# Annual parish meeting

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 7.30pm at the Community Hub, 101 Bondgate, Castle Donington

### present : 22 members of the Public as per the attendance sheet.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr S Ambrose-Jones, of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Police Report – Inspector Richard JACKSON**

**Introduction**

Leicestershire Police provides a policing service to the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 24-hours a day, 365-days of the year and are responsible for covering over 2,500 square kilometers (over 980 square miles) and has a population of around one million.

There is a rich diversity of communities all with their own policing needs.

Many steps have been taken to bring policing back into the very heart of local communities.

Eight [Neighbourhood policing areas](https://leics.police.uk/local-policing) are headed by an inspector whose responsibility is to ensure that their area receives a policing service.

**North West Leicestershire Police**

* 1 Inspector
* 5 Sergeants
* 14 Police Constables
* 16 PCSO
* Small team of volunteers and cadets

NWL Police cover a population of 102,126 and an area of 279.2 square kilometres (107.8 square miles), these officers.

* Are visible, accessible and locally known authority figures
* Involved in the Community
* Have strong relationships and joint working with partners.

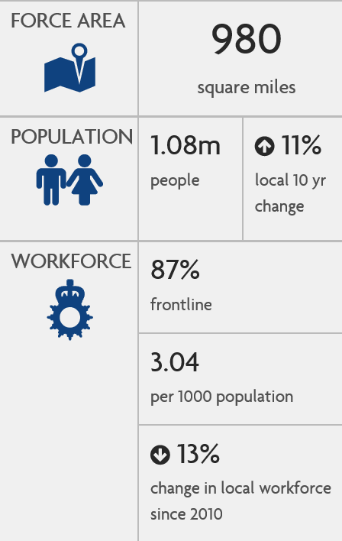
**Valley Beat Team**

The Valley Beat covers approx. 214.9 square kilometers (83 square miles) and is served by.

* Sgt Nick LEELAND
* PC Steve HARRISON
* PC Ady COLEMAN
* PCSO Nicola RUSSELL
* PCSO Kevin BRADLEY

PC Louise GRAVENALL was a familiar face around Donington and had been part of the team for a couple of years. Louise has recently taken a role at Force Headquarters and is replaced by PC Ady COLEMAN. PC COLEMAN has 12 years of Neighbourhood experience, lives on the beat and knows NWL extremely well.

His experience working 8 years in the Highfields area and the 4 on Coalville Town will now be transferred to policing the Valley Beat. We wish PC GRAVENALL all the best in her new role and welcome the experience PC COLEMAN brings.



**Police Officer numbers**

Police resources continue to feature as a regular topic at community meetings and within the media.

Police officer employment:

* **End of 2019** – 1803 Police officers and have a population of 1,094,91 the ratio is 1/ 581 (30/01/2020 – Home Office)
* **Projected** - 2020/2021 – 1909 officers and a projected population of 1,105,860 the ratio will be 1/ 579
* **In 2010** it was 1/430.

**Local Community Safety Partnership Objectives**

The policing team support the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) objectives which were set earlier this year with the police, NWLDC, local councillors and community representatives.

Priorities for 2020/2021 are:

* To reduce Violence across the district, with a focus on domestic abuse and integration with Violence Reduction Network.
* To protect our residents, businesses and visitors form Cybercrime.
* To safeguard the most vulnerable in the community, especially those at risk of exploitation.

The team will be involved in and reporting on a number of multi-agency activities which focus on these areas.

**Leicestershire Police Strategic Objectives**

NWL Police also continue to focus on force wide priorities which are currently:

* Organised Acquisitive Crime
* Cyber Crime & Fraud
* Domestic Abuse
* Knife Crime
* Child Sexual Exploitation & Abuse
* Sexual Offences
* Drugs Supply and County Lines
* Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
* Firearms
* Vulnerability and Exploitation
* Repeat Victims and Offenders

Each strategic priority is assigned a lead officer who is responsible for the creation and maintenance of a delivery plan in the 4P’s Format, Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare which is monitored by the force and the PCC at various meetings and boards.

**Valley Crime Figures (See documents attached)**

[**https://www.police.uk/leicestershire/NN43/crime/**](https://www.police.uk/leicestershire/NN43/crime/)

The Force continues to plan operations and target criminals mainly based on information passed from the local community and partners. Many of these operations, which are aimed at tackling specific problems, involve working in partnership with local residents and other agencies and have proved to be very successful. a recent example of this being Operation Camel which is our local response to County Lines.

County Lines is where criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operation in a place outside their usual operating area. Gangs will move their drug dealing from cities to smaller towns in order to make more money. This can have a really big effect on the community who live there and bring with it serious criminal behaviour.

We work closely with partners from local authority and housing providers to tackle issues such as this and have sustained our activity to address drugs misuse and associated criminality achieving some notable results.

These results of are significant and not possible without effective multiagency working and most importantly the information provided by our community. Dealers need to be aware that we will be targeting them as a result of the key provided by you.

**Consultations**

A number of consultation events have been held over the last 12 months. PCSO6178 RUSSELL has attended a joint consultation event in May at Kegworth Parish Council whilst in June PCSO6867 BRADLEY attended the Breedon on the Hill Village Fete. The following month PCSO RUSSELL attended the annual Music in the park event at Castle Donington. At these events, no issues were raised by the residents.

August and September saw the beat team attend a consultation event at long Whatton, the Diseworth Village Show and a Macmillan Coffee morning at Kegworth. Issued raised were speeding through the villages.

PCSO BRADLEY, PC HARRISON and PC COLEMAN attended the Belton Fun Day where no issues were raised.

Two local village store consultations at Belton and Coleorton raised no issues in the late autumn which were attended by PCSO RUSSELL as was the Kegworth Christmas Market, where an obstruction issue was raised and the December Farmers Market at Castle Donington where issues with HGV’s no adhering to the weight restriction limited were reported.

In the New Year consultation events were organised by PCSO RUSSELL at the Angel Inn, Coleorton and at Belton Village Store. Coleorton residents raised issues of speeding and inconsiderate parking.

