

# CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Great Linford Parish Council started the year with 17 councillors but with resignations and the death of veteran Councillor George Byfield, GLPC now has vacancies for four new councillors

Once again I am indebted to Eirwen Tagg for her diligence and commitment in her key role as Parish Manager and Financial Officer.

The Neighbourhood Action Group now embraces the whole parish, working in close relationship the Thames Valley Police and MK Council's Safer Communities staff. Downs Barn and Neath Hill clean-up days were successful community events which will be repeated in other areas.

*...the most effective communication is when residents attend council meetings."*

We are conscious of the need for effective communication; through *News&Views*, published three times each year, the GLPC website and Noticeboards. But perhaps the most effective communication is when residents attend council meetings at Neath Hill, often to make a point on a planning application. Whilst many applications are agreed without comment, we know that when GLPC recommends refusal or amendment, invariably we influence the decision of MK Council's Planning Committee.

However, whilst planning is an important parish service, we aim to provide other amenities in a cost efficient way. Last year successful new projects were funded from reserves, so this year Councillors agreed to increase the precept to continue these ventures, without restricting essential services.

Grants totalling £1,318 have been awarded to the Allotment Association, MK Food Bank, Great Linford Memorial Hall, for Urban Arts and replacement football nets.

The Recreation and Environment Committee has a wide brief and ensures that our sports grounds are properly maintained for football and cricket. MK Council has renovated play areas in a number of estates and we now have excellent facilities with new equipment.

The Youth Club opened at Downs Barn Pavilion in November 2009 and this has been a successful venture, supported by MKC Youth Services.

*"...the realisation of one of his dreams..."*

Last years summer programme was well received and will take place again starting in July. We were encouraged by the level of participation and the list of activities and venues for this

year is just as exciting. For Cllr Charles Allum, our R&E Chairman, this was the realisation of one of his dreams and he gave his time unstintingly to attend almost every event.

Although delayed, Sandy Close allotments will soon be finished, they are needed urgently to reduce the extended waiting list. With the Great Linford Allotment Association we are drafting a new constitution to improve the management and use of the existing 125 plots on our five sites.

We are working to support improved facilities at Conniburrow playing fields and introduce baseball and softball, but this project has been delayed following a change of officers at Conniburrow Community Association, the leaseholders.

*“Litter is still a problem...”*

For many the most visible part of our activity relates to litter and parking. Litter is still a problem and we continue to try to deal with dog mess. More bins have been provided but the problem extends to play areas, raising further issues.

Overnight HGV parking on industrial estates has caused concerns about hygiene risks, which have been addressed by MK Council implementing parking restrictions.

Inconsiderate parking is a big problem on many estates with vehicles parked on grass verges and pavements. New regulations will be introduced where residents can identify serious problems.

On a more positive note we have successfully opened the Community Orchard at Downs Barn and are considering putting bee hives on some allotment sites.

As a Council it is our objective to engage with residents to match our slogan of *Great Locality Proud Community*. I am proud to be associated with this Parish Council and express my thanks to the staff and councillors whose contribution has been tremendous.

**Cllr CECIL MACAULAY.**

