

# Darrington Parish Council

## Annual Chairman's Report.

2016/17

Once again I must begin my report by thanking all those who helped with Parish Council projects over the past year, these include all those who participated in the Scarecrow Competition and the Open Garden event, those who helped with the Feast and Fayre stall, the Christmas Carol service and the erection and removal of the Christmas tree and decorations and thanks again to the Brotherhood Church for donating the trees.

The Scarecrow Competition and Open Garden event will take place again this summer, details will be made available later.

Perennial problems persist with inconsiderate parking, dog fouling and fly tipping, unfortunately there is little the Parish Council can do about these things except plead with individuals to consider the consequences of their actions. With this in mind it's the time of year to remind you all about overhanging vegetation. As you begin to tidy your gardens please take a moment to check if your bushes and shrubs need a trim on the outside as well.

Unfortunately, I am unable to report that the ongoing planning dispute at the east end of the village is anywhere near resolution although it has been going on for over 7 years. Although we regularly remind WMDC planning department that the situation is unresolved, progress is poor.

We face a couple of challenges in the coming months, there are two developments one on Phillips Lane and one at the old Hillcroft Farm site which will cause disruption. We have spoken to the developers at both project who have assured us that they will try to work with us to minimise problems. It will not be possible to please everyone, but a degree of tolerance will help.

A more positive subject is our intention to install a defibrillator in the village. This will cost around £5000. Thanks go to those individuals and groups who have already contributed.

Another project is to install some kind of memorial to the WWII Air Crew and residents who died when their aircraft crashed into houses on Chapel Hill. It will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this sad incident in just over a year, we hope to have some sort of memorial in place by then.

Wall rebuilding and landscaping in the old Church Orchard has now been completed, but there is a need for ongoing maintenance, our thanks go to the Golf Club have agreed to cut the grass.

Our Parish Council informed WMDC that they did not require an increase in the precept this year, however, when figures were published the percentage had been increased. This is because the number of people paying the precept in our parish has reduced in the past year, consequently for the Parish Council to receive the same money those who do pay have been charged slightly more.

We remain one of the lowest precept council's in the WMDC group.

To conclude, the coming year sees the Parish Council in a sound financial state and councillors maintain a resolve to work towards improving benefits for all residents.

I would like to remind all residents that our monthly meetings (second Thursday of each month) are open to anyone who wishes to come along and comment on proceedings.

Michael Britton ` Chairman DPC.