clean up after your dog?

- Dog mess is unsightly, unpleasant, and smelly!! (even more so if trodden in and walked into your home)
- Dog mess is unhygienic and may cause severe health problems, especially for children.
- Responsible dog owners reputations are damaged by the minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dog.

A guide to being a responsible owner:

- Always carry a means to clear up after your dog
- Poop bags can be purchased from most supermarkets and pet shops. An ordinary plastic bag will do if nothing else is available.
- Dispose of your poop bag correctly Use a dog bin where possible, failing this, use an ordinary litter bin or take the bag home and bin it there.
- If you have a garden Train your dog to go there before you leave home – this way you can bag it and bin it straightaway.
- Never let your dog out alone to do it's toilet
- As well as being an offence your dog could stray and you may incur further expense to get it back.
- Encourage other dog owners to act responsibly
- Do not be rude or aggressive – simply offer them one of your poop bags. Embarrassment gets better results than abuse.

Some people will continue to be irresponsible, and there are an increasing number of dog owners who clear up after their dog THEN leave the bag on a tree or bush, or throw it on the ground.

If you witness dog owners not picking up after their dog or disposing of their poop bags as described above, report them to us. Your call will be treated in confidence.

Report Irresponsible Owners

If you decide to make a complaint about dog fouling, please ensure you supply as many details as possible in order for us to take action:

- Name and address of dog owner if known.
- If name/address not known - description of the person(s) and the dog(s)
- If they arrived or left in a vehicle - description and registration of the vehicle,
- Location of dog fouling or poop bag
- Time (VERY important – we may be able to catch the person the next time – most dog walkers follow a similar daily routine)

North East Derbyshire District Council enforcement staff carry out dog fouling patrols throughout the district, but we need your help to make the district a safer, cleaner and healthier place to live.

To contact us you can telephone the NEDDC customer contact centre on 01246 231111 or by e-mail to envhealth@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

DONATIONS/GRANTS

During 2015/16, your Parish Council donated £500 to community causes; APCC for Christmas Event £100, Ashover Acorns £50, Ashover Brass Band £50, Church Choir £50, Old People's Association £50, Ashover Lunch Club £50, Baby & Toddler Group £50, Ashover Cricket Club £100. Additionally, a sum of £167 was donated towards Church Clock Maintenance and £296.40 towards a War Memorial Plaque on the War Memorial.

EASTWOOD GRANGE

Eastwood Grange was founded in 1990 as both a Residential School and Children's Home and was acquired by Priory Group in 2003. I am aiming to ensure a strong reputation for providing high quality Education and Care. We provide Local Education Authorities and Social Services Departments with a flexible service, offering Care and/or Education for boys aged 9 – 18



and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils and sixth form provision. The inspector felt that 'pupils make good progress in their learning' 'the quality of teaching is good' 'the Principal and Headteacher work effectively together to create an environment in which vulnerable pupils can flourish. 'Pupils make strong progress with the management of their behaviour' 'the school provides a secure setting in which pupils

years who exhibit a variety of behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, as well as many having additional educational needs .

Our young people enjoy a warm, welcoming and relaxed, yet structured environment, which encourages them to develop social, educational and practical skills and enjoy an active and fulfilling life in beautiful surroundings.

Eastwood Grange enables young people to:

- Understand their additional needs and implement ways of alleviating them.
- Learn how to manage their behaviour with self-discipline and clear boundaries.
- Develop independence skills within a safe, secure and structured environment.
- Become empowered to make their own choices, which will lead to a positive future.

Each and every member of the Eastwood Grange staff team is passionate about the quality of service we provide for our young people.

It is the end of my first year as Principal at Eastwood Grange and the time has flown by. It's been a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging ensuring that the young people at Eastwood Grange access the best support, care and guidance to enable them to live fulfilling lives

The School was very successful in December 2015 where we were graded as 'Good' by Ofsted in all areas: Effectiveness of leadership

feel safe'. Arrangements for safeguarding and welfare are implemented rigorously.

The residential home also achieved well in its full inspection by also achieving a 'Good' grading from Ofsted in July 2015 where Ofsted noted that 'Staff work closely with families, improving contact arrangements and forging positive relationships' 'young people are fully engaged in their care planning and regularly review their progress' this was followed up with an interim inspection by Ofsted in December 2015 who noted that the home had sustained its effectiveness.

These are the first steps in the new journey for Eastwood Grange. During the year we have also refurbished the school, began to create an outside playground and improved the experiences our young people.

I have slowly started to create links with our community and I have been in contact with Ashover Cricket club for a number of months and would like to thank them for their patience, but, I am pleased to say that I can now give the cricket club access to our sports barn at Eastwood Grange to use for coaching and training out of the cricket season. I look forward to developing this relationship further.

I would also like to announce that I have secured some funds to sponsor local Ashover groups, clubs and organisations. If you would like to find out more then please email me at

anthonyarmstrong@priorygroup.com

Finally at some point this year I am seeking to have an 'open day' at Eastwood Grange; to allow access to look around the school and our facilities and help to foster a greater understanding of the work we undertake with our young people. I will publicise this with a confirmed date later in the year.

Tony Armstrong

PRINCIPAL, EASTWOOD GRANGE
T: 01246 590255

EMPLOYEES

Your Parish Council employs two staff: Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer/Burial Clerk/Sports Pavilion (Sara Atkinson - 23 hours per week), Parish Lengthman and Sports Pavilion Caretaker (John Bown - 18 hours per week).

FOOTPATH AND BRIDLEWAY GROUP

Local footpath work has been as intensive and extensive as always. There is ever increasing use of the path network, with consequential benefits to the local economy. Some little used paths have found a new purpose. For instance, a path near the campsite at Spitewinter saw a good gathering in November by the memorial, provided by a local farmer, to those killed in a crash of a Blenheim Bomber in 1943.

More locals are getting to know their own network and their 'tramlings' help to keep the paths free of overgrowth. For instance, an average of about 30 local walkers a week walked over 100 miles of Ashover Parish paths, between April and August. However, climate change has certainly encouraged bramble growth and this needs extra time and effort to keep growth from across paths. Bracken can cause a bit of a problem but walkers help by treading down the plant, when it is growing. Ideally, paths should be wide enough for two people to pass, so to walk through bracken and tread wide is a good help!

We have had great assistance, as usual, from The Countryside Service. Much of their

work is where few people see them but the improvements to paths around Ashover have been significant. For instance:-

- (1) steady progress has been made in returning Bridleway 67 on White Hillocks to a useable condition;
- (2) a new stream crossing on Footpath 93 by Raven House is a great improvement and other work will be done to the path soon;
- (3) waymarking has been returned to the area around Windmill Farm off the Matlock main road (Footpath 128 and 129);
- (4) more wicket gates have been fitted uphill of The Butts and others near Spitewinter and Uppertown.

