

Chairman's Report 2010-11

This time last year I was rebuilding the Parish Council website, it was finished during May and has had regular updates since then. As part of the discussion about this and the newsletter which had just been distributed we agreed on a design for a new logo. This has since been added to the Parish notice boards, and the two subsequent newsletters as well as the website.

In July we welcomed Simon Bowkett as a new Councillor.

The Council decided to fund free sessions for youngsters in the interactive sports suit at the Leisure Centre. This was supported by the PCSOs as a way of occupying the youngsters in a positive way and thus reducing nuisance activities. This was a great success and the Council has decided to repeat it this year.

Antisocial behaviour in the Parish has been low. There have been problems with dog fouling, speeding and inconsiderate parking near to Berkeley Primary School. The dog fouling does seem to have improved recently so I hope that will continue. The PCSOs will continue to work on the parking and speeding problems.

As Cheshire East Council is establishing itself there are a couple of issues which have rumbled on throughout the year and are still ongoing. One of these is the devolution of some services to parishes. It is still not clear how this will work and I have concerns that we will end up with more administration and possibly some costs for the services affected. The other issue is the possible loss of the Green Gap Policy. Crewe is planned to expand by 37% but it is not clear where the new houses will be built. We will need to keep an eye on both of these issues this year.

A new Head Teacher, Carol White was appointed at the High School. She has been very proactive and is keen to work with all the local parish councils. We are now being sent their newsletters and press releases for inclusion on our website. We also offered a student prize for service to the school.

The Council had to be re-elected in May and all councillors stood again. The election was uncontested and the Council is unchanged.

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. Due to the ward changes, Margaret will no longer be representing Rope on the Borough Council but I am sure she will continue to do a good job for our neighbours in Wistaston.

Bob Squirrel