Consultations/engagements have also been carried out by PCSO BRADLEY and PCSO RUSSELL at Sawley Marina.

**Consultation Response updates**

**HGV’S -** The beat team have visited NORTON MOTORCYCLES, MILLER HOMES and CHASETOWN CIVIL ENGINEERING in Castle Donington following residents’ complaints about speeding on Park Lane and HGV’s cutting through The Green/Darsway housing estate, an unsuitable route linking the two CHASETOWN relief road development entrances.

Both MILLERS and CHASETOWN (who had already been contacted by the Parish Council) have alternative usable routes in place for ALL of their respective delivery drivers, whether employed direct or as independent suppliers.

This route does not enter any of the housing estates in the village and ALL drivers/suppliers are sent maps of the preferred routes away from residential areas.

The companies are pro-active in supporting the community during the development period and welcome residents reporting breaches of this agreement directly to them.

MILLERS have a ‘HOTLINE’ resident reporting number – 0800 0836867 (www.millerhomers.co.uk/corporate/sustainability)

CHASETOWN can be contacted via the project manager Alan Jones: a.jones@chasetowncivil.co.uk

Both companies will take action against any infringements by individual drivers, both stating that drivers will be removed and banned from site, therefore losing any credibility.

Whilst site HGV’s have entered the area perfectly legally (as they are delivering in the area), both developers are advising ALL drivers accordingly, in respect of the residents wishes.

MILLER HOMES Planning director will be approached to supply and erect appropriate signage.

The Parish Council and the local beat team have established a ‘LORRY WATCH’ scheme where, in conjunction with Graham Compton (Police Traffic management) residents can report online, via the Parish Councils website, infringements of the 7.5tonne weight limit through the village.

With the opening of the ‘new’ Relief Road it is anticipated that there will be less infringement of the weight limit by HGV and a greatly reduced through traffic flow once the correct signage is in place. The Parish Council is working with the appropriate bodies and partner agency to ensure this process is completed.

**Speeding**

Speed checks / HGV infringements have been carried out by the Beat Team on the beat with a number of Community Speed Watch Groups encouraged.

Such groups have been successful in reducing speeding in the villages of Belton and Swannington, which has been followed up with Police enforcement action. The Beat team will be happy to assist with any help setting this up.

**Operation Obedience**

Following a number of complaints from residents with regard to Vehicle ASB in and around the Station Rd and the Broad Meadows/EMDC Trading Estates the beat team have gathered valuable intelligence enabling the hard targeting the problem as part of Op Obedience.

In addition to the vehicle ASB at Castle Donington, off road motorcycles continue to cause problem at land opposite Sawley Marina.

Work in this area includes:

* Placement of Section 59 warning signs on the entrances to sites off road motorcycles are gaining access to sites.
* A covert police operation being planned with the support from a Police off road and traffic team.
* Working closely with the residents and Marina management in conjunction with the landowner and partner agencies.

**Taxi Operation at EMA 20th September 2019**

Members of the beat team were involved in two taxi operations during the last twelve months:

1st May:

* 84 vehicles inspected
* DVSA - 11 prohibitions issued: 4 delayed and 4 immediate (tyres and break related), 3 immediate prohibitions for defective tyres.
* Police – tickets issued of 3 x seatbelt offences, tickets for 2 x tyres, 1 vehicle no tax, one breath/drug test passed, other vehicles inspected for window tints and number plate issues.
* LA’s – one authority suspended four of its vehicles; one authority suspended one of theirs; a further authority will issue internal penalty points for driver failing to wear his drivers’ badge.
* HMRC – dipped tested the majority of vehicles, no positive samples.

Overall, another successful initiative.

20th September:

* 135 vehicles inspected
* DVSA - 6 prohibitions issued: 2 delayed and 4 immediate, 4 immediate prohibitions for defective tyres.
* Police – 6 Traffic offence reports, 2 VDRS and a Section 165 seizure.

Relatively low numbers against the total checked which is good to see.

Overall, another successful initiative, the staff from VOSA commented on the general good condition of the older vehicles that on the main were well serviced and looked after, the remaining vehicles were newer executive hire type vehicles,

**Significant Crime Updates**

**PARK LANE ASB -** The high profile neighbour dispute has progressed successfully in High Court in conjunction with our Partner Agency, North West Leicestershire District Council who led on this case.

**HEMINGTON ASB** – A second high profile neighbour dispute has also progressed in Court.

**Engagements**

PCSO 6867 BRADLEY held a ‘PREVENT’ initiative event which discussed and explained Cyber/Internet Safety/Child Exploitation and the Prevent Duty in more detail.

This joint venture with Castle Donington College and AlterEgo was well supported and raised awareness in the local community and helped on the exercise of their functions and their need to have due regard to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

**Aeropark Open Day**

On a very busy weekend for the team, members attended the very popular annual AEROPARK open day. A large number of visitors were spoken to and offered Crime Prevention Advice, reassurance and support were appropriate.

Parking at this very popular event is an issue and with help from the organisers, disruption was kept at a minimum.

**Download Festival / Motor Sports events – Donington Park Circuit**

The beat team are pro-actively involved in the Download Festival (OP DON) and planning continues to prepare for this year’s event to be held on 12-14 June.

The team will be present at all the major motorsports events at the circuit, WSB, BSB, BTCC etc and work closely with Dr Jonathon Palmer’s staff.

**East Midland Sergo Site (WINVIC)**

The beat team have regular contact with the security firm responsible for the huge EAST MIDLAND ‘SEGRO’ (WINVIC) site which has recently opened. The International companies taking residence will be responsible for their own individual security staff but with 4000+ envisage employees and the rail head development progressing the impact on the community will be felt.

**Educational Inputs**

PCSO’s Kev BRADLEY and Nicola RUSSELL have carried out numerous assemblies/workshops at both primary schools and the community college including presentations during Internet Safety Week and Anti-Bullying Week.