Derbyshire County Council, after the necessary legal processes, has confirmed that the footpath below Marsh Green should be a bridle path. This gives safe, off-road access from Kelstedge to Ashover for horses and cyclists. Evidence provided by residents and horse riders and the British Horse Society (BHS) has been crucial in this decision.

We try to share with others the 'rules' of the countryside relevant to the use of rights of way. For instance, only walkers should be on footpaths but horses and cyclists can use bridleways. We have only one Byway Open to All Traffic in the Parish (Uphill of the Farm Shop at Kelstedge to Marsh Green) and that is the only path which motorbikes can legally use. If you do meet illegal motor bikes on other rights of way, please report the fact to the police, on 101.

Of course, walkers have precedence on all routes, then horses and finally cyclists. We make a special appeal to cyclists to descend steep gradients with especial regard for the safety of others.

We are always looking to attract new faces to our committee and younger energies to care for and help to maintain our network of paths! If you would like to be involved please contact either Richard Felton (590786) or our secretary Karen Haywood (590145). Karen is also the British Horse Society Access Officer..

Richard Felton FOOTPATHS GROUP

FOOTBALL CLUBS

Crispin Casuals Football Club

After struggling for the most part of the season, through injuries & unavailability, Casuals have finally got there act together. In the last month they have strung together 4 victories which as seen them go up a couple of places to eighth in Division 2 & also win through to the prestigious Alma Cup Semi Final.

Casuals are always on the look out for quality players for next season, matches played on a Sunday morning.

Contact Wayne 07779 460108

Ashover Juniors Football Club:

I'm delighted to report that 'grass-roots' football is thriving in Ashover.

We have almost 100 boys that are registered with our club at various age groups from the Under6s right through to the Under17s. Training usually takes place every week at various venues, with competitive matches against other teams undertaken at weekends.

During May we host the end of the season presentation night at the Ashover Parish Hall, where all players are presented with a trophy in recognition of their footballing endeavours.

The month of June sees the club's annual 6-a-side knock out Tournament take place. This is a great opportunity to play other teams whilst show casing Ashover Village and it's amenities.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all the team managers who work tirelessly as volunteers in making the club as successful and vibrant as it is.

It is with this enthusiasm and belief we will move the club towards FA Charter standard next season.

Eugene Grant

CHAIRMAN, ASHOVER JUNIORS FC

GRIT BINS

Your Parish Council owns and fills a total of 37 grit bins sited around the parish and undertakes winter maintenance of the Milken Lane Car Park. The salt is supplied for use on

the highway adjacent the bin and if you witness large amounts being taken for personal use, please contact the Police.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The maintenance contract with North East Derbyshire District Council continues and includes maintenance of the playing field, borders surrounding the car park, play area and tennis courts, statutory monthly and annual safety inspections. Pitch bookings administration continues to be undertaken by NEDDC. Your Parish Council approved a 5 year contract with NEDDC, commencing 2016/17 at £11,887.72 and thereafter subject to a cumulative 1.25 % increase year on year ending 31/03/2021.

HARD COURTS AND SPORTS

PAVILION

Details of Hire Charges for these facilities are available from the Parish Clerk and on the Parish Council website at www.ashover-pc.gov.uk

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Local Council Award Scheme exists to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential. All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual

councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

Your Parish Council has maintained 'Quality' status since 2006 under the previous scheme and has automatically been awarded 'Foundation' level under the new scheme. This award is due for renewal in 2016, when your Parish Council will again seek accreditation under the new award scheme.

LOCAL HOUSING Rykneld Homes 2015 Annual Satisfaction Survey

A big thank you to everyone who provided feedback by filling in last year's Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey from Rykneld Homes. We use the feedback you provide to help make improvements to our services. This year's survey will arrive with the summer edition of Homing In - so make your opinions matter and you could be in with a chance of winning £100 in shopping vouchers too!

The upward trend in satisfaction levels has continued and this year we received our highest ratings ever. Here are the results:

- Overall satisfaction - 93%
- Contact Centre helpfulness - 99%
- Area Housing Office service - 97%
- That we listen to your views - 88%
- Arrears support and advice - 94%
- That we work and act professionally - 96%
- Repairs and Maintenance satisfaction - 88%
- Overall quality of home - 94%
- That rent provides value for money - 93%
- Satisfied with the neighbourhood as a place to live - 95%

Tenants reported their priorities as:

- Repairs and maintenance
- Overall quality of homes
- Your neighbourhood as a place to live
- Jill Ward

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Rykneld Homes, Pioneer House,
Mill Lane, Wingerworth,
Chesterfield, S42 6NG
Tel: 01246 217549

E-mail: jill.ward@rykneldhomes.org.uk

MAY DAY CARNIVAL

Ashover welcomed huge crowds of revellers to the Annual May Day Carnival, everyone was ready for a "fun day" particularly as the sun shone and gone were the dark clouds, thunder, wind and rain of the week-end.

Stalls lined both sides of Church Street displaying attractive goods, adding so much to the jolly decorated street.

The carnival was opened by Rev'd Alan & Mrs Marjorie Telford, who crowned the May Queen, Aviva Adcock-Collis & May King, Daniel Knighton.

For this year, 2016, we are celebrating the 21st anniversary of May Day and the carnival will be opened by Rev'd Tom & Mrs Noele Johnson, who will crown the 2016 May Queen, Charlie May Hallows and May King Ashley Smith.

Everyone is looking forward to celebrating this anniversary.

The parade will be led by Ashover brass band and all the usual attractions will be around, the carnival outreaches to all who come, and looks forward to warmly welcoming everyone.

Cllr Rosemary Early

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

In December 2014 your Parish Council took the decision to formulate a neighbourhood plan for the benefit of the community. A neighbourhood plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development and growth of the area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. All neighbourhood plans have to meet various conditions but do carry more weight than parish plans or community plans.

A steering group was set up by the Parish Council to lead on the formulation of the plan, this comprised three parish councillors, four members of the community and a consultant from a company called 'Your

Locale' who are experienced in creating neighbourhood plans.

The process was partly funded by the Parish Council along with grants from 'Locality' and the 'National Lottery'.

A questionnaire was sent to parishioners asking for their input on various aspects of the proposed plan, and we wish to thank everyone who responded for their contribution, all of which has made an important contribution to the final plan.

