

LEADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

At last year's Parish Council elections , we received three new councillors .

We have completed 2 parish walks , with the aim to inspect closely all areas and note items that need attention - drains , street lighting, dog waste bins, grass verges , overhanging growth and potholes: bearing in mind that we only have limited powers to demand any necessary changes or improvements .

Throughout the year we have undertaken the following main projects.

Repair and cleaning of the War Memorial.. Councillor Mr.O'Brien took on the responsibility for this:- applying for grants ,liaising with Diocese and obtaining estimates for necessary work . As with all grant aided work , it takes much time and of course , full amounts required are never offered , so the PC have budgeted for this in this year's precept.

Leadenham Village Fountain is also in dire need of repair, so Councillor Mrs Stokes has accepted responsibility for this . Once again , a lengthy and complicated route necessary to establish permission and funding. Mrs Stokes is also involving our Primary School and has given a talk to all children with emphasis on the history and initial need for this very special facility and now, monument .

Following many complaints of excessive speeding through our village , Councillor Mr.McLusky has been liaising with the Road Safety Partnership to receive and purchase more higher visibility signage and their placements.

The much needed and long-awaited repairs to our Play Area have been assessed and work ordered ; once again budgeted for in this year's precept.

That old Chestnut - Highway Matters.

During a recent meeting with our Highways Officer , Mr.Steve Welsh, we received the dismal news , that parishioners can no longer receive the high level of support from LCC Highways Dept. Financial constraints mean that it is now a case of - what they can't do for us as opposed to what they can.

Replacement of road signs is not automatic, with priority given to 'stop and give way ' signs : road signs are no longer cleaned or cleared of vegetation.

As we know , potholes continue to be a big problem but now, once again, go on a list for when a team are in the area-major roads only .

There has been much discussion with Leadenham Bowls Club concerning ownership and running costs. We are now in process of drawing up a Contract , not only to protect the Club , but also the Parish , in the future.

Councillor Mr McLusky has taken on responsibility for reviving our Parish website, which has now been up and running for a several months. Contact details are in the Parish Magazine , 2 Villages. It is hoped that this will be up dated and added to , in future , to include all club s, amenities and their news.

A Dog Warden was employed by the PC last year, at a cost of £740 and improvements resulted. However , we intend to purchase 2 more dog waste bins this year and hope that this improvement continues without his services .

The verge clearance from Quarry Lane along the east side of A607 to opposite Troops, at a cost of £1008. This was badly overgrown and obscuring vision for road users at the junction. This will now be cut regularly to avoid further rogue growth .

Great attempts were made , alongside our district and county councillors and neighbouring villages, to maintain the use of quarry Lane Waste Disposal Tip; attending many meetings with all and sundry . Sadly, all arguments against closure fell on deaf ears. Attempts, with suggestions continue , to date .

We await further information with regard to the Application for the erection of Wind Farm , on the site of the old Fulbeck Airfield . Council put forward , objections on your behalf , following the poll we carried out. This is due for July .

Council continue to forcefully correspond with LCC Highways concerning the safety issues surrounding the walkway for children, to William Robertson School. Despite highlighting the urgent need for construction of a Safety Path , we are informed that monies that had been ring fenced for this , have now been required elsewhere. We will not give up though .

Finally, thank you to everybody for their continued input throughout the past year , and we look forward to serving you throughout the next .