PCSO BRADLEY has taken the ‘Keep Safe Club’ workshop (a half day interaction production) to two Primary Schools and the team have given three ‘parents’ presentations about internet safety.

**Target Operating Model (TOM)**

The force making changes to how we operate.

At the heart of the changes is a desire to deliver improved outcomes for the public, reduce silo working and upskill officers to tackle a wider range of policing duties.

Preparations to create this new model of working have been in the planning stages for some time and phase one has now been implemented and went live in March 2020.

It will result in more officers being based locally meaning quicker response times and more resilience and capability in neighbourhoods.

The key changes in phase one are:

* A move from eight Neighbourhood Policing Areas (NPA) to nine
* Each NPA will have its own CID team headed up by a Detective Inspector
* A new role of Neighbourhood Patrol Officer (NPOs) is being introduced to carry out pro-active patrol and investigate volume crime - this will replace Patrol and Resolution Teams and some of the work of Neighbourhood Investigation Units and Prisoner Management Units
* More locally based sergeants.

Following this there will be three subsequent phases of TOM. These will focus on complex investigations and serious crimes, utilising technology to detain and prosecute offenders and enhancing provisions for frontline officers to increase efficiency and effectiveness in any location.

Planning for these phases has begun and further details relating to these will be published in due course.

**Neighbourhood Link:**

Neighbourhood Link is a community messaging service from Leicestershire Police that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area.

Through this service you can receive messages from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, local police or, in the event of a major incident or event affecting the whole of Leicestershire, from a partnership of agencies known as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

In order to receive messages, you will need to register your details. This information will enable us to send you messages relevant to the areas you live and work.

Anyone can register, whether you live, work or travel into Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Registration is free and simple to follow.

Once you have registered you will receive messages via email unless you have specified otherwise. On some occasions it may be appropriate for messages to be sent via text messages or voicemail.

* Sign up to Neighbourhood Link [**https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/**](https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/)
* If you are already registered, you can amend your details
* Request a reminder if you have forgotten your username or password
* You can unsubscribe from the service at any time

Neighbourhood Link is not able to receive messages and you should not use it to contact the police. In an emergency always dial 999. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

If you wish to contact Leicestershire Police in other circumstances, for example to speak to local police or seek advice on police matters, you can call us by dialing 101 on your telephone.

[**https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/**](https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/)

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**Working together**

The following social media and internet addresses are useful tool to keep up to date with what’s been happening across the area and how you get involved in local policing.

* [www.twitter.com/nwleicsnpa](http://www.twitter.com/nwleicsnpa)
* [www.facebook.com/NorthWestLeicsPolice**/**](http://www.facebook.com/NorthWestLeicsPolice/)
* [northwestleicestershire.npa@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northwestleicestershire.npa@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)
* Recruit Special Constables [www.leics.police.uk/join-us/specials](http://www.leics.police.uk/join-us/specials)
* Encourage Volunteers [www.leics.police.uk/join-us/police-support-volunteers](http://www.leics.police.uk/join-us/police-support-volunteers)
* Online reporting [www.leics.police.uk/report-online](http://www.leics.police.uk/report-online)
* Community Speed watch [www.bealocalhero.com/get-involved/](http://www.bealocalhero.com/get-involved/)
* Neighbourhood watch [www.leicestershireneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk/](http://www.leicestershireneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk/)
* Rural Watch [www.leics.police.uk/categories/rural-watch](http://www.leics.police.uk/categories/rural-watch) – incorporates Horse Watch, Farm Watch, Church Watch, Heritage Watch

Get to know your local Neighbourhood team [www.leics.police.uk/local-policing](http://www.leics.police.uk/local-policing)



**BEAT NN43 - TOTAL CRIME**



**NN NW LEICESTERSHIRE NPA - TOTAL CRIME**



**NN NW LEICESTERSHIRE NPA - TOTAL CRIME**

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**NN NW LEICESTERSHIRE NPA - TOTAL CRIME CHART**





*Questions:*

*Do the reports cover Cavendish Bridge? Issue is misguided lorries trying to access the area.*

*Reply: Yes, issue is lorry drivers using private car SATNAV’s; it is also hoped that the new relief road will help take people around the village.*

*Why is there a high number of sexual/violent crimes recorded?*

*Reply – These are mainly domestic abuse, so probably not as violent as the terminology appears to imply, but still high. The issues recorded can be for things such a fight between two school pupils. Most of the issues are resolved by signposting to other agencies.*

**2. Volunteer Centre Report – Wayne Tranmer**

**GrowCookShare (GCS)**GCS continues to thrive providing monthly three course meals at both the Church Hall and Wakefield Court. These are important events which provide not just good quality food but also a valuable social occasion. We have increased the number of guests at the Church Hall event from 54 to 60 covers and installed a new cooker at Wakefield Court to better support our activities.  
Our allotment team continue to grow fresh produce for the lunches, now focusing on 2020's crop.

**Help@Hand**This service continues on a request basis in the background of what we do. Naturally we limit this within our available skills and are careful not to conflict with local services.

**Community Transport**Having completed our plan to rationalize our bus fleet we have taken the additional step of part exchanging one vehicle for a better specified Peugeot Boxer which can be driven on a modern car licence. This has helped to simplify operations and maintenance whilst providing wider options in allocating drivers. We successfully re-negotiated our bus maintenance contract to extend our relationship with our current provider for a further 3 years.

Download 2019 was a muddy challenge but we have been asked to provide this service again for the Disabled Camping attendees at Download 2020. A number of site improvements that we discussed last year are being implemented.

2018/19 recorded an increase in fleet miles by 22% on the 2017/18 period.

**Medical Car**This service continues to transport patients to and from medical appointments. This service is funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group which, as with all other grants, is now subject to a detailed assessment programme and therefore funding cannot be guaranteed in the future. However, the general demand continues to increase so is an area where further drivers are required who are willing to use their own car to help someone in the community.   
We have updated our leaflet on this service and have simplified our information shown to potential users in the GP surgery.