The questionnaire was followed up by public meetings which gave parishioners the opportunity to review the plan before it was offered out to the stakeholders and parishioners for their final comments. The comments were all given due consideration by the steering group and a number of minor amendments were made. The plan was submitted to North East Derbyshire District council on 23rd March 2016 for their examination to ensure it does not contravene any of their approved policies. This approval period should last approx. 6 weeks after which time the plan will be sent to a government inspector who will make the final inspection of the content and suitability of the plan. Once these stages are completed the plan will be offered to the parish as the Made neighbourhood plan for Ashover. This will take the form of a plan being distributed to all households and there will then be a referendum arranged to enable everyone to have the opportunity to vote on the plan.

This referendum will need a majority of people who place their vote to be in favour of the plan for it to be the 'Made Neighbourhood Plan for Ashover'.

The current Draft Neighbourhood Plan does have standing within the planning process:-

Paragraph 216 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans in decision taking. Factors to consider include the stage of preparation of the plan and the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies. Whilst a

referendum ensures that the community has the final say on whether the neighbourhood plan comes into force, decision makers should respect evidence of local support prior to the referendum when seeking to apply weight to an emerging neighbourhood plan. The consultation statement submitted with the draft neighbourhood plan should reveal the quality and effectiveness of the consultation that has informed the plan proposals.

The 'Made Neighbourhood Plan' will, if the referendum is in favour, be the only planning policy framework document in place for the parish and should shape the development and future of the parish for years to come. I would like to place on record my thanks for the community volunteers, Chris Proctor Smith, Ellen Hardwick, Anne Wilkinson and Michael Philbin, the parish councillors, William Armitage, Martha Hayward and Sandy Bull, the Parish Clerk Sara Atkinson and our consultant from Your Locale Andrew Towleron for their help, support and hard work during the formulation of the plan and special thanks to all the members of the community who have taken the time to make comments attend drop in events and give words of support and encouragement throughout the process.

Councillor Richard Fidler CHAIRMAN
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

NEDDC LOCAL PLAN 2011-2033

For up to date information on North East Derbyshire District Council's Draft Local Plan 2011-2033, please visit the NEDDC website:

<http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environment-planning/planning-policy/local-plan-2011-2033/>

NEWSLETTERS

Your Parish Council issues four Newsletters per year, one of which is the Annual Report of the Parish Council and is circulated to every household in the parish and published on the website. The other three Newsletters

are circulated as widely as possible around the parish, in the Information Point, on the Parish Council Notice Board, Medical Centre, Parish Hall, Uppertown Social Centre, shops, Post Office, website etc. If you have difficulty in obtaining a copy, please contact the Parish Clerk.

OIL BUYING SCHEME OFF THE GAS GRID? SAVE MONEY ON YOUR OIL BUYING COSTS

Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) is a charity set up in 1924 to support rural communities in Derbyshire. One of their current projects is running a community bulk oil buying scheme.

Oil prices are extremely low at the moment which is good news for oil users. RAD can make cheap oil even cheaper through this bulk buying scheme.

The scheme is open to anyone using Kerosene28 for their heating – households, businesses or community buildings.

There is NO registration or annual membership fee. The scheme is run online where members can register, order and pay for their oil. If you are one of the 20% of rural Derbyshire that do not use a computer or have reliable access to the internet then you can manage your account through the Project Manager at RAD.

There is no obligation to buy your oil through the scheme, you can dip in and out of it depending on your needs. RAD will always be able to negotiate a better oil price than you would be able to arrange with a supplier in the same period due to the quantity they are negotiating with.

RAD orders oil once a month on behalf of their 'members' and negotiate with up to 8 oil suppliers for the best possible price. Dates for the next few months are as follows:

10th May

7th June

5th July

Deadline day is always **12 noon on a Tuesday**. Payment is taken the following day, delivery is within the following 10 working days.

What people say

"Very happy to recommend this scheme – I placed my order, it was delivered speedily and the price gave me an excellent saving."

"If only I had known about the scheme earlier. I just paid over £400 for 500 litres of oil. If I had bought through the scheme I would have saved over £250. At least I know I will get a good price next time."

For more information on the scheme please contact the Project Manager, Emma Simpson at RAD on 01629 592970 / 0845 313 8800, email oil@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk or visit the RAD website www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/oil.

RURAL ACTION DERBYSHIRE
Town Hall, Bank Road,
Matlock, DE4 3NN.
Charity No: 1061531.

PARISH APPEARANCE/ MAINTENANCE

The flowerbeds adjacent 'The Black Swan' and the public toilets are under the maintenance duties of the Parish Lengthman. The Lengthman also continues to pick litter around the parish, undertakes general maintenance of the flower planters and cemetery, reports on fly tipping, carries out general maintenance on parish owned street furniture, carries out winter maintenance on the Milken Lane Car Park and undertakes general daily health and safety inspections of the car park, courts, playing field and play area. Lengthman duties also include the opening/closing and cleaning of the Public Conveniences on Moor Road, Ashover.

PARISH COUNCILS AND MEETINGS

Parish councils and parish meetings work towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level. Their work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community;
- delivering services to meet local needs;
- striving to improve quality of life in the community.

Through a range of powers, parish councils

provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons, community transport schemes, crime reduction measures, footpaths, leisure facilities, local youth projects, open spaces, public lavatories, planning, street cleaning, street lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures, village greens and litter bins.

Residents are welcome to attend and speak at Parish Council Meetings under the 'Public' section. Parish Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month (except August when no meeting is held) in The Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover from 7.30 p.m. Public Participation is invited for the first fifteen minutes of every meeting, when anyone from the parish may raise any issue with the Parish Council. A copy of the Agenda, together with notification of planning applications, Parish Clerk's Report, Minutes of the previous meeting and other information may be found on the Parish Council website: www.ashover-pc.gov.uk and the main notice board on Moor Road. A summary of each meeting is published in the Parish Magazine and in The Derbyshire Times "Grassroots" section and is also available on the Parish Council website along with other press releases.

PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

These are presently held for half an hour prior to every Parish Council Meeting. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and express any concerns they may have on parish issues to a Parish Councillor and the Parish Clerk if they are unable, or do not wish, to attend and speak at the main meeting.

PARISH HALL

It has been another busy year for Ashover Parish Hall Events Centre; from anniversaries to weddings, christenings to birthdays, charity events to folk festivals, there have been many exciting events held here over the last year.

As well as the popular puppy training classes,



Workers' Educational Association courses and Chapples Voice Coaching, the hall continues to be used by several local groups including Ashover Baby & Toddler Group, Village Art Group, Ashover Brass Band, Badminton Club, Indoor Bowling Club, Guides, Home Produce Club, Old People's Association and Young Farmers for meetings.

