

Chairman's Report 2009-10

This year was the third of our joint agreement with Shavington Parish Council to pay for additional policing in Rope and Shavington. Both Councils have been pleased by improvements that this has brought about and have renewed the contract for the PCSOs for a further three years. There will always be some nuisance behaviour but the difference now, is that problems are nipped in the bud and do not escalate. Residents can report any problems and they now get a response.

The schools in our parish have benefited from the PCSOs. Both of them spent a week at Berkeley Primary School providing road safety training. This level of support would not be possible if we did not have additional policing.

The main policing issues in the Parish now are speeding and inconsiderate parking around Berkeley School. The PCSOs have carried out Speedwatch checks and deployed 'Smiley Sid' around the Parish to reduce speeding. The Speedwatch findings have also been followed up by enforcement checks. The area around the school is regularly patrolled at the beginning and end of the school day.

In the last six months dog fouling has become a more serious problem. Both PCSOs now have powers to issue fixed penalties for this and for littering. The Cheshire East Community Wardens are also working on this.

During the year both of the PCSOs have changed. Paula Davies took a career break and was replaced by Peter Corbett. Neil Flanagan has moved to another beat closer to his home in the Wirral and was replaced by Michelle Minton.

The new interactive sports suite at the Leisure Centre opened during the year. This was supported by the Parish Council. We hope it will not only improve the health and fitness of its users but also help to occupy some of the youngsters in a constructive way.

The third Parish Council notice board has finally been installed. This one has been placed on Fuller Drive at the end of Evergreen Way.

This year has been the first year of Cheshire East. The new authority is settling down after the transition and now looking to the future. The strategic plan is being prepared and the need for new housing has been identified. We will need to check that our local green gap does not lose its status. The new Council is keen to devolve services to parish councils and it is likely that we will be asked to consider taking over things like grass cutting in the future.

With the formation of the new Borough Council a review of the ward boundaries is taking place. Currently the recommendation is that Rope and Willaston village are combined to form a ward with one councillor. We have objected to this and hope that it is changed to a three councillor ward made up of Rope, Wistaston and Willaston.

At the January meeting the Parish Council decided it was time to publish a newsletter. This has now been published and distributed. While it was being prepared the website which had been hosted by the Local Channel disappeared. As the newsletter contained references to the website a new host was found and the website rebuilt.

Sadly we have lost Heather Gage as a Parish Councillor. The Council wrote to Heather to thank her for her service. The vacancy was publicised in the newsletter and some expressions of interest have been received. It is hoped that a new councillor can be co-opted shortly.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their help not just as councillors but also for the extra jobs they have taken on. Thanks also to our Clerk Sue Togay for her work on our behalf. Finally thanks to Borough Councillors Margaret Simon and Brian Silvester for their help throughout the year.

Bob Squirrell