

North Ferriby Parish Council Chairman's Report 2006

2005/06 has been another very stable year for the parish council with no changes to the councillors and clerk serving North Ferriby. We have said goodbye to Mrs Vodden who has kept the village well spruced for many years. As we head towards the end of this term of office for the current council we anticipate that there will be some changes as long and loyal servants decide to put their leisure time to other uses and we hope that we shall see an interest coming forward from other residents in the village to continue their good work.

Progress on work programme for 2005/06

Our priorities for the 2005/06 year were to complete the street lighting programme and to ensure a smooth interface between the village and the construction works on the A63 GSJ. We also wanted to look at ways of keeping the village tidy without having to charge the parish council tax payers of North Ferriby.

The street lighting programme has been completed, culminating in the most difficult scheme, that of Woodgates Lane. With an under spend of £15,000 against the estimated project cost, the programme was completed for the sum of £145,000. It is to the credit of the present parish councillors that they bit the bullet and opted to borrow funds to get the whole village brought up to standard in one swoop. Repayments of in excess of £12,000 per annum are being made and the handful of street lights that have remained the responsibility of the parish council are being maintained under a service level agreement with the East Riding. This has all been possible without the need to increase the parish precept by a single penny this year. This is a highly sustainable situation as the money that was used to maintain and fuel over 100 parish lights has instead been diverted to service the loan. Given the huge price increases of energy costs that have been seen in recent months this was a very timely moment to reduce our commitment to electricity purchase, and this increased cost will instead be subsumed by ERYC. We have sent our grateful thanks to Mr Tennant at ERYC without whom this project could have been a lot more difficult than it has been.

Works have continued throughout the year on the long awaited GSJ and with very little impact on the patient residents of North Ferriby. There have been noise and vibration issues for the northernmost part of the village but the contractors have done their best to minimise them. There has been some disruption to the bus service which has unfortunately affected some residents more than others but plans are in place to recover the position swiftly once the junction works are complete. There has been inconvenience to motorists approaching the village from the west with the need to detour along the A63 or to take the scenic route along Great Gutter Lane and through Swanland. It was disappointing that this diversion did not end in February as had been expected but will continue until the end of June when the overbridge will open. Overall though the works have gone well and we shall reap the long term benefits for years to come. The commitment that McAlpines has made to the village during its time on the new road by way of repairs to the village hall car park and its intended provision of a base for the skate park is hugely appreciated by the parish council, playing field committee and those involved in bringing the skate park project to fruition.

Finally, the enthusiasm for self help to keep the village clean and tidy has been harnessed and most roads now have a dedicated and fully equipped litter warden.

The year 2005/06

Additionally in the last year we have seen the green waste trial, which happened in North Ferriby only because of the parish council's expression of interest in doing its own collection from households. Originally a six month trial it was extended up until last weekend and has proved quite popular with residents. Green waste will no longer be collected by the council under its new strategy and there will be

an expectation that householders will take responsibility for their own. Home and community composting will be the preferred option of East Riding Council and community composting will be an item on the agenda for the meeting that follows.

Representation on other committees

As in my previous report, parish councillors have continued to be active on various outside and sub-committees and my thanks go to them all. It is often the other committees that are more demanding on councillors' time and that work often goes unnoticed by the public.

Planning applications

No Chairman's report over the last three years would be complete without a mention for Humberfield and this year is no exception. After a long haul the end is finally in sight with just one day left of the public inquiry. Although there will not be a decision for some months at least the residents and the parish council will be able to sit back and think that we gave it our best shot. Those of you that have attended the public inquiry will know what a sterling job the combined forces have done and for the parish council our thanks really do go to Stephen Prior who has put in so much work on our behalf. A good turnout at 10.00am on Thursday would be appreciated by all on the residents committee and if you too want to wear the now infamous T-shirt, be there for 9.15am. It is the last chance to show the Inspector the strength of feeling in the village – he must go away under no illusion as to how we think!

And over the last six months we have had the irritation of work being undertaken on the former pumping station without planning application. The building is being occupied in its present form without any permission whatsoever and rest assured that ERYC is doing what it can to end that occupation and revert the blot on the streetscene back to its original position. It may be a long job but the parish council will be keeping up pressure to see that the works are completed.

The coming twelve months

I think that the coming year will be one for reflection on how we operate and the service that we give to the village. We have no major projects to undertake this year and hopefully no surprises of Humberfield proportions to tackle. Possibly the planning applications for the Bridge Head sites will reappear and there may be significant planning applications for Melton Park now that the GSJ is nearing completion to open up that land. Hopefully nothing will come forward that will adversely impact on our community.

Of concern to many residents and the parish council is the potential loss of the doctors surgery in Nunburnholme Avenue. The PC has been pleased to co-ordinate opposition to this loss and over 120 households have responded to a recent newsletter article published by the council. These responses will be forwarded to the PCT for the consideration of the new Chief Executive.

We have our Streetscene visit to look forward to in August and we have asked for some co-ordination for the north-west side of the village so that tidying-up works from the junction will compliment the works to be undertaken by ERYC. Any forward identification of issues for the Streetscene team to address will make life easier on the walkabout and hopefully we can reduce that down from 6 hours this year!

As well as thanking the parish councillors I must take this opportunity of thanking Marlene our Clerk for her hard work and for the support that she gives to myself and the rest of the council. We never underestimate how fortunate we are to have Marlene. Thank you too to Bob who contributes to keeping the village looking good, particularly in the autumn when he faces the long battle with our tree lined streets. And finally thank you to Graham Latter for his work on the website and now our newsletter too. Graham who never complains how ever many times I ask him to update the website in one day.

Cllr Julie Abraham - Chairman
24 April 2006