# Annual parish meeting

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2019 at 7.30pm at the Community Hub, 101 Bondgate, Castle Donington

### present : 31 members of the Public as per the attendance sheet.

The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first at the new Community Hub (the Chairman had gone home ill).

**1. Police Report – Inspector Rich Jackson**

*Inspector Jackson gave a precis of his report to the meeting.*

*PC Steve Harrison introduced himself to the meeting as the new Beat Officer.*

*Questions about:*

* *Knife crime in Castle Donington? Are the Police worried. There is no significant threat in Castle Donington, Police are not worried at moment.*
* *What do the Police see as the key priorities for the next year. A recent Community Safety Partnership confirmed the key priorities would be County Lines, Cybercrime and Domestic Violence.*
* *On Facebook it has stated that there is significant rise in crime in Castle Donington. Is this true. No, the crime figures actually show a drop in crime and the people that have been scare mongering have been spoken to by the Police.*

**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 965 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
* 4 Special Constables
* Small team of volunteers and cadets

NWL Police cover a population of 98,600 and an area of 910 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. 215 square kilometers (83 square miles) and is served by;

* Sgt Nick Leeland
* PC Steve Harrison
* PC Louise Gravenall
* PCSO Nicola Russell
* PCSO Kevin Bradley

PC Jason UNDERWOOD is a familiar face around Donington and has been part of the team for many years. Jason has recently taken a role at East Midlands Airport and is replaced by Pc Steve HARRISON. Steve has 15 years of Neighbourhood experience and

knows NWL extremely well. His experience working the villages around Ashby will now be transferred to policing Jason’s former patch. We wish Jason all the best in his new role and welcome the experience Steve brings particularly around drugs enforcement.

**Police Officer numbers**

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

* **Currently** we employ 1802 Police officers and have a population of 1,084,070 with a policing ratio of 1 officer per 601 people (1/601)
* **Projected** - 2019 / 2020 - 1882 officers and a projected population of 1,094,911   the ratio will be 1/ 581
* **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 of NWL for 2019 – 2020

* County Lines and exploitation
* Domestic violence
* Cyber Crime

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;

* Serious Organised Crime
* Cyber Crime
* Domestic Abuse
* Knife Crime
* Child Sexual Exploitation & Abuse
* Sexual Offences

**Valley Crime Figures (See spread sheet 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.

Results Sept 2018 to March 2019

Through regular meetings with housing providers and sharing of key information the operation has resulted in;

* 14 closure orders, 3 closure order extensions resulting in 11 convictions
* 10 warrants
* 4 vehicles seized
* 19 Arrests and investigations in relation to possession of offensive weapons, supply of class A and B drugs.
* Over 300 community and police generated intelligence logs submitted
* 3 possession of Class A and B drugs investigations where offenders are being dealt with by voluntary interviews
* Hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of drugs taken off the streets with the biggest seizure being £466,000 worth of cannabis.

The results of Op Camel 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. PCSO Kev Bradley early last year held a consultation and engagement event with the students of Castle Donington Community College and, along with PC Jason Underwood, held a Saturday Morning Beat Surgery at Tyler’s Tea Rooms in September.

PC Louise Gravenall and PCSO Nicola Russell held a Beat Surgery at the start of the year at the Castle Donington Community Hub and PCSO Kev Bradley held one at the venue a month later.

PC Jason Underwood and PCSO Nicola Russell attended the annual Music in the Park.

At these consultations’ issues were reported to the team members with regard to traffic problems, speeding, HGV and ASB motorcycles surrounding the ongoing developments in the area, namely the EAST MIDLAND ‘SEGRO’ site and the ‘Chasetown Housing Development’ site off Park Lane.

Details of where to find out about future consultation and engagement events are updated on our social media pages.

**Consultation Response updates**

**HGV’S -** The beat team have visited NORTON MOTORCYCLES, MILLER HOMES and CHASETOWN CIVIL ENGINEERING 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’ residents 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.

**Speeding -** Speed checks / HGV