

PARISH CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

During the past year I had the pleasure of delivering flowers to two residents in the village who celebrated their 100th birthdays in 2008.

We continue to provide a mini bus to Tesco once a fortnight for the frail and elderly and once again put up Christmas lights with the help of volunteers. We also organised as usual the Remembrance Day Ceremony which was well attended.

We keep in contact with the new managers of Milton Country Park and continue to work closely with the police. We have recently allowed the local PCSO to use the Parish Office for her meetings with the public.

We have also been working with Urban Renaissance Villages (URV) who are planning to build 101 retirement homes at the north end of the village and we are working with the District Council and URV to try to ensure that the village gains extra recreational space as an additional benefit of the scheme.

The Parish Plan Group, headed by Phil Badley has done a tremendous amount of work with the support of the Parish Council and I would like to thank them for all their efforts. The group has also brought together people in a positive way to work on various projects. We now have an Environment Group, Police Liaison group, Communications Group and a Transport/Village Appearance group. The Action Plan has now been distributed.

In addition to this the Parish Council are producing a booklet with details of clubs, groups and local information as a need for more information was identified by the parish plan.

I have enjoyed my five years as Chairman and have decided to stand down this year. It has been a pleasure to be chairman of such a professional and well respected Parish Council.

I am grateful to all the Parish Councillors who give up their time freely to work and meet on behalf of the village to try to ensure the best for the area.

I am especially grateful to Rob Chapman as Vice Chair and Jim Daniels as Clerk whose depth of knowledge is exceptional and also David Geasor in his recent new role as Assistant Clerk.

I have found the past five years extremely interesting as we moved from the Community Centre in 2006 to our own purpose built office with its own storage space & negotiated joint use of the pavilion with the bowls club for our meetings which has worked very well.

This has also meant we have become much more accessible to the public as people are now able to call at the office with their queries and enquiries.

We also now store all our documents on site so they are easily accessible. We deal with a vast amount of enquiries by email, telephone and letter and also from callers in person.

We gained Quality Status during 2007 and we are working to make sure we retain this in the future and are planning Councillor training sessions.

We have built a purpose built Youth Building, responded to consultations and dealt with developers including Urban Renaissance.

Expectations and responsibilities of Parish councils has risen and we have had to grow and develop to deal with this. We have moved further into the world of electronics, computers and information technology (IT) to make sure we are able to cope with the demands.

Currently we are working hard to try to secure extra recreation space. We have employed an assistant Clerk – David and the office will now be open regular hours with other times available by appointment.

More details of the role and responsibilities of Milton Parish Council and the service it provides are included within the village guide.

I would like to thank the Charities for their support, the Village View team of volunteers and Paul Oldham for all his voluntary work supporting our web site.

We also have an excellent team of people who work for the Parish Council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them: Philip Adams, Village Cleaner; Robin Adams, relief cleaner; Tracey Ebbon & Linda Harding, Community Care workers; Jim Daniels & David Geasor, Clerk & Assistant Clerk. I would also like to thank the Community Centre Management Committee and all the staff.

Jane Coston

Chairman

Milton Parish Council