

Barby & Onley Parish Council Annual Report April 2013 – March 2014

Firstly let me start by thanking all of our councillors and the clerk for their hard work throughout this year.

It was with regret that Councillors Chris Gibbs and Tina Thornton stepped down from the council, On behalf of the council I would like to thank Chris for his hard work and time as Chairman and wish him all the best for the future and would like to say thank you to Tina Thornton for her hard work with the youth team and police liaison throughout her term of office.

I would also like to welcome Simi Pandhal to the council after being co-opted she has taken over the role of neighbourhood watch and police co-ordinator. We currently still have one position on the Parish Council vacant.

Councillor Steve Slatter has not attended or informed the parish of goings on at county council level all year but has now resigned so there will be a by-election on 3rd July.

I would also like to thank Ian Webb who has done an outstanding job with his hard work on the parish newsletter and digital media forms the council use, he has made it a lot more user friendly and effortless to navigate around.

Planning

We have acted as consultee for 23 planning applications over the year; the crematorium along Ashlawn Road has now been completed and is in operation. DIRFT 3 is still ongoing and recently we have had a meeting with the district council regarding the volume of HGV's using Longdown Lane as a cut through to the A45.

Localism

Under the Localism Act we have an opportunity to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and have some say in how the parish develops in the future. This is an ongoing task of which I am please with the feedback we have received so far, we have a working party now dedicating their time to this plan although they are always looking for more volunteers as this is a long and complex process with many different skill sets needed which will affect the whole community.

Onley

Drainage works are now complete at Onley and have been adopted by Severn Trent Water, the council has also maintained the open spaces and improved the play area and replace the Swings, it has also worked hard at putting a new youth club facility in the village which is attended well on Friday nights.

Highways

Ongoing work by the council has resulted in Barby Lane being partially repaired and much better than it was 12 months ago from the damage caused by the work at Barby Sporting Club. PCSO Kev Thompson remains our local PCSO and is monitoring speeds in the parish. Speedwatch is an initiative anyone can get involved with so please see a councillor for more information. We need more volunteers prepared to attend training to use the speed guns and if we have enough volunteers we can use the guns over a 6 week period in September.

Youth

Both play areas are in a good state of repair and enjoyed by many children in the evenings and after school

The youth club at Onley is proving popular and attended well as mentioned earlier.

The cricket club is running a very popular youth team on Friday evenings throughout the season and attended by over 80 children per week.

Budget

A budget of £42521 is needed to maintain the Parish. This year Daventry District Council did not pass on money from Central Government to off-set the reduction in rate relief.

We have used some reserves to balance the books and keep the precept as low as possible and this year we have requested a precept of £41353 which represents 1.67% increase on the precept requested for the previous year.

We have used the monies available to improve play areas in both villages and keep both villages maintained and presentable.

And Finally

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and notices are published in advance and put on the notice boards in both villages, we would encourage you to come along to these meetings and play your part in the community.

A Sabine – Chairman

21 May 2014