The dance and fitness classes have literally gone from strength to strength! We are proud to have highly experienced instructors holding weekly classes at the hall including Liz Atak's Pilates, Jenny Meadows' Yoga, Mike Douglass' Karate, Cheryl Eggleton's Ballet & Theatre Dance Class for Children as well as Kathleen Cresswell's Dancing for Beginners (Salsa, Sequence, Latin and Ballroom) also with a new circuit training

session to be held by personal trainer Sophie in the pipeline for May 2016 – there really is something for everyone and new members are always welcome!

We have also seen the return of BBC Two's 'The Big Allotment Challenge' Floral Expert Jonathan Moseley as he hosts a variety of courses and workshops throughout the year which remain extremely popular.

In December we were delighted to welcome our new Housekeeper Ann Wallhead from Milltown, who makes the Parish Hall a home from home for our hirers!

We have a busy year ahead with the return of theatre groups High Tor Players (bringing their comedy 'Table Manners' on 8th April 2016, returning with another production in November) and The Interesting Theatre Company (bringing a new adaptation of 'A Servant to Two Masters' by Carlo Goldoni in June 2016).

It has been a pleasure to help create the perfect wedding reception venue for many couples over the last year. We regularly work together with J & CA Fisher Marquee Hire to line the hall, creating a wonderful marquee effect with the convenience of having most facilities you could need already in place; including three spacious function rooms, a stocked and manned bar, a fully fitted kitchen for outside caterer or hirer use, sound and lighting systems and ample car parking space.

In January 2016 the status of Ashover Parish Hall changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Charity No. 1165348. The centre is run on a not for profit basis and the success of the hall would not be possible without the support of the local residents, the committee and regular hirers of the hall so we thank you all for your continued support.

We have been grateful to receive wonderful feedback for our facilities and service over the last year - if you would like our help to create the perfect event or celebration, to start a new class or for further details on any of the above classes, please get in touch:

Tel: 01246 590005

Email: info@ashoverparishhall.com

Website: www.ashoverparishhall.com

Amy Corker

MANAGER, ASHOVER PARISH HALL
EVENTS CENTRE

PARISH PARTY & PANTOMIME

Party The Parish Party has always been an outreach by the Church to all the families, so they are able to meet up together, share and enjoy food together, knowing their children are also making the most of a party, wearing fancy hats, blowing noisy blowers and letting off party poppers and of course diving into the food with the usual enthusiasm. The 'buzz' in the hall and laughter all around reflects that this is a family occasion.

The children have one or two games to look forward to and also tradition is that the new May Queen and King, with Attendants and Garland Attendants, are chosen and announced, all of course prior to the Pantomime.

Here again Saturday night pantomime is for the families who are at the party and obviously over the years more and more families are coming, looking forward to enjoying the pantomime. This is their night. Thursday and Friday performances we very much welcome the marvellous audiences we are getting, and hope the comments above are appreciated and taken in the spirit they are meant.

Pantomime This year a very fast moving and hilarious pantomime was performed by the name of "Robinson Crusoe".

The enthusiastic and incredible energetic children were busy in their various roles as mermaids, pirates, sailors, cannibals, meerkats and were well supported by a cast of over twenty who, in their individual roles, performed many characters.

Three performances attracted very large audiences who were on top form remembering "oh yes it is/oh no it isn't".

Everyone was congratulated on their performances by a very appreciative audience each night.

Look out for Ashover Pantomime January 2017!

Councillor Rosemary Early

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

All Saints Church at Ashover holds a weekly service at 10.45 every Sunday morning (when there is a fifth Sunday in the month there is a United Benefice Service at Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley or Wessington), as well as additional church services to mark the main religious festivals and other local events. The average Sunday morning congregation is around 60, while at the Christmas Eve Family Carol Service the church is full. In 2015, 10 baptisms, 9 weddings and 27 funerals were held in Ashover Church, while in 2016 there have been 8 funerals and 1 wedding up to 1st March.

The Ashover Celebration Choir has taken part in all the major Christian festivals and also led services in local churches. They have sung at various village celebrations over the Christmas period and, by invitation, at weddings and funerals.

Children's activities ("Allsorts") are held most Sundays to coincide with the Communion services. In addition, a pre-school group for parents and toddlers, Acorns, is held on two Thursday mornings a month in the Bassett Rooms, and Messy Church activities are held on various occasions during the year.

During Advent, the church again organised a Posada celebration to reinforce the Christmas message. This involved wooden figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey being hosted by a number of different families in the village each evening and being taken to church each Sunday for the lighting of the Advent candles. On Christmas Eve they were placed around the crib in the church ready for the arrival of Jesus.

As in previous years, the church has supported financially a number of overseas

missions and relief agencies, as well as various local and national charities. A box is available at the back of the church during services for donations of non-perishable food which are taken to the food bank at Clay Cross for distribution to those in need. Donors are requested to put their donations in a bag for ease of transport.

A number of church members, led by Reader Celia Kelly, regularly visit Grove Park residents, many of whom are unable to attend church services, for worship, craft work, quizzes and reminiscing.

A highlight of the past year was the Flower Festival "A Bouquet of Creative Arts" held in the church over the August Bank Holiday weekend by the Church Flower Guild and the Ashover Flower Arrangers Club, accompanied by an art display in the Bassett Rooms, organised by the Art Group.

Church members again played prominent roles in organising and participating in May Day celebrations, the Pantomime and the Parish Party, all of which were initiated by the church as means of outreach to the local community.

The Village Coffee Shop, which has been held in the Bassett Rooms on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month since January 2011, has had another successful year, fulfilling its original aim of providing a crossroads in our community where local residents and visitors could meet for a chat and get to know each other better. All donations received at specific sessions during the year are allocated to selected charities, the charities chosen in 2015 being The Air Ambulance, the Nepal Earthquake Appeal and Cardiac Research in the Young (CRY), for which a total of £1,292 was donated. A charity morning with all donations going to The Dukes Barn charity in Beeley is being held in March 2016.

Another continuing success has been Film Time, held on Thursday evenings eight times a year in the Bassett Rooms. Over the last few months, we have also been trialling foreign sub-titled films. The work of the organising

team has been greatly facilitated by the installation of new sound equipment, a drop-down screen and a ceiling-mounted projector, financed by donations from filmgoers, the Village Coffee Shop and proceeds from the 2014 Christmas tree light-up, as well as a loan from church funds. This equipment is also available for use by other Bassett Rooms users.