**Location – A reflection**We have now been in the Community Hub for just over 1 year which, after a period of settling in, has improved communications between ourselves and fellow tenants. The ability to share thoughts and discuss approaches quickly has begun to improve services.  
  
**Summary**  
**Our last operating year has been successful with many** actions having been taken to strengthen our position and mitigate the **challenges of both** funding stability and price increases. We are therefore continuing to develop and grow our community support services.

Our volunteers gave a total of 10,890 hours of their time during the year, valued at c. £110k of community benefit. As there is still more to do, we are progressing ideas to recruit more volunteers.

**Thanks**  
I would like to formally put on record my thanks to all of our volunteers and staff who deliver such an impact within the community. Thanks also to our numerous local supporters who help make our work possible.

*No Questions.*

**3. Library Report**

The Castle Donington Community Library continues to achieve its objective which is the provision of a public library for the benefit of residents of Castle Donington Parish and the surrounding area.

To meet this objective, Castle Donington Community Library:

* Successfully continued the operation of the library for another year.
* Continues to recruit and train volunteers able to operate the library services.
* Continues to expand the library service by:
* Providing customer access to the online Leicestershire County Council Libraries borrowing facility,
* Using 106 grant money to purchase newly published books for adults and children,
* Enhancing the prevision of large print books,
* Continuing to accept good quality donated books that can either be placed on the library system, sold to raise funds or used as part of the Honesty Book system,
* Increasing the library opening hours to include Tuesday 10am – 1pm and Thursday 10am – 1pm (to co-ordinate with the opening of the hub café),
* Continuing to run the outreach programme where library books are delivered to customers at the Friday Club who are unable to gain access to the library due to age or infirmity,
* Running the summer reading challenge called “Space Chase” over the summer holidays in conjunction with Leicestershire Libraries and The Reading Agency.
* Maintained an income stream by:
* Providing children’s Easter craft activities,
* Organising book and jigsaw sales at the hub,
* Organising a summer prize draw,
* Organising a successful quiz night,
* Charging fines for late LCC book loans,
* Charging for the use of printing and photocopying facilities,
* Charging for reserving books or obtaining books from other libraries,
* Applying for relevant grant funding e.g. the small grant scheme.
* Maintained the library in the public eye by holding a stand at the Music in the Park event.
* Continues to develop the ‘Friends of Castle Donington Library’ membership scheme to encourage local residents to support the library and to keep them informed of events at/involving the library.
* Participates with the regional library cluster group to allow benchmarking, sharing of ideas and experiences and fund-raising ideas.

*No Questions.*

**4. Castle Donington Youth Club**

**Launch**

At the Medieval Market 2019 the youth club committee promoted the newly created club prior to the launch night on 24th May.

The stall was manned by volunteers and youngsters who ran a tombola, sold cakes and used the ‘stocks’ to raise a start-up fund. This was added to by the way of a grant from Castle Donington Parish Council and we were away…….

35 youngsters turned up on the first Friday to be greeted by ‘staff’ and lots of donated second-hand equipment…. bar football, billiards, table tennis and a Wii. The club meet every other Friday here at the hub.

**Membership**

The club currently has over 90 members and we are still seeing new people. We are averaging 40 youngsters turning up over the winter months and are anticipating that this will increase over the summer as it did indeed last year. Membership is open to all young people living in the area of Castle Donington (and surrounding villages) who are between the ages of 10 – 16 years old.

**Equipment**

Equipment has been a constant topic due to some of the original donated starting to show its age.

New equipment on plan – Bar football, Air Hockey (we’ve actually purchased two as one was accidently damaged although this should repair), snooker table have all been purchased and we have 2 Wii consoles and are looking to trade one in for an Xbox.

**Events**

Events so far have all been successful due to the hard work of volunteers and some arm twisting of non-volunteers.

We have held a varied selection of events including

Beach Party complete with ‘mocktails’

Halloween Pumpkin carving and crafts

Bonfire night feast

Christmas Film show – with Pizza and chips

Santa’s Grotto (but I can confess it wasn’t the real Santa – thank you Tony Lane)

Chinese New Year celebrations (with Chinese food)

St Valentine’s Day Disco – hosted by the World Famous ‘DJ TDOG’ whose identity I can now reveal as being no other than Councillor Tony Saffell.

A visit by a Magician

We have a full diary planned for the next six months including an Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt and Cycling Olympics and with summer approaching we have planned a suitable events plan to accommodate the expected rise in numbers. We are looking at possible visits to other Youth Clubs and send invitations to other Youth Clubs to visit us.

There are some visits to venues such as Alton Towers currently being researched.

It was an honour for us to be invited to be represented at the Remembrance Day Parade and lay a wreath at the memorial.

**Staff**

The staff are a very enthusiastic group of individuals, all bringing specific skill sets to the club. We vary in age and have a balanced age group from teenagers to those over the age of sixty …. the chairman included.

A valuable asset to the club is the varied amount of ‘crafts’ available, usually organised by the ladies of the committee which are very well received by the youngsters.

The tuck shop is normally run by Barbara whose home-made baked cakes always sell out in the first hour.

All things technical - sound, films and game consoles – are run by the ‘younger’ members of the staff …. thank goodness!

We now have a dedicated events’ organiser who also manages the social media of the club.

However, we are always one the lookout for volunteers to help out on a Friday night.

**Finance**

The bank account is in reasonable shape which offers us some comfort when arranging and covering upfront costs of events. We are currently applying for grants to purchase new equipment for both indoor and outdoor activities.

The AGM is planned for April 2020 and notice will go out within the statutory time frame and although a little before the year end there are no foreseen issues as discussed by the Youth Club committee during its monthly meetings.

**Challenges so far**

We, as with any group, are not without our Challenges. Although we have had some new volunteers start, we are constantly on recruitments drives to attract more.

We have had a change of treasurer due to personnel reasons and with this the usual problems about changing bank mandates lol.

However, we remain enthusiastic and dedicated to providing a service for the youngsters of the village.

Castle Donington Youth Club offers fun, quality sessions in a safe, friendly environment for young people living in the area of Castle Donington (and surrounding villages).

