

My last report to the village was just prior to the May 2007 elections and also just before our clerk, Pat Lambert took over from Marlene Barker. I promised a seamless transition for the village and that is exactly what we achieved. Our new councillors, Brian Bannister, David Broadbent and John Halmshaw have integrated extremely well and proved to be very effective and we were pleased to welcome back Chris Swindin following the resignation of Cllr Dearing soon after his election. None the less, many councillors and residents were saddened that Stephen Prior lost his seat at the election in spite of the work that he put in for the village on the Humberfield enquiry and on the playing fields.

Pat has quickly stepped into Marlene's shoes and is proving to be a very enthusiastic and competent clerk. She doubts herself at times but really she shouldn't! I would like to thank Pat for the support that she gives to all of us but especially to myself and John Halmshaw as chairman of the planning committee in particular.

### **Progress against last year's priorities**

Tasks that I highlighted last year were the refurbishment of the playing fields and control of elements of anti social behaviour associated with the skatepark, the production of a new edition of Ferriby Focus, the commencement of the parish plan process, increased recycling in the village and monitoring progress on the major economic development sites that sit either side of our community. I would like to report back progress on those tasks and also to report on other key issues for the village in the last year.

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of the playing fields thanks to a number of successful grant applications. These have allowed the removal of the tennis hut which was attracting some undesirable behaviour, the provision of sections of new fencing to better segregate the users of the children's play area and skatepark and to prevent unwanted vehicles on the playing field, and a grant has just been received from O2 which will now allow the tennis courts to be brought back into use. Work is continuing by the cricket club to raise funds to replace its pavilion and PC members are assisting with grant applications. It is worth mentioning at this point that the cricket club has introduced development at a junior level and this has proved very popular, with many Ferriby children and young people regularly attending training sessions.

Working through the Neighbourhood Action Team the PC has highlighted issues of anti social behaviour surrounding the skatepark and this has resulted in special attention being focussed on it by the police and ERYC's Anti Social Behaviour Team. There has been a definite decrease in incidents since extra night time patrols were introduced and we wait to see how effective the actions taken, and those still to be implemented, will be with the coming warmer weather and lighter nights.

Graham Latter once again worked his magic producing an updated edition of the Ferriby Focus at no cost to the village or PC, and it has received many compliments. Our thanks go to Graham for this.

In September a very full meeting of residents agreed the production of a Parish Plan for the village and a steering group headed by John Halmshaw has now progressed this through to questionnaire stage. A full day consultation event in January fed very well into the process and to inform the basis for the questionnaire which will shortly be going out to residents. Thanks must go to the whole of the Parish Plan Steering Group for the way they have picked this up and run with it, and also to Peter Hirschfeld from HWRCC who has supported the Group throughout.

Attempts by the PC to pursue additional recycling in the village were overtaken by ERYC's decision to include Ferriby in a green waste kerbside collection trial. The proposed trial and ultimate countywide roll-out seemed so good that there was little point in setting up a community composting scheme which we had been considering. We have tried once again to find a suitable location for glass recycling bins but have been unsuccessful and looking realistically, it is unlikely that this can be achieved.

Planning applications have still not been submitted for the Bridge Head sites but will come at some point and the PC has fed into those applications put forward to date for Melton Park. The PC is keen to protect services within our own village and that will have to balance out against any economic benefits that the any development brings.

### **Other features of 2007/08**

June 2007 saw unprecedented levels of rainfall across East Yorkshire and around 20 homes in this village were flooded, some for the first time in living memory. The PC fed details of the flooding incident into ERYC's Flood Review Panel and also worked with residents of Brickyard Cottages, the worst affected area, to try to mitigate the effect of any possible future flooding. A number of schemes were considered and the residents were happiest with a scheme put forward by ERYC to improve drainage around the cottages and uphill from them. The PC has enabled £7,500 to go towards the scheme and encouraged Swanland PC to also nominate £5,000. ERYC has now secured the remainder of the £50,000 needed for the works and these should now go ahead early this summer. Some of our residents are still not back in their homes and our thoughts are with them.

The possibility of tidal flooding raised its head earlier this year with the threat of the withdrawal of maintenance of the flood defences on our stretch of the Humber. The PC is working with the Environment Agency to bottom out its assumptions and to persuade it not to walk away from its responsibilities. We are setting up effective communication channels between residents and the EA commencing with a public meeting later this week.

Summer 2007 saw the end of the contract on the grade-separated junction with huge safety benefits for this village. We endured some pain in getting there but I do not know anyone that does not think it was worth it.

A request from the Conservation Society to create a new conservation area in North Ferriby was supported by the PC and in October the new Parkfield Conservation Area was formally approved. This area, made up of Parkfield Avenue, The Triangle, Nunburnholme Avenue, and Station Road will now enjoy enhanced protection helping to maintain its unique character.