In order to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, a commemorative plaque was installed on the War Memorial in the churchyard as a memorial to all who have lost their lives in war, in time for the 2015 Remembrance Day service. This plaque was financed jointly by the church and the Parish Council.

The Amber Churches website for Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington Churches is now up and running again, providing information, news and a calendar of upcoming events. It can be found at www.amberchurches.org. The long-serving editor of the monthly magazine, Amber News, produced by these churches, retired during 2015 and was replaced by a temporary editor; we are now looking forward to a new editor taking over in the near future. A volunteer to manage the advertising in the magazine would be welcome

Keith Mellor ASHOVER PCC SECRETARY

PLANNING

Your Parish Council is one of several statutory consultees whose comments are sought by the District Council on planning applications. Unless applications are received after agenda issue, those to be considered by the Parish Council are listed on Appendix I which is published with the agenda and posted on the main notice board and on the website. Applicants are encouraged to address the Parish Council, either in person or in writing, when their application is to be considered. Details of all applications, including associated documents, may be found on the District Council's website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

POLICE INFORMATION



Michael Coates

As I sit here with a nicely rounded stomach following the Festivities, my mind glazes over with the thoughts of the year to come. As the ingredients form to make the rich Soup of Life, we must remember the seasoning otherwise the enjoyable taste will be less than perfect.

A little pinch of salt, such as an extra second locking a door or window, will help prevent a spoilt slice of life. A dash of pepper, such as locking your car door and taking out the Sat Nav, will also enhance the flavour. Perhaps a knob of butter, a Safe for your valuables, will prove a hidden gem of safety with which enrich the recipe of life.

Don't forget the Herbs, lock your garden tools away and mark them with your post code, the theft of tools and machinery can ruin life, like vinegar in a cream bun.

The Spice must be balanced, buy the best security that you can afford and fit it, but you don't have to overdo it.

Don't forget the Freezer as well, there is still cold weather to come, so take more time with journeys and drive more slowly, make allowances for the road conditions, after all, you wouldn't bake a cake at the wrong temperature or for too short a time would you.

Let's enjoy the tastes and flavours of this New Year, and gather round in good company over a glass of wine, whilst the Criminals suffer in hunger, with no rich pickings from our table of life.

Mike Coates
PCSO4412
Tel 101
E-mail: michael.coates.4412@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

POTHoles, PAVEMENTS AND OTHER PROBLEMS

Derbyshire County Council has a new facility for reporting problems with potholes, pavements, flooding, gritting, street furniture etc. Visit the DCC homepage at www.derbyshire.gov.uk. Then, for example, type 'report a pothole' in the search bar and then follow the links to the online fault reporting form. After entering details, including an opportunity to upload a photo of the problem, you will be given a reference number, enabling you to keep track of action taken by DCC.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (ASHOVER)

Achieve
Safe
Positive
Independent
Respect
Enjoy

As Headteacher of Ashover Primary School, I would like to extend my thanks to the local community for the warm welcome I have been extended whilst becoming part of Ashover Parish.

Schools should be at the heart of a community and we will embrace opportunities for our pupils to be fully involved in Parish events, village life and the strong sense of community spirit.

As a school, we believe in providing exciting opportunities for all learners to 'aspire and achieve.'

Within our traditional building and beautiful, extensive grounds we offer a vibrant curriculum and a variety of additional learning experiences;

- Pupils at Ashover take part in a wide range of competitive sports, competitions and are involved in organising and leading activities or clubs for other children within the school.
- Many children learn to play musical instruments including drums/clarinet/handbells, sing in our choir and take part in performances both in school and the

wider community.

- Trips and visits are arranged to enhance the curriculum and all children have the opportunity to take part in residential trips.
- Class sets of ipads, laptops, a radio station and video recording equipment ensure that opportunities for computing and ICT are used across the curriculum.
- Enterprise activities enable children to develop skills for life and respect for others.
- Our after-school clubs vary according to the interests of the children and include; coding, cooking, newspaper, engineering and dance to name a few.
- Holding democratically elected positions of responsibility such as School Council or House Captain and other roles such as Anti-bullying Ambassador, Mini Leader, Digital Leader or Playground Pal ensure that a large number of children are developing leadership, teamwork and communication skills outside of the curriculum.

How do we aim to "Aspire & Achieve?"

● **Achieve** Through providing a wide range of educational, social, emotional experiences and enterprise activities, children at Ashover are inspired to achieve their full potential – not only academically, but in their creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development. They acquire a range of skills to prepare them for future life.

● **Safe** The safety of our school community is paramount. Children at Ashover feel safe and understand how to keep themselves safe in the wider community and online. They hold positions of responsibility which develop an awareness of keeping themselves and others safe such as Mini Leaders and Playground Pals.

● **Positive** The trusting environment, strong teacher/pupil/parent partnerships and culture of having a 'can do' attitude enables pupils to be positive about themselves and their learning. Children participate in a wide range of activities and persevere to achieve challenging goals.

● **Independent** Our school is committed to celebrating individuality and encourages children to become independent and curious learners. Our inclusive curriculum and extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for all children to explore and find out about the world around them through questioning, investigating, exploring and hands on experiences.

● **Respect** Respecting each other, our community and the opinions of others is important to everyone at Ashover. The curriculum and additional opportunities provided ensure that children develop respect and tolerance for their own and other communities within the wider world. Our clear rules, expectations of behaviour and opportunities for holding positions of responsibility (School Council, Enterprise Ambassadors for example) embed an understanding of civil and moral responsibility.

● **Enjoy** Enjoy the learning journey, have fun and excel as part of the Ashover School Community.

Politically in education, we face extremely challenging times. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important for schools to be integral to local communities. By engaging in village and Parish events, and involving the wider community in school activities, I hope that we can further develop relationships between school and the Parish to enable all children to experience a very positive understanding of what being part of a 'community' means.

Should you wish to assist school in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me or our School Business Officer – Mrs Heather Cooper. Tel: 01246 590 207 or email: enquiries@ashover.derbyshire.sch.uk as we would welcome your contribution to the school.

Mrs V Spender
HEADTEACHER

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Following threat of closure by the District Council in 2008, the old stone public conveniences on Moor Road were taken over by the Parish Council and refurbished in 2013, including the redundant telephone kiosk in the small room at the front of the building, which was turned into an Information Point featuring parish news and attractions, maps and details of local walks. Ashover is believed to be one of the few parish councils to accept responsibility for upgrading and maintaining its public conveniences.

