

RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008 / 2009

THE past year has again been a busy and successful one for the parish council. In your interests we have continued to build on the achievements of the recent past. Comments by the chairmen of each of the council's main committees follow. I hope you share my view that their enthusiasm and commitment to the village is apparent in their reports.

Last year I reported on our efforts to improve the village by working with partners to reduce anti-social behaviour. This work was followed up last spring by a "week of action" when all the agencies joined together to reduce problems. Funds from the week were made available to the skate park to refurbish their main ramp and a small grant to speed watch. A spin off from the funding for that was the fencing round the smaller children's play equipment on the Recreation Ground. The Princes Trust generously helped by supplying a group of young adults to paint the fence.

Work in the cemetery has continued to general approval, with a new driveway and the start on replacing the chain link boundary with a more appropriate and robust fence. Here, and elsewhere, we continually review how maintenance is carried out to ensure the work is done to high standards and at sensible cost. This year we have paid particular attention to the village centre, both by our own staff and through the Borough and County Councils discharging their duties properly. In the village centre I was delighted to accept the gift of the Radcliffe sign donated by the voluntary group, RadVentures. Current work on the adjacent land by the toilets will make this a worthwhile central feature in our village.

The Male Voice Choir generously donated a public clock for The Grange to mark their very successful 25th anniversary. As for The Grange itself, regrettably it had to be closed for public use in September due to substandard safety installations. However, as promised last year work has started to bring the building up to modern standards which is due to be complete in June, giving us attractive and energy efficient accommodation.

The council has continued its opposition to the proposed Eco-town at Newton, and has commented on a number of planning strategies such as the regional plan to try to ensure that development and traffic do not destroy the character of Radcliffe.

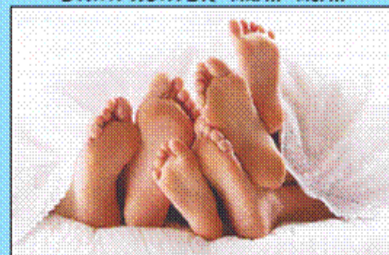
I must thank all the councillors, and especially my Vice Chairman, Coun. Mrs Georgia Moore, and the committee chairs, the clerk Mike Elliott and all the other staff for the effort and thought they have put in to make my job as Chairman relatively easy. Without their work, often involving more hours than one might have expected, Radcliffe-on-Trent would not be the very great place we all enjoy.

Coun. Graham Leigh-Browne
Chairman of Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council

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ANNUAL REPORT 2008 / 2009

FINANCE REPORT 2008 / 2009

DURING 2008 / 2009 we have managed our finances within the budget set at the beginning of the year.

There has been a delay in the planned work for The Grange but in anticipation we have increased our reserves and made financial plans to cover the expenditure.

During the year we have been able to spend within budget in improving village amenities, the biggest job this year has been a new drive in the cemetery which cost around £40,000 and is a great improvement.

For 2009 / 2010 our proposed revenue expenditure is £335,000 which includes loan repayments.

Our income is predicted at £90,600 giving us a precept requirement of £274,000.

This means for a Band D property the council tax precept will be £82.96 – an increase of 3.73%.

I am happy that the financial affairs of the parish council are managed professionally and that all moneys received are used for the benefit of the residents of Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Coun. Gordon Moore

Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee

PLANNING REPORT 2008 / 2009

RECESSION is not good, far from it, but to continue with my theme from last year's report about the green belt and the worry that it may be built on. I consider that as with most bad things there can be a good side. In this case it appears that it might just give a degree of protection to our green belt, large back gardens and some of our older buildings from those who wish to make a "quick buck" and move on without any thought for what they leave or don't leave behind.

I haven't even said Eco-town yet! But could you call building thousands of houses "green", would people really travel by bus or train or stop at home so as to not use their cars? Do we really have a shortage of houses in our area?

In Radcliffe over the last few years we have had buildings or groups of buildings erected that in my view are far from pleasing and certainly out of keeping by any stretch of the imagination, I'm sure that if asked most of us would come up with the same ones! So lets see which are the worst and to balance it out which are the best. Please write, phone or e-mail your nominations and reasons, if we get enough replies we could make a good / bad / ugly list. It would also help the Planning and Environment Committee when looking at future applications, so go on, give it a go, it might even throw up some surprises.

Coun. Rodney Brears

Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee

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AMENITIES REPORT 2008 / 2009

ANOTHER very busy year with good progress made throughout the village. The cemetery has seen many improvements and work continues. I must reassure residents that the cemetery boundary will be retained, with some thinning and height reduction. We have started to replace the fencing and a hawthorn hedge has been planted.

Playgrounds continue to be a priority, a new area has been added to Wharf Lane with the existing play area fenced. Saturdays are a delight with all the facilities being used by people of all ages.

We will be looking at improving the Valley Road site in the coming year. Severn Trent Water have at last identified the cause of the water problem, and will build a new pumping station in late May, this will cause some disruption but will result in a cleaner and safer amenity.

The Grange grounds have been tidied and a large area adjacent the cemetery wall has been reclaimed.

The Church Yard became our responsibility in August adding to our already heavy workload.

The Park flower beds will benefit in the summer from being left fallow over the winter. Work continues in the Park to renovate areas that have become overgrown and crowded.

We have many complaints regarding verges and overhanging foliage, so please keep all hedges and verges neat and tidy. We have many responsible dog owners but sadly we have some who do not clear up after their dogs. Prosecutions have been made and the council will act when informed.

Looking forward, we hope to increase the amount of Christmas decorations for 2009 and appeal to both house owners and commercial outlets along the main street for their help in lighting up Radcliffe.

Coun. Mrs Josephine Spencer

Chairman of Amenities Committee

GRANGE HALL REPORT 2008 / 2009

THE Grange Hall Management Committee exists to oversee the management of Grange Hall on behalf of those who own it – the people of Radcliffe-on-Trent.

There are eight members of the committee which includes three co-opted members with good outside expertise who give their time freely to help manage the hall.

We have a budget to maintain the hall and keep it the very desirable venue it has become since it was opened in 2005.

This year we have again successfully housed several hundred different events for different sections of our community and village organisations – weddings, funerals, exhibitions, parties and summer balls, keep fit, tea dances and colour festivals.

The popularity of the hall can be measured by the fact that all Saturday evenings are booked for the remainder of 2009 and some well into 2010. Incidentally, Radcliffe residents automatically receive a 10% reduction on the booking cost.

As a committee we also take it upon ourselves – with help from the rest of the parish council members – to organise two or three events a year for our local community and this year again have organised a children' fun day, Winter Fair and film night, all of which were well attended and will be repeated.

Grange Hall was the recipient of a sum of money donated in memory of the late Coun. Mrs Kath Ready who died last year. We chose to purchase a lectern to be used and admired in Grange Hall of which Kath was a great supporter.

I would like to thank the members of the Grange Hall Management Committee, the clerk and his staff who look after Grange Hall on a day to day basis and add that it is a pleasure to be a custodian of this building.

Coun. Mrs Melanie Mckechnie

Chairman of Grange Hall Management Committee