

Elton Parish Council

Chairman's Report – Year ending 30th April 2008

In compiling this year's Annual Report, may I commence by giving thanks to all who served on the Parish Council during the year.

Members of the Parish Council as at 30th April were:-

Mr R Elvin	Chairman
Mr I Kirk	Vice Chairman
Mrs C Bense	
Mr J Burgess	
Mrs K Dagleish	
Mr R Hidderley	
Mrs M Nicholson	
Mr M Porter	
Mr R Rankmore	
Mr R Shrive	
Mr C Truman	

The Clerk to the Parish Council is Mrs Wendy Gray, to whom we give our special thanks.

Of the above Council members, Mr R Shrive was co-opted in October 2007 and Mr C Truman in November 2007.

Mr P Mason resigned in May 2007 and Mr S Jones in October 2007.

Our County Councillor, Bill Hensley, has, by invitation, attended several meetings and his contribution to our discussions has been much appreciated.

I wish to thank our District and County Councillor, Mr Mac McGuire, for his advice and efforts on our behalf in pursuing our problems at District and County levels.

During the year, your Parish Council has again dealt with a full agenda of topics, those of main interest being:

- Planning – 14 planning applications came before the Council.
- Finance – May I again record our grateful thanks to John Tindall who prepared the Parish Council Accounts until 2007 and Paul Taylor for taking over this responsibility and to our auditors Moore Stephens. A budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2009 was prepared and approved at the October meeting. This resulted in requesting an increase in the precept to £9,950 for the year ending 31 March 2009 (£8,000 for year ending 31 March 2008).

- Environment – The provision of the “green waste only” skip continued from April to November albeit with a reduction in their number as a result of the provision of “green wheelie bins”. Misuse of the skip continues to be a problem. The Council would again implore everyone to report any incidents of non green waste depositing or non village residents use of the facility.

The Council has undertaken two major environmental projects this year. The first was the clearing of the waste ground and provision of a car parking facility at the top School Lane. Ours thanks to the generous contribution made by Carters Civil Engineering, Elton Estates, villagers Neil Monson, Ray Sanderson, Chris Milton and the hard work of those Councillors who assisted.

The second project was the clearing of the ground below Vinco Terrace. Our thanks for the hard work of villagers Sarah Truman, Ray Sanderson, Mark Dalglish and Oliver Nicholson as well as all those Councillors who assisted.

A grant has been obtained towards the preservation of our village greens.

Ours thanks go to Derek Harris for organising a litter pick again this year in which many Councillors participated.

Three new waste bins have been donated and installed by Paul Mason. The Council is very grateful and would like to thank Paul for his generosity.

- Highways – The Council has obtained a “Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Grant” from the District Council for road traffic calming on Overend near to Highgate Hall. Design work is currently under way and subject to Council approval work should commence later this year. It is hoped that further funding can be obtained over the next two years for addition calming measures at other points along Overend.

The proposed roundabout at the junction with the A605 was cancelled last year and the funding lost. The process of obtaining another solution and the funding for it commenced this year. A traffic count was organised with the County Council Highways in July in which 35 villages assisted a team of Councillors. As a result of this, the junction was put back on the list for “medium sized” improvements. It was listed 33rd and failed to get funding. . A great deal of time and effort has subsequently been put into this project in an attempt to get the junction placed higher on next year’s list . Councillors have attended meetings in Huntingdon, Cambridge and Elton with Emma Murden, the area traffic manager, Amanda Mays, Head of Road Safety Engineering, Mark Hughes, the Director of Sustainable Infrastructure and Sir William Proby. My special thanks to Jim Burgess, Claire Bense and Bob Hilderley for accompanying me to the various meetings. Another traffic count was organised on 29th April in which 20 villagers assisted in addition to Councillors. I hope to organise a meeting with the heads of Peterborough Council and East Northamptonshire County Council with a view to obtaining funds from both Councils as the traffic flow through our village originates in these counties.

- Elton Play Space Group - The Council has assisted the Play Space Group over many years. Elton Estates has offered land behind Hayes Walk and the Council obtained change of use and planning consent. The Playspace committee under the chairmanship of Dereck Venum raised £3,500.00 and obtained grants for £4,270.00. The Council identified possible additional funding sources. The Playspace Committee had been in active for some time. The Council canvassed the whole village to determine if the facility was still required and organised a village meeting to discuss the project. A new committee has been formed and Mark Cross has been elected chairman. A great amount of time and effort over many years has been put into this project by the original committee and many of the residents of Elton. I am sure that Mark will continue the good work.

I would like to close by again thanking my fellow Councillors for all their work this year and Mr Strowbridge for his efforts on neighbourhood watch. Also our thanks to PCSO Barry Chamberlain our village police officer who has done a superb job since his appointment and to our Tree Warden Richard Donoyou.

Thank you for your attendance. We will be pleased to answer any questions from the floor.

Richard Elvin
Chairman