RECYCLING FACILITY

Household Waste Recycling Centres (or Civic Amenity Sites) are provided by the county council for the disposal of waste produced from households which is either too large or too bulky to be accepted by the normal district council weekly collection. Your nearest site is located at Stonegravels, Sheffield Road, Chesterfield which has full recycling facilities. The site is open seven days a week from 8.30am – 6.00pm (closed 25/26 December and 1 January). Most types of household waste are accepted. Hardcore and soil is only accepted in small bagged up quantities of not more than 50kg (two sacks max.) one visit per week. For hazardous waste or any information please contact DCC direct on (01629) 580000 ext. 7532.

RIGHTS OF WAY

These are ultimately controlled and maintained by Derbyshire County Council. The Parish Council undertakes minor works via its Minor Maintenance Agreement (MMA) with DCC. If you know of any maintenance issues please relay these to DCC on 01629 580000 ext. 7645. During 2015/2016 your Parish Council used its total Minor Maintenance budget of £675 on minor maintenance to rights of way around the parish (nos 23, 152, 136, 145).

Applications have been submitted to Derbyshire County Council under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to add non-classified highways, bridleways and

footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). Outstanding application locations are shown below:-

1. Non-classified highway Coach Road, Ashover - Awaiting decision.
2. Non-classified highway Back Lane, Ashover - Awaiting decision.
3. Non-classified highway Lea Road and upgrade part of Bridleway 145 Ashover – Consultation awaited.
4. Bridleway 145 Coffin Lane, Ashover – Consultation awaited. (part of claim 3 above).

DCC is currently focussing on BOAT claims in other parts of the county, so have not yet started working on these routes but anticipate doing so in due course.

Further information and an information sheet on modification orders may be obtained from the Rights of Way Office at Derbyshire County Council (01629 580000).

SCAMS

Derbyshire Police has issued the following advice on how to better protect yourself against unwanted calls:-

Be sceptical

Take your time

Know who you are dealing with

Protect your financial information

If you want assistance in finding out if it is a scam contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

If you want to cut the junk contact:-

- **Mailings** - 0845 703 4599 or www.mpsonline.org.uk (Registration is free)
- **Telephone Calls** - 0845 070 0707 or www.tpsonline.org.uk (Registration is free). You can also contact your telephone company to block callers who withhold their number.
- **Text/SMS** - 0845 070 0707 or www.tpsonline.org.uk. If you then receive a message you don't want you can reply with the word STOP.
- **Email** - if you would like advice go to www.getsafeonline.org

SPEED AWARENESS

Last year eleven parish councils in the North East Derbyshire area clubbed together to provide a speed camera for police to use in a joint bid to make local roads safer.

Ashover, Brampton, Heath and Holme-wood, Morton, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Shirland and Higham, Stretton, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Tupton and Wingerworth parish councils have all contributed to the campaign and provided funding for the camera and its maintenance. The camera is deployed, on average, once a week in one of the partnership parishes. Police Officers using the device informed councils that it is an excellent tool in tackling the issues of speeding in our areas.

To contact your local Safer Neighbourhood policing team call 101, or visit the website: www.derbyshire.police.uk.

STREET FURNITURE/PROPERTY

A rolling programme continues to operate for the maintenance of parish owned street furniture, including parish seats, bus shelters and notice boards and parish owned property. Where possible, the maintenance work is carried out by the Parish Lengthman as part of his duties and other work, such as vegetation strimming around some seats, is carried out under contract. Risk assessments and inspections have been undertaken in accordance with legal requirements.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your Parish Council continues to subscribe to the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) and the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) on an annual basis. DALC offers free legal and professional advice on all aspects of parish and town council business backed up by experts at NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and regular information circulars. Likewise ICCM also offers free advice to its members and regular newsletters. Your Parish Council is

registered under the Data Protection Act and the subscription is renewed annually with the Information Commission.

TENNIS CLUB

For full details of how to join please contact the Club Secretary, Ellie Salomoni, on 01629 581629 or email Ashovertennis@aol.com or Ashovertennis@btinternet.co.uk.

Further details about the club can also be found on the Lawn Tennis Association's website.

TREE GROUP



Recently cleared banks by the river Amber at Fallgate

● **Formation of the group** It was in July last year that the Ashover Tree Group had its first meeting. Presently, the group has 7 members who got together with the aim of promoting the beauty and well-being of trees within the Parish.

● **Objectives** In early discussions the group decided its main objectives were to:

- act as a source of advice on trees and associated **Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)** in public areas within the Parish
- encourage the planting of indigenous trees to replace those lost through age/damage or to enhance the beauty of a particular location

○ maintain a dialogue with land-owners, encouraging them to take responsibility for their trees especially when they encroach on public land or footpaths

○ identify priorities for trees/woodland management projects and form working parties to tackle them

● **Initial actions TPOs.** With the help of the Parish Clerk, the group has been steadily building up its data-base of TPOs. In turn, when the Tree Warden has been consulted for advice she has been able to identify those trees subject to TPOs and the appropriate work required to keep them healthy.

Working Parties. Three members of the group have formed a team which usually meets one morning a week, mostly armed with loppers and hand-saws to tackle a particular piece of work. So far, the team has concentrated on the Fallgate area, cutting back over-hanging tree growth along the river Amber to improve light.

Sometimes, the scale of work required goes beyond that possible with hand-tools in which case the team calls on support from the Tree Warden who has chain-saw equipment. The team also works collaboratively with the parish Footpath & Bridleways group.

Next on the work-plan is the Great Eastern Plantation. The team has been assessing the health of the plantation, identifying those trees in significant decline for removal and how best to rejuvenate the area as a whole.

Skills development. As a group we are keen to improve our skills and understanding and it was with this in mind that members were recently involved with conservation work on The Fabric - learning skills from Derbyshire County Council rangers.

● **Planting of new trees.** An allocation of new trees is being made available to the group through regional funding. This is an exciting development and we are working with the Parish Council to decide those areas of common land which would be most enhanced with the new planting.

● **Specialist presentations.** Members have expressed an interest in learning more about riverbank preservation techniques and in TPOs. Speakers are being lined up to come along and present to the group. Once arrangements have been finalised then details will be circulated outside the group given the likely interest of others.

● **Meetings**

The group meets six times a year, usually for about an hour. If you would like any further information about its activities then please call Mike Thomas (591733)

Mike Thomas

ASHOVER TREE GROUP

TREE WARDEN

If there is anything about hedges, trees or woodland within the parish which causes you concern, or you need advice about, or help with, please contact me on 01246 591949 or email: bryanstepho@btinternet.com. If I don't know the answer, I might be able to contact someone who does!

