

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2012

As in previous years I looked back at what was in last year's report. It is with some pleasure I can report that some of the extra money made available to the County Council from Central Government for road repairs has been seen with work in the parish and some of the adjacent main roads.

There is no doubt that the laying of a new water main down the Highwood road and traffic diversions during the three month closure of the Tenbury Wells bridge helped to move some funds to our end of the county. There are two more stretches of new water main to lay from Robins End cottages and down to Eastham Bridge, it is to be hoped that those roads are put back in good order.

As this year we were fully prepared with grit around the parish the need for it did not arise. We arranged for grit rather than strait rock salt as this does not deteriorate as badly if stored over time. With the New and Highwood roads qualifying as secondary gritting routes when, on the odd occasions there were icy days they were dealt with in good time.

As reported last year the Lengthsman that we share with Knighton-on-Teme has continued to prove very satisfactory. The cost of the Lengthsman continues to be met by a grant from Worcestershire County Council; this grant is still of course a part, if only a very small part of the County Council's council tax bill and we consider it to be good value for money.

While on the subject of Council Tax; there has been some querying as to the 10% rise in the Parish Council's precept this year while others such as the County Council and Malvern Hills District froze their demands. The extra money was needed because the Parish Council decided to make £500.00 available to purchase bone china mugs for all children resident in the parish for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and to make a contribution with other expenses of the voluntary committee running a free for parishioner's party. This was just a part of the costs involved and money was raised by a walk event, and generous donations from the Millennium Fund and the Coffee Morning Group as well as financial support from the Memorial Hall Committee.

The Council dealt with several planning applications and a renewal but did not see fit to raise any objections to any of them in fact gave support where it was felt necessary. Planning legislation is changing because of what is called localism, this is meant to give more powers including planning to towns and parishes.

The Council was three members short at the start of the year and so having declared their interest to serve as parish councillors co-opted Mr Adrian Worsley and Mr Peter Moseley at the May meeting. Mr Cyril Norman was also persuaded to be co-opted back onto the council at a later date.

I would like to thank County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock and District Councilor Gill Farmer for continuing to give quick response to any requests for assistance. I am grateful to my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support over the past year. Finally I would like to thank Sue Burrows our Parish Clerk for her hard work on our behalf during the past year

John Inge - Chairman of Eastham Parish Council