It gives the young people opportunities to try new activities such as sport, art & craft or other leisure pursuits to gain self-esteem and new skills and provides a meeting place to socialize outside school hours, which allows new friendships to develop.

*No questions.*

**5. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Colin Burton**

This year has seen a new election term of four years with three wards up for election, the three wards were not over contested, therefore all nominees that applied were automatically elected, thus leaving 3 council seats available, these were co-opted during the year, we did have 2 resignations due to personal reasons, we have been able to co-opt one person so far, leaving one seat still available.

This Council’s overall responsibility is growing all the time (a far cry from what it was 20 years ago when I first came onto the Council) the involvement with the growing logistical infrastructure around the village and the increased housing to name a few, creates a heavy work load for the clerk, Fiona and her team, along with specific councillors that also work to insure that the infrastructure and well-being of the parish is upheld.

The Hub has been operating now for just over 12 months, and contrary to many key board warriors is a great success, to the extent that we now have taken on a booking clerk to manage the amount of bookings requested for room hire, by vast and varied organisations.

The Hub has successfully integrated services, such as the Library, Volunteer Centre, First Responders, Police, Citizen’s Advice, drop in hot desks used by the District Council, and the Farmers Market. The Hub has been nominated as an election venue thus enabling Orchard School to be alleviated from this.

On the day of the Farmers Market (second Saturday every month) the hub opens its doors to local groups and charities so that they can promote their organisation to the public in person, and this is proving to be very successful. The café is open six days a week and is used as a meeting point and a place for the public to have chat and a cuppa.

It is the Council’s ethos to promote well-being within the Parish, and part of this is the organisation of local events, such as May Day Medieval Market (this year 2020 will be a VE day celebration on Friday 8th May). We have Music in the Park in July. The Wakes in October, and Christmas Cheer on the first Friday in December, along with switching on of the Christmas Lights. The 2019 Xmas lights and Tree were the best for many years.

As Chairman it has been a privilege to be part of these events and to be able to give flowers to the couples celebrating their Golden wedding. This year I was also able to host a festive fuddle for all the volunteers that work at the Hub.

The Parish of Castle Donington population is due to grow from around 7000 to 10/11000 within the 5/6 years, to accommodate this, a further 895 houses are in the process of being built South of Park lane, 300+ new homes have already been built north of Park Lane.

We now have a new relief road “that in the end opened” on the 14th February 6 months later than promised, there are still a few teething problems associated with the road and its surroundings these should be dealt with over the coming months.

Castle Donington is surrounded by major Logistic operations, such as the Airport, the New Rail freight operation, East Midlands Distribution Centre, the Racetrack and other new operations. The Council does try to be involved in all discussions with these companies, “sometimes beneficial, sometimes not”.

The building of the new houses provides a Section 106 agreement that secures an amount of money to be used within the parish on formal recreation and associated works. To this end the Council is working on a number of projects that will support the growth of the village, such as updating the changing rooms at Moira Dale, enhancing the Village Hall up to modern day standards, new leisure/sporting facilities.

The Council has also worked with the Football Association to evaluate all of our grass pitches to see if improvements can be made this has now allowed CD Football Club and the Council to apply for a grant to improve the playing surfaces, this application has been approved and work will commence at the end of the sporting season.

Finally, I would like to thank fellow Councillors for their support, Council staff, especially the Clerk, Fiona, plus all the volunteers as without this support my job would have been impossible.

*No Questions.*

**6. Report of the Chairman of Amenities Committee – Cllr Tony Saffell**

The Amenities Committee has the responsibility of providing a variety of public events, which Castle Donington Parish Council has resolved to continue to promote each year.

We are all very proud to be involved in our events, which are approved of and enjoyed by so many of our residents. The aim is to promote a sense of community. Most people in this village I speak to think it’s a great place to live. I believe that the feeling of well-being is reinforced by our public events.

To all Councillors and staff, who regularly help with set up, marshalling and then tidying up at, and after, our events, thank you. Between us we are putting something back into our communities which is actually very rewarding. Well done to those who volunteer to do this because without volunteers these events wouldn’t go ahead and Castle Donington would not be the same place without them.

It has never just been Councillors and staff who marshal these events however as they continue to grow there is no doubt that our relationship with Marks and Spencer’s and their policy of volunteering means we are getting much needed marshalling and entertainment support from that organisation too.

It isn’t just a sense of community; in the case of the Mediaeval Market it is for many local charities their biggest fund-raising event of the year. One day creating months of benefit for so many of our local organisations. This event not only provides in period entertainment and an opportunity for local charities to make money and recruit volunteers, it is also a showcase for local businesses. This year we will be celebrating VE Day on Friday 8th May with a Market that has a 1940’s / Second World War Theme.

The Castle Donington Rotary Club who give what they raise to local charities always have their best fundraising day, charging for parking at our Music in the Park event. With many thousands turning up for this event it has also proved a great place to communicate locally whether that’s promoting healthy living, fitness, police initiatives, education from fire fighters or organisations probing for more volunteers. At the same time there is a great afternoon’s entertainment with up to six bands in six hours. The event showcases the abundance of local talent and normally includes a brass band and two high quality Tribute Acts.

Our next regular event is the Wakes which celebrates the Royal Charter which grants Castle Donington the right to hold markets and fairs. I am proud to say that I with one of our previous Clerk’s Dennis Bradburn, had the idea of a Medieval Market when the May Day Bank Holiday was introduced by the Labour Government in 1978, this coincided with the 700th anniversary of the granting of our Royal Charter granted in 1278 so it is now 742 years old! It has changed and grown over the years.

All the events are free to attend and the final one in the year is our Christmas Cheer event. This is the official ceremony for the Christmas lights switch on. This year we help from Melbourne Operatic who lead the singing of Christmas Carols and the local primary school children singing Christmas songs, local businesses on Borough Street stay open to give a Christmas Market feel, The Museum has Santa’s Grotto and we have various characters, more recently characters from Frozen, to enhance the experience for the children, not forgetting Father Christmas and his reindeer.