Linda Stephenson

ASHOVER PARISH TREE WARDEN
(01246) 590497

**Trusted Trader Scheme
(Derbyshire County Council)**

Finding a company that you can trust to do some work for you can be a bit daunting – how can you be sure that you won't get ripped off? What if things go wrong? How do you choose between lots of different companies? These sorts of dilemmas were a driving force behind the setting up by Derbyshire County Council of the Trusted Trader scheme to help local people find traders and businesses that do a good job at a fair price and provide good customer service.

That was back in 2008 and the popular scheme has gone from strength to strength. These days there are nearly 17,000 searches each month on the Trusted Trader website, www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tt by people looking for reliable companies to use. Another ringing endorsement for the scheme was a recent survey which gathered feedback from more than 16,000 people who had used a Trusted Trader and an impressive 94% said they were very satisfied with the service they received.

So people can have lots of confidence when employing one of the 1,200 traders who are part of the scheme. In the very unlikely event of someone having a problem with one of the traders then help is at hand. Derbyshire County Council trading standards officers can get involved in any queries involving Trusted Traders and seek to resolve them.

The scheme particularly helps to protect older and vulnerable adults by making it easier for them to use Trusted Traders rather than rogue traders who typically cold-call and use high pressure sales techniques. A recent development has been the inclusion of Financial Advisors who specialise in providing financial advice for people in later life and can help with matters like care fees, pensions and investments.

Find out more about all aspects of Trusted Trader at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tt or call 01629 536148. Enquiries are also welcome from businesses interested in signing up to the scheme – membership brings lots of benefits and costs only £70 - £100 per year.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

UPPERTOWN SOCIAL CENTRE



The Centre provides a first class facility for social activities for the people of Ashover and surrounding areas. It has comfortable and up to date facilities for parties, birthdays, weddings and other special occasions but is equally suited to conferences, training sessions or meetings.

Facilities include:

- Licensed bar
- Fully fitted kitchen for outside caterer or hirer use
- Function room for up to 120 people
- Car parking for 25 cars (this area can be used to erect a marquee)

The Centre is run on a not for profit basis as a charity, which would not be possible without the committee of local people and a group of willing volunteers.

To book the Centre or for more information contact Eddie Marriot on 01246 590502 or 07966 154798 or visit the web site www.uppertown.org

Please see the 2016 events on page 22

WEBSITE – www.ashover-pc.gov.uk



Your Parish Council now has a totally new website www.ashover-pc.gov.uk, which is the gateway into the parish council and numerous local services, from there you can also find links to other organisations including North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.

The site contains, along with many other things, items of news, advice of road closures in the parish, links to leisure facilities, you can even have a look at your Parish Councillors and Parish Council staff. There are links to your Local Councillor, District Councillor and Member of Parliament.

There are calendars for council meetings and events and leisure activities taking place in the Parish.

There are forms to report problems and issues within the Parish, there is an A-Z link where there is a whole raft of information about the Parish, County and District Councils.

Why not have a look at it at **www.ashover-pc.gov.uk** you can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Come along and see how your Parish Council operates; meetings are held, in the Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover, on the third Tuesday of each month except August commencing at 7.30pm.

Cllr Richard Fidler

Uppertown Social Centre

A Registered Charity (Number 1023876)

Uppertown, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 0JF



Events for 2016

Sat. 6th February	Captain Jack (Rock and Pop)	£8.00 incl supper
Sat. 5th March	Frank McCaffrey (Irish)	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 19th March	Mumbo Jumbo (Live and Local) (Country and Blues)	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 16th April	Murphys Marbles (Irish and Folk)	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 21st May	Mick Smith Band (Country 50's 60's)	£10.00 incl supper
Sat. 18th June	ABBA Tribute Night Tickets must be purchased in advance	£15.00 incl supper
Sat. 16th July	The Haleys (Country & Rock'n Roll)	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 6th August	ELVIS tribute night (CASS)	£10.00 incl supper
Sat. 10th September	Arthur Doherty Band (Irish & Folk)	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 8th October	The Cadillacs (Northwest) Rock'n Roll	£12.00 incl supper
Sat. 29th October	Halloween Night	Admission £3 all ages
Sat. 5th November	Bonfire & Fireworks Display	Admission £4 all ages (under 5's free)
Sat. 19th November	Rod Stewart & Blondie Tribute	£10.00 incl supper
Sat. 10th December	Pat Jordan and Finians Rainbow (Irish Rock'n Roll 60's 70's)	£12.00 incl supper

**You can book tickets in advance by ringing Eddie
on 01246 590502 or 07966 154798 (mobile)
www.uppertown.org**

FINANCIAL REPORT PRECEPT 2016/2017

At the Parish Council meeting held on 20 October 2015, consideration was given to the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the precept application for 2016/17. The precept requirement had been analysed and included the projected sums for future Capital Expenditure on Parish Assets together with the requirement for at least a six months net revenue spend.

The Committee deliberated each code and cost centre in the accounting system, recognising the need to limit expenditure as far as possible due to the current restraints and economic climate, and taking into account a realistic income figure. The 12 to 16 year Capital Assets Renewal Programme continued to be included in the precept sum and this would be revised to reflect ongoing capital expenditure and to include new capital purchases such as the Fitness Equipment, Basket Swing, dog and grit bins etc. The Precept figure for 2015/2016 was £63,556 and this included Tax Support Grant Funding of £2,569.96.

Having deliberated the budget, an anticipated realistic income figure of-set against an anticipated expenditure figure produced an annual Precept figure of £65,661 for the

Financial Year 2016/2017. This represented a £2,105 increase on the previous year due to the costs associated with provision of new exercise equipment, dog and grit bins, additional winter maintenance for the car park and legal fees that will be incurred by the Parish Council in its role as Custodian Trustee, during the Parish Hall's potential change from a Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Advice had been sought from NEDDC on the possible Tax Support Grant for 2016/2017 and indications were that there would be no significant change. However, notice was then received from NEDDC of a further reduction in the Tax Support Grant and the Finance Committee met again on 01/12/2015 to discuss the impact of this on the proposed and future precepts and a revised recommendation on the level of precept was approved by the Parish Council (Minute 225/16) as follows:-

Precept £64,345 & Tax Support Grant £2,313 = £66,658

NEDDC will be reducing the Tax Support Grant by 33% per annum over the next 3 years until 2020/2021, when the Tax Support Grant will be removed.