The cold winter months saw the failure of the boiler in the village hall and an excellent whole village response to get a new one quickly in place. Thanks to the hard work of the committee led by Chris Swindin, it is to their credit that the village hall stayed open for functions and events throughout the winter.

A successful grant application to BBC Breathing Spaces resulted in the £9,000 project to create a woodland walk on Riverside Walkway, which will be accessible by wheelchairs and buggies. The committee, lead by Wendy Dobbs, has worked with volunteers to make this happen and it is very near to completion. Riverside Walkway is one of this village's most valued assets, enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our waterfront and its sailing history. Huge thanks go to the walkway committee, and also to the members of Ferriby Heritage Trust that have succeeded this year in bringing the half scale replica of the Ferriby Bronze Age boat back to the village.

February of this year saw the furthering of our relationship with Le Pellerin in France when the then Mayor, Daniel Morisson, led a small delegation to Ferriby to sign a formal Friendship Agreement. A similar document will be signed in June in Le Pellerin by representatives of North Ferriby and this village will welcome a delegation of nearly 40 visitors from Le Pellerin in late July.

Commenting on planning applications continues to contribute too much of the work of the PC and John Halmshaw has proved a dedicated and very knowledgeable Planning Committee chairman. Thanks must go to John and his committee for the work they do and the many meetings they attend. One planning issue that has dominated the village for the past few years is that of the former Yorkshire Water pump house on Church Road. The PC and also the school welcomed the recent inspector's decision to require the removal of the intrusive parking bay at the front of the site, which was considered to be a hazard to pedestrians and motorists.

The primary school has had a dream for a number of years to have a fully equipped and working kitchen, which the PC has supported by delivering, at no cost to the school, Kitchen Project Newsletters to every home in the village. I am pleased to tell you that only last week the school received confirmation that East Riding Council had allocated further funds to the project leaving the school to fund raise just £15,000 of the overall cost. The school is well on the way with this and is encouraging a final push to enable work to start this year.

The final issue to have dominated the year is the impending closure of Dr Robertson's surgery in Nunburnholme Avenue in April of next year. Various community and patient representatives have been meeting with East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust for several months now but it has to be reported that progress is limited. Although the representatives had met with the PCT two years ago, the PCT did not bring anything to a conclusion and so negotiations have had to start again from scratch with new personnel. A statement has been issued by the group as to the possible options but the two options favoured by the PCT are not acceptable to the community and patient representatives and not in the best interests of the residents of this village. We fear that Government guidance to the PCT may result in the end of all single-handed GPs in preference for the larger, all encompassing, polyclinics.

We are still in there though with a voice and we shall pursue this as far as we can. Special note must be made of the determination of local resident Margaret Winn in ensuring that the matter does not rest without a fight.

Ending the summary of the year though on a positive note, it is clear to see that there has been a lot of investment in the village through the grants for the playing field, the walkway, the school, and the refurbished Brownie Hut, and also through ERYC's village task force that is just completing its two yearly visit. Our bus stops have been improved to provide easy access for the disabled and all in all it has been a very good and busy year.

### **Tasks for the year ahead**

In the year ahead there will be continued efforts to retain two GPs in the village with a decision needing to be reached before the one surgery is closed next April. Work on the playing fields will continue and in support of Ivan Patterson who has battled almost alone this year, it is essential that new life be brought to the playing field committee. The Parish Plan will progress through the steering group and the PC will also be revising its Emergency Plan in the light of experiences across the East Riding in the June floods last year. Consideration will be given as to the future of the village hall, which could benefit from some refurbishment – it will be for the Village Hall Committee to decide the extent of that refurbishment. And finally, action will need to commence later in the year on the renewal of the lease with North Ferriby United FC, which comes to the end of its term in September 2010.

### **Final words**

I would like to thank Bob Ferreira who does various tasks for the village and also thank Graham Latter who maintains our website and produces our quarterly newsletter. Our website is popular and has had nearly 10,000 hits since it was set up and there are nearly 130 homes that receive emails informing them whenever we do an update. It is fast becoming the most effective means of getting a message out to the village.

Graham now does the laying out of the newsletter and he has also streamlined getting it to and from the printers, so that from me sending him the text the PC has no involvement with it until it is delivered back to us by the printer.

As well as any other parish councillors that I have not thanked personally, I would like to thank Chris Holtby who has been my deputy and given me lots of support, and also our local Police, PC Richard Eglen and PCSO Danny Cammack who really do provide an excellent service for this village.

I am standing down as Chairman at the AGM in May as I think that nine years in post is quite long enough. A new Chairman will bring different qualities to the post and I shall be happy to work alongside them both as a parish councillor and as a ward councillor. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve this village and I hope that my successor enjoys it as much as I have. There have been a few moments in my nine years, ones that I would not like to go through again but our successes together have been well worth it and, although we do not have Quality Status on paper, I believe that we have delivered a quality service and know that we shall continue to do so.

*Cllr J Abraham*