As well as the events the Committee also oversees maintenance work to the Churchyard, Cemetery and the Cemetery grounds. We will shortly be carrying out work to the trees in the Church Yard where we will be replacing some and trimming most of the rest.

The Committee itself sets out the framework for our events, but they are organised by our staff, so I would like acknowledge and thank them, led by our Clerk, Fiona Palmer, her team are Jayne Mitchell, Grace Thomas, [Anna Hall Mesney](https://www.facebook.com/anna.hall.5076?__tn__=lC-R&eid=ARD0vUS0ApxUOqNpiFep3d8yp33paNGFfSB6hO50kAleErkkLPE7M4qVjDCzv7F5C97WCDSbDp5dZbEU&hc_ref=ARRl6mwplqqw1Vg0J5dKq0QJkIQlk_Q_lpolnWkudqq3hujYTp4jcgwWjmoshFXRoh8&__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARCwMrJKl-1O2SA8xbYLyPWFdqoXJ73iSdjcY2EEJa4_CN52sUe2LYAt0Gmig5Fxq7P2b6774Tp0MI8yo3ZIBjrWPhOQ1-jTlmle4dnQXrtm4yrkO3KRLrfhM_SHqJvjwiD2ckJVYJLaTxE83P8fvmsvrUqHFaRqiXYgtEvFXzJVa4taOWhVMxA-VAWCZwqGAQ75RsrNdwSFJF5V3GkrFdtr4inLqkPQw1Bppusw_0S6A4D4TGZTBhtIglW3C8FHIlUMnIE75x3NJ1EEdRpmDYJpjiX3ccsuHT0VgpKAtd-4hpZzt6wpRkwGnkvACjTmJLhOt41Dl6azvnnL8Us), Barbara Atkin, Martyn Lee, Rob Holman and Kieron Lehrle.

*No Questions.*

**7. Report of the Chairman of Planning Committee – Cllr Bob Sizer**

This is my first report as Chairman of the Planning Committee, so I do not have reports from previous years to fall back on. Hopefully this report will cover the important points of note.

The level of domestic and industrial planning applications has continued as usual. However, with planning applications, some you win some you lose. Sometimes even those you win by helping the NWLDC Planning Committee reach the decision to reject an application, you can still lose when that decision is overturned on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

Such a case is the construction of 13 houses off The Spittal(west). This application was rejected in July 2016, but that decision was overturned on the 18th January 2017. Work is now underway to prepare the site ready to build the 13 houses. For anyone who wishes to look at the revised plans etc, they are on the NWLDC web site. The application number reference is 16/00027/FULM.

However, it is important to understand that the Parish Council’s Planning Committee is a ‘consultative committee’ as far as planning applications are concerned and it can only put forward comments for or against a planning application to the planning authority at NWLDC. It is also important to realise there are only limited ‘planning reasons’ to oppose any application.

The residential developments north and south of Park Lane are continuing with several developers being involved. Clowes Developments (UK) Ltd purchased the land with Miller Homes and Redrow building the houses to the south of Park Lane at present. Already some 50 plus houses on the new development are occupied.

Recently William Davis Ltd signed a contract with Clowes Developments (UK) Ltd which will see William Davis Ltd build the 183 houses on the plot of land to the north of Park Lane.

As to the future of the development south of Park Lane, apart from the continued building of the houses, a constructor has been appointed to build the new primary school for 200 plus pupils. This is expected to start sometime in the summer once planning permission has been obtained.

All that said, the most important part of this development so far has been the construction of the Western Relief Road, with Chasetown the company tasked with constructing it. The road should have been opened around August time last year, however it finally opened on 14th February this year. There were many reasons for the delay with the Parish Council staff and Chasetown taking the brunt of the complaints. However, it should be noted that Chasetown were working to the design produced by Idom Merebrook Limited which was approved by both the airport and LCC. Some aspects of the design were highlighted by Chasetown as possible problems but not acted upon. Thus, it was only when these aspects were shown not to work in practice that re-designs were required. These changes then had to be approved and carried out. This process inevitably led to delays. The final delays were for the independent safety audit along with the resultant minor remedial work. That done there was the 700 plus signatures required on the final legal documents before LCC gave the go ahead to open the road.

The relief road may now be open but there is still more work to be carried out in relation to the new houses. Work is required to move services, install drainage plus kerbstones and a footpath on Park Lane in the area between Paddock Close and the new relief road roundabout. There has been a sign placed on the effected part of Park Lane, indicating that section of the road will be closed from March 9th for approximately 6 weeks for the work to be carried out.

It has been pointed out that as the My15 bus travels along Trent Lane and through the housing to the west of the village, residents could use the bus to get to and from the Co-op for shopping without the need to use a car. However, it was also pointed out that the nearest bus stop was about 100 plus meters away from the Co-op. That would make it very difficult for those with poor mobility to use that facility. To that end the two bus stops closest to the Co-op have now been moved closer to allow use of the bus when required.

Commercial development has slowed with only a few substantial new buildings on EMDC being constructed as and when demand requires and where the new M&S building is now fully operational.

Recently an application was submitted for industrial units on Carnival Way. This development was strongly objected to by the Parish Council at the planning committee meeting at NWLDC. This application was rejected by the Planning Committee at NWLDC as it was in the ‘green space’ between Castle Donington and Hemington/Lockington plus, the site was outside the District Council’s Core Strategy. However, whilst we have won this battle there is another application in the offing for land to the east of the road into Castle Donington coming down from the A50 roundabout. It is understood that our District Councillors are working hard on planning reasons to object to this application and it is the hope of the committee that this application will be seen in the same light and will also be rejected.

The Strategic Rail Freight Interchange is now up and running and HS2 could be just around the corner.

The Community Hub goes from strength to strength and there are other improvements to village facilities at the planning stage, but I will not steal anyone else’s thunder at this point.