COST CENTRE	ANTICIPATED FIGURES			
	Exp. 2015/16	Inc. 2015/16	Exp. 2016/17	Inc. 2016/17
	£	£	£	£
Administration	35081	5255	33218	4653
Section 137	600	0	600	0
Pavilion/Courts	4195	2279	4120	1500
Public Toilets	2780	0	2805	0
Capital	10164	0	11073	0
Allotments	100	40	100	40
Cemetery	8700	12000	8800	12000
Parish Maintenance.	21160	0	24135	0
Transport	600	250	0	0
TOTALS	83380	19824	84851	18193
PRECEPT	2015/16	£63,556	2016/17	£66,658

Summary Receipts & Payments Year Ended 31 March 2016

Year Ended 31 March 2015		Year Ended 31 March 2016
Receipts		
57700.68	Precept Received	60986.04
293.14	Interest Received	296.25
57993.82	Total	61282.29
Operating Income		
19978.88	Administration	16555.64
1934.85	Pavilion	2271.00
40.00	Allotments	40.00
22515.00	Cemetery	18380.00
155.00	Community Transport	0
13794.18	VAT refunds	11036.76
116411.73	Total Receipts	109565.69
Running Costs		
32645.30	Administration	32195.08
910.00	Section 137	500.00
3925.61	Pavilion	5555.17
2547.08	Toilets	3154.84
16088.32	Capital Projects	11011.37
72.78	Allotments	118.21
9719.10	Cemetery	8713.44
27647.51	Parish Upkeep	30746.12
562.00	Community Transport	0
11001.46	VAT on Payments	10631.73
105119.16	Total Payments	102625.96

Summary Receipts & Payments Year Ended 31 March 2016

Year Ended 31 March 2015		Year Ended 31 March 2016
Receipts & Payments Summary		
77171.96	Opening Balance	88464.53
116411.73	Add Total Receipts	109565.69
193583.69		198030.22
105119.16	Less Total Payments	102625.96
88464.53	Closing Balance	95404.26
Cumulative Funds represented by:		
53561.40	Current/Reserve Account	60786.34
34360.22	National Savings Account	34617.92
542.91	Village of the Year Account	0
88464.53		95404.26

FOR PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

www.ashover-pc.gov.uk

AND NOTICE BOARDS LOCATED AT:-

- Alton Hill, Alton
- Moor Road, Ashover
- The Causeway (bus shelter), Kelstedge
- Ashover Road (bus shelter), Littlemoor
- The Pinfold (nr. Miners Arms), Milltown
- The Social Centre, Uppertown

A summary of Minutes is available in “Grassroots” section of ‘The Derbyshire Times’ and in the Parish Magazine *For contact details of your Councillors and Clerk, please refer to pages 28 & 29 of this report.*

For information and help on the following services, please call the appropriate authority (details at the right of this page) or **visit www.ashover-pc.gov.uk and click on the A-Z of services :-**

Bulk Waste Collection Service	NEDDC
Bus Shelters	APC
Car Park (Milken Lane)	APC
Cemetery (Ashover)	APC
Council Tax	NEDDC
Common Land	APC
Dog Waste Bins	APC
Dog Wardens	NEDDC
Education	DDC
Energy Advice Centre	NEDDC
Environmental Health	NEDDC
Fly Tipping	NEDDC
Grit Bins	APC/DCC
Highways	DCC
Housing	NEDDC
Libraries	DCC
Licensing	NEDDC
Parish Plan (Ashover parish)	APC

Parish Seats	APC
Pest Control	NEDDC
Planning Permission	NEDDC
Play Area (Ashover)	APC
Playing Field/Hard Courts (Ashover)	APC
Potholes	DCC
Public Toilets	APC
Recycling (inc. blue box/bag scheme)	NEDDC
Refuse Collection	NEDDC
Reg. of Births, Deaths, Marriages	DCC
Register of Electors	NEDDC
Rights of Way (footpaths/bridleways)	DCC
Social Services	DCC
Street Cleaning	NEDDC
Street Lighting Repairs	DCC
Trading Standards	DCC
War Memorial	APC

NEDDC

North East Derbyshire District Council,
2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield
S42 6NG Tel. 01246 231111

DCC

Derbyshire County Council
County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG
Call Derbyshire 01629 533190

APC

Ashover Parish Council
The Sports Pavilion
Milken Lane
Ashover
Chesterfield
S45 0BA
Tel. 01246 863018

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Always dial 999 in case of an emergency

Derbyshire Police:

101 (calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information)

Please note: You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue

Administrative and fire safety enquiries:
01332 771221

Power and supplies

Electricity: Central Networks
(emergency) 0800 056 8090

Gas (emergency) 0800 111 999

Severn Trent Water (emergency)

0800 783 4444

or 0845 9881188 (flooding)

National Floodline

0845 988 1188

Hospitals/medical

NHS 111 is a new service that’s being introduced to make it easier for you to access local NHS healthcare services in England. You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it’s not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Royal Derby Hospital

01332 340131 - Main switchboard

Chesterfield Royal Hospital

01246 277271

Buxton Hospital

01298 214000

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS



William Armitage
Green Bank
Hockley Lane
Ashover
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0ER
01246 590486



Steve Dronfield
Willow Tree Farm
Hungerhill Lane
Stonedge
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0LP
01246 590721



Nigel Early
Lexley Gables
Hockley Lane
Ashover
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0ER
01246 590738



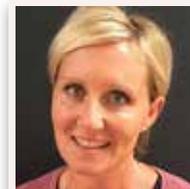
Rosemary Early
Lexley Gables
Hockley Lane
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CHESTERFIELD
S45 0ER
01246 590738



Richard Fidler
Porthlea
Alton Lane
Littlemoor Ashover
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0BE
01246 590155



Martha Hayward
Arkaig House
Pudding Bag Lane
Ashover
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0BT
01246 590771



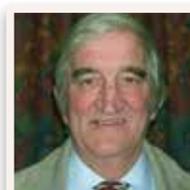
Lucy Hunter-Bott
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07976 733607



Chris Miller
Hill House
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CHESTERFIELD
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01246 590253



Alison Tyson
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Ashover
CHESTERFIELD
S45 0AB
01246 590009



Ed Willmot
The Pines
Hill Top Road
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CHESTERFIELD
S45 0BZ
01246 590260

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL STAFF



Sara Atkinson
Parish Clerk & RFO
The Sports Pavilion
Milken Lane
Ashover
Chesterfield S45 0BA
01246 863018

parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk



John Bown

YOUR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS



Barry Lewis
DCC Councillor
2 King George Street
Wessington
Derbyshire
S55 6DZ
01773 830871
Mobile: 07920484207



William Armitage
NEDDC Councillor
Green Bank
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May 2016
