

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Chairman's Report for the year 2012-13

Councillor Roy Greenwood (Chairman)
Councillor David Astbury
Councillor Linda Carter
Councillor Paul Carter
Councillor John Glazzard (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor John Jones

Councillor Clive Lipscombe
Councillor Peter Mountford
Councillor Martin Roberts
Councillor Judith Thomas
Councillor Ken Whitehouse
Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

The Parish Council met on six occasions during 2012-13. At the meeting on 22 May 2012 I was elected Chairman and Councillor John Glazzard was elected Vice-Chairman for the year.

Finance: We increased the precept to £6,000 in 2012-13 to enable us to continue to employ our Amenity Cleaner and to ensure that we did not eat too deeply into our reserves, which we had been using to supplement the precept for the past few years. Our internal auditor, Wellfield Accounting Services, completed the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for 2011-12 in April and we subsequently received a clean report from the Audit Commission, following submission of the Annual Report. The Internal Audit for 2012-13 has just been completed and is about to be submitted to the Audit Commission. The Parish Council donated £100 to the Village Hall towards the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Amenity Cleaning: Graham Povey continues to provide us with excellent service, despite us having to cut his hours from 16 to 10 a week. We eventually found a new home at the Village Hall for his wheelie bin, after it was displaced following the re-surfacing of the Village Hall car park.

Playing Field: The annual inspection of the play equipment was undertaken by Morral Play Solutions in April. Some minor repairs were subsequently made following receipt of their report.

Nature Park: A new picnic bench was installed, funded by Ward Councillor Graham Heatley from his members' allowance. During the year it was noted that there had been some drugs activity on the site and the police were asked to keep a close eye on it. The hedge around the Nature Park was cut back so that the site was made more visible from the road.

Planning: The Parish Council was consulted on 12 householder planning applications throughout the year, all of which were approved by Cheshire West and Chester Council. One application was submitted but subsequently withdrawn. Two further car showrooms – Honda and Hyundai - were constructed on the site adjacent to the Audi Showrooms on Longlooms Road and the Marks & Spencer flagship store at Cheshire Oaks was officially opened.

As Chairman I represent the Parish Council on the Ince Park Community Forum (organised by Peel Holdings) and attended a number of meetings throughout the year.

Highways: During the year the Parish Council raised a number of issues relating to highways. Some issues have been dealt with others are still to be resolved. Two site visits were held in Stoak village which provided the opportunity for Councillors to discuss outstanding issues with Cheshire West and Chester highway officers. Two issues relating to drainage were raised, one in Stoak village and one on the A5117 outside Casa Mia. Inspections have been carried out and hopefully these issues are being resolved. Some work was also undertaken on Rake Lane and this has now been re-surfaced.

We reported last year that CWaC had been asked to resolve problems relating to parking on the grass verge outside the houses at the end of Whitby Lane, where visibility was being obscured making exit onto the Lane dangerous. All attempts to resolve this issue have failed and we appear to be at stalemate.

We are continuing discussions with CWaC about naming the A5117 from Elton through to the A540 junction to make properties easier to find using SatNav and for emergency vehicles. The names Strawberry Way East, Strawberry Way West and Dunkirk Way have been agreed and we are waiting for the street signs to be erected. At the request of residents, the name Whitby Lane has been reinstated from the Strawberry Roundabout through to the A41.

Public Rights of Way: The Parish Council was unable to pursue the issues relating to Bridleway No.2a at Stoak as CWaC refused to enter into any further correspondence on the matter.

The application to have the Strawberry Drive footpath included on the Definitive Map was referred to the Secretary of State and a public inquiry will be held in October.

Communications: The Parish Council now has a website which was developed and is hosted by Cheshire West and Chester Council with the assistance of Councillor John Glazzard, who is now the official webmaster/administrator. The website address is www.littlestanney-pc.gov.uk

Cheshire West and Chester: During the year CWaC consulted the Parish Council on a number of issues. The Parish Council responded to some consultations and noted others. Of particular note is the Community Governance Review, where the Parish Council asked Cheshire West and Chester Council to consider some revisions to the boundaries, in particular between Little Stanney and Ellesmere Port. Councillors and the Clerk attended meetings of the Community Governance Review Committee to make the Parish Council's case. Consideration of the issues will now await the review of the non-parished areas of Ellesmere Port later this year or early next year.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils: The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils

Roy Greenwood
Chairman
Little Stanney & District Parish Council
May 2013