I would like to thank Councillors Shaun Ambrose-Jones and Tony Saffell plus our Deputy Clerk Jayne Mitchell for their support. Shaun, I have found is normally one of the first to respond to issues and his opinion overall is useful. Tony has a keen interest in shop front design and the conservation area which is helpful, and Jayne is always there with helpful assistance with the planning applications.

In conclusion I firmly believe that the best way we can influence what happens in the future to our large village/small town is to maintain a constructive relationship with both NWLDC and the LCC. I believe that with this approach, both the District and County Councils will realise we are serious in our aspirations to work together and are not a Council whose observations can be simply ignored.

*Questions: General questions raised on the consultation ongoing on the Conservation area. Answers given explaining the points raised, around Article 4, windows, takeaway numbers, etc.*

*Questions raised around the “exponential” increase in noise from HGV’s from M&S, SEGRO and A50 in Cavendish Bridge.*

*Answer: This is possible something due to the alignment of the land with the installation of the new relief road.*

**8. Report of the Chairman of Recreation Committee – Cllr Gary Roberts**

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Once again, this year the main focus of the Recreation Committee has been to continue to develop plans to wisely use the Section 106 monies arising from the considerable development around the village.

As a result of the additional housing being built, the population of the village is set to grow by at least 3000 people over the next 10 years, and Section 106 monies are a ‘planning gain’ – money from the developers of the housing paid to this council to enable us to enhance leisure and recreation facilities for this growing population.

I would like to acknowledge the success of our Clerk, Fiona Palmer, in ensuring that this council became a signatory to the S106 agreement to ensure the money will be spent here, rather than elsewhere in the district.

There are many ways in which this money will be used, but in particular it is intended to be used to expand the scope and provision of sports and leisure facilities at multiple locations around the village.

Additionally, and connected to the above, discussions are progressing well to transfer the ownership and maintenance of the Village Hall to this council, which will allow the council to access the S106 monies available to redevelop the whole of the Village Hall and the Moira Dale Sports Facilities, resulting in much more modern facilities all round.

This is intended to be delivered in conjunction with joint working with Castle Donington College, resulting in extra sports pitches and facilities at the school, shared with Moira Dale and accessible from both Moira Dale and the school site.

The council is proud of the condition of all of our open spaces and recreation areas.

Our grounds contractor, Ulyett Landscaping, continue to supply an exemplary service, maintaining the sports pitches, open spaces, grass verges and village entrances to a high standard.

As more housing is built, and the open spaces within these developments are passed onto the council to maintain, we will see an increasing need for good quality and conscientious contractors to maintain them.

Our well-established rolling programme for the replacement and improvement of play equipment across the council’s play areas continues, and each year we introduce new equipment to further improve the quality of the children’s play areas.

The allotments continue to be popular, with almost full occupancy and a short waiting list. The council is considering ways to improve the biodiversity of the site with simple small changes, such as planting more trees in the plots which, for various reasons, cannot be rented out.

I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their continued support of this work, and in particular the tireless work of all of the council’s employees.

*Questions: Issues with the untidiness of the Cavendish Bridge area, with overgrown hedges/weeds in the gutters, car sales in the street, advertising signs etc.*

*Answer: Various bodies will be contacted again to tidy up the area. Meeting to be held with the residents to discuss at what improvements can be done in the area.*

**9. Report of the District Council Central Ward Member – Cllr Rachel Canny**

I am pleased to have been able to keep my place on the planning committee and much of my time is spent working with the planning department on various planning issues. I have been in discussion with the other Castle Donington and Dale acre Hill councillors on the St Modwen’s and Netherfield developments. To be able to discuss issues with officers before the recommendation is decided has been very useful and I was delighted to see the development at Carnival Way refused by both the officers and the planning committee.

I now note that the development at the Spittal is underway four years after winning the appeal for planning permission. The site is extremely muddy and is inconveniencing residents with the movement, or non-movement of heavy vehicles. I shall be keeping a close eye on this development to ensure it complies with all the conditions imposed by the appeal inspector.

Like many councillors I was frustrated at the delays over the opening of the relief road. I had personal doubts about the robustness of the Back Lane roundabout and brought Chris Elston, head of planning and infrastructure, to see the work in progress. It underwent some modifications, but I still feel it is lacking in finish. However, until the last unprecedented rainfall, it did its job as a soak away once the top layer of tarmac had been laid down. There is almost a year to go before highways will adopt the road, so the developers will need to iron out any problems before that happens.

I was dismayed to see the devastation caused by the flooding at Cavendish Bridge and went to offer support and check that any vulnerable people were being care for. I am currently looking into whether the residents may be eligible for a flood relief grant scheme.

*Questions: Lack of contact following on from the recent floods was raised.*

*Answer: Cllr Canny did attend the area, twice, during the flood, however, she apologised for not being able to visit everyone.*

*The issue of flooding generally was raised, and that the matter should be raised with the District council and Environment Agency.*

**10. Report of the District Council Ward Member – Cllr Tony Saffell**

.I am pleased to say that both Rachel and I were re-elected last May with increased majorities. As last year I would like to thank Councillor Canny for her help and support and can confirm that we have worked well together for the past five years for the good of all the people of Castle Donington. With the rise of the Independents, there are now 4 of us on NWLDC we are able to get some concessions. We have been awarded a Commercial Frontage Improvements Scheme which we all hope will improve and restore our central area. As Leader of the Independent Group I get monthly meetings with Bev Smith our CEO, this is very useful as most of the controversial and large developments are at our end of the District.

The East Midlands Gateway development has is now largely open with just 4 of the planned 11 massive warehouses occupied and working up to capacity. A week last Friday the Rail Freight Terminal opened with a well-attended ceremony with speeches that all referred to the problems of getting freight off the road and on to rail, apparently the cost of rail is 70% higher than road and lorries can use the terminal for free whereas trains pay a “Landing Fee”. There is also the problem that none of the current occupiers of warehouses will be using the rail link as their main method of transportation, which means that none of the traffic calculations are valid. The Highway Authority seem unaware of the need to solve the problems which will kick in as the other 7 massive warehouses begin operation.

