

North Ferriby Parish Council Chairman's Report 2007

When I reported to you last year we were in the middle of the Humberfield public inquiry. Thankfully the period that I call 'The Humberfield Years' seem to be behind us following the properly considered decision of the Inspector who dismissed the appeal leaving it very difficult for applicants to return for another attempt.

At that time, I considered that the 2006/07 year of office for the parish council would be one for reflection on how we operate and the service that we give to the village, having no major projects to undertake and hopefully no further surprises of Humberfield proportions to tackle. I mentioned that we may see a resubmission of the planning applications for the Bridgehead sites and, with the nearing completion of the A63 Grade separated junction, I indicated that applications may be forthcoming for Melton Park. There was of concern to many residents and the parish council the potential loss of the GPs surgery in Nunburnholme Avenue.

So twelve months on where are we?

The applications for the Bridgehead sites have not yet resurfaced but will do so very soon I am certain, bringing with them some changes to the road system near to the Hotel Elizabeth. Slow, and now painful, progress on the grade separated junction has not stopped the anticipated planning applications for Melton Park, but these do not yet seem to be detrimental to the village of North Ferriby. We are, of course, monitoring them closely as they come in. And slower, and even more painful progress on the replacement of the GPs surgery in Nunburnholme Avenue, means that patients of the practice are still uncertain as to how they will access basic medical care in years to come. The parish council is ready and willing to assist in what ever way it can in securing a Ferriby base for the practice, but at the moment the matter remains in the hands of the GPs and the PCT.

As this is the end of the current term of office for this parish council, I would like to thank those who are standing down and those who are hoping to continue working for the village after next months elections.

Standing down for a well earned retirement from community affairs is Colin Rochester. Colin joined the Parish Council in 1979 and served for eight years as its Chairman. He has been on the Village Hall Management Committee for 15 years, which he has also chaired. Lately he has been Chairman of the planning sub-committee for the Parish Council. Our thanks go to Colin for his service to the village and we hope that he and Doreen can enjoy the extra time they will have to pursue their interest in bowls.

Also standing down is Ewan Masson who has served two terms. Ewan has represented the PC on the governing body of the primary school and has judged many a best kept allotment with myself – he now officially knows his peas from his carrots. Ewan's business and family commitments are great and Ewan is standing down to allow someone with more time to devote to the village to serve. Thank you to Ewan.

Next to thank are Ivan Patterson and Stephen Prior who have put in hours of work to ensure the smooth running of the playing field. Of testament to them both, along with Brian Kerridge, Amanda Ulliot and Marlene, is the newly opened skatepark, which was provided following a request from our younger residents.

The well being of Riverside Walkway has been the responsibility of Wendy Dobbs, Margaret Hyland, Chris Holtby and Gillian Harris, whilst the environment in general is looked after by Wendy, Margaret, Gillian and John Pickering. Margaret and Gillian have also got together a group of volunteers to litter pick in their own areas, which seems to be working well.

Chris Swindin has been a leading figure on the Twinning Committee and he will be representing the parish council on its next trip to Le Pellerin, France, in July. He has also taken part in the management of the Village Hall with Colin.

Planning is a major responsibility for any parish council and it is undoubtedly one of the most sensitive for many residents. Our planning sub-committee of Colin, John, Chris Swindin, Wendy, Margaret and Gillian has responded to all applications made within the village and the full council has considered and responded to the most sensitive. Stephen's guidance and to residents and representation on the parish council's behalf at the Humberfield inquiry has been commented upon before but I feel that it was crucial in raising many concerns that led to the inspectors ultimate dismissal.

Our continuing thanks go to Graham Latter for keeping our website up to date and for laying out the newsletter, and to Bob who clears up after us all in the village.

The hard work of my colleagues has afforded me the time to deal with issues across the board but significantly in negotiating with the contractors on the A63 to hopefully secure satisfaction for the residents most affected by the new junction. I have also represented the council at the newly formed Area Forum, which is made up of East Riding Councillors, and parish councils from our area.

Looking to the future, those parish councillors that are re-elected to serve the village will be joined by some new faces. Hoping to be chosen as your representatives are Brian Bannister, David Broadbent, Sam Dearing and John Halmshaw, and whoever is successful will receive a very warm welcome on the parish council.

Tasks for the parish council and the village for the future include further refurbishment of the playing field. Tennis nets and posts have been purchased and it is hoped that with the drive and determination of a tennis coach who lives in the village, tennis will return to North Ferriby. The fire last year at the cricket pavilion means the cricket club is looking to build another facility which it is hoped will link several users of the playing field together. The parish council is also acutely aware that the provision of the new skatepark has increased the attraction of the playing fields for some young people who are not as considerate as we would wish. We are in close liaison with the local police and the anti social behaviour team at ERYC and we hope to improve the situation for local residents. There is not likely to be a quick fix to some of the issues but we hope to establish meaningful dialogue with the users and the residents.

Graham Latter is working on a new edition of the Ferriby Focus which he is hoping will be ready in June and we have representatives here tonight from Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council to talk to us about what would be entailed in preparing a parish plan.

In addition to this the parish council is keen to pursue ways of encouraging recycling to compliment that done by the local authority. We have a recycling officer attending a future meeting of the council to discuss ways of increasing community involvement.

We will continue to monitor progress on the development of Melton Park and the Bridge Head Sites ensuring that residents are kept up to date if we have concerns about either.

Finally, I have to report that this will be the last Annual Parish Meeting with Marlene as Clerk and on behalf of the village I would like to wish her a long and happy retirement. Marlene has worked for this village for 24 years and has been a true asset. She has given me so much support I don't know where I would have been without her and I shall miss her. Having said that, I feel we have an excellent replacement in the form of Pat Lambert who was the unanimous choice of the interviewing panel and I know that she too will give great service the village. It will be a year of change with a new clerk and new parish councillors but I anticipate a seamless transition as far as the village is concerned.

Thank you for allowing me the time to give my report.

Cllr Julie Abraham
Chairman

23 April 2007