We have had a presentation from Midlands Engine who are looking at turning EMA and SEGRO into a Freeport. Ratcliffe Power Station will be decommissioned in 2022 so there are plans for the future use of the land they own. The third site they are interested in will be the HS2 Terminal at Toton.

I have again been helping people with their Council Housing and Planning Problems. I am still working with officers to get the Sound Bund at the College reinstated, as its removal by the college has exposed the residents to unacceptable levels of noise not experienced for over 20 years, during which time the bund was in place and protected the residents of Routh Avenue from the noise generated by the various uses of the all-weather play area.

The District Council has established a two Planning Peer Challenge Cross Party Working Groups one covering Planning and the other on Corporate Operations of which I have been able to gain membership. The Planning Group has now almost completed the work to identify and implement the new processes identified. The Corporate Peer Challenge will shortly publish its full findings and the group I am a member of will suggest improvements to the Scrutiny Functions of the Council, and I believe we will go on to look at improvements in Finance. Bev our Chief Executive is continually acting to improve areas of the council that need it and we regularly notice many improvements.

# As an Independent District Councillor, I am encouraged to attend regular Training Courses at the LGA Headquarters in Smith Square London. I will again be attending this year’s LGA National Conference in Harrogate during July.

## *Questions: General questions around the planning system were raised with Cllrs Saffell and Canny; asking wtheher they had intention to try and make changes to it. Thy both confirmed that worked closely with other councillors and officers at NWLDC to make sure all the views of the area were heard, and to ensure, that whenever possible improvements can be put forward and then put inplace.*

**11. Report of the District Council Ward Member – Cllr Michael Hay**

With this being my first year as a councillor the learning curve has been steep, but I continue to press forward in the hope of growing as a public servant and better serving the interests of local people.

Owing to the location of Castle Donington, its proximity to the major road network and being in what developers like the call the “Golden Triangle”, it is no secret that this area remains one that distribution developers lust over, and this last year has seen a number of controversial planning matters. Whilst I came late in the day to the Carnival Way development, I raised concerns about this at the council on matters of traffic, pollution and loss of the green space around the village. This application has since been rejected. The St Modwen’s development to the north of the village came about shortly after my election and, having listened to the concerns of local residents at the public open day and the developers presentation to the parish council, as well as the local petition group on the internet, I have opposed this development every step of the way. I have worked extensively with the Hemlock PC and Cllr Sewell (Dale acre Hill) in drafting a lengthy written objection (which is on the planning website), as well as regular meetings with council officers around issues such as visual impact (including getting the initial “no objection” changed to an “objection”), separation between the villages, increased traffic and pollution and the loss of prime agricultural land, as well as the flooding issue. I will continue to work for the interests of local people in this regard.

Whilst the new housing development off Park Lane was before my time, I have continued to monitor progress at this development. Owing to local concerns I am currently in the process of arranging a meeting with officers at the council about the s.106 funding arrangements in relation to this development, specifically in relation to local education and health funding, to ensure that the extra demand on local schools and doctors is on track to be delivered.

In relation to the AQMA (in relation to air quality in the village), I am continuing to press for greater monitoring and action. For example, as I understand it, PM2.5 (fine particulate matter which is believed to be particularly unhealthy) is not monitored as (as I understand it) anything below PM10 is a national government matter. Given the potential health effects of PM2.5 I fully intend to press whatever buttons are required to get this monitored.

In the recent polling station review I raised the complaints I heard on the doorstep last May in relation to the distance and difficulty for some residents in Park Ward in getting to the polling station at the Community Hub without access to a car. It was decided by the decision makers that there was no alternative (as they no longer use schools where possible). It is my understanding that there are local initiatives to assist with transport to polling stations, and I will do my utmost to assist in publicizing these when an election next rolls around so that all residents that wish to participate in the democratic process are freely able to do so.

I am currently investigating the potential for upgrades to the parking provisions for some of the crowded streets in Park Ward. It would appear that the council has set aside a budget for such improvements, and I will be doing what I can to direct some of that funding towards the people in my ward. This is a recent development.

I will continue to press for proper enforcement of the weight restriction in the village. It is hoped that the opening of the relief road (finally!) will have a positive effect on this, however I entirely share the view that the police enforcement of HGVs breaching this remains unsatisfactory.

I am closely monitoring the emerging situation in relation to the East Midlands Development Corporation plans (which encompasses the airport and the rail interchange site) to ensure that there are local voices on the working group for that project. It is being imposed from outside, so there may be little opportunity to object to it, but it is hoped that being on the inside will allow for some influence as to the direction this takes – with the need for local infrastructure investment high on the priority list.

I was also involved in regular briefings in relation to the preparations that were being undertaken to ensure that, in the event of a no deal Brexit, any delays at the airport would not cripple local roads and paralyze our village.

I serve on the Licensing Committee (including the Taxi sub-committee that hears cases in relation to the fitness of taxi drivers) and the Audit and Governance Committee which monitors council finances.

I remain available to any residents of Park Ward if they have any concerns or requirements.

I would like to publicly thank Cllrs Canny and Saffell for the advice and support they have offered over the last year. It is much appreciated.

**12. Report of the County Council Ward Member – Cllr Trevor Pendleton**

No report received.

**13. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended March 2019**

**Resolved:** To receive the Audited Accounts.

**14. Items of business that concern the Parish of Castle Donington may be raised by any Elector of the Parish**

*Questions asked:*

*Noise issues with the opening of the new relief road, and changes to the contours were raised, particularly for residents off Park Lane.*

*Answer: Matter to be raised with NWLDC by Cllr Canny.*

*It was questioned, as to why, yet again, there was no report form Cllr Pendleton. Clerk to bring the matter up with him.*

*Issues of flooding in Cavendish Bridge was raised, in that they want to be able to have their own emergency contingency equipment, to help deal with future floods.*

*Meeting with residents’ to be arranged, as is the purchase and installation of an emergency point in the village.*

*Meeting closed 9.55pm*

*Signed…………………………..*

*Chairman, Cllr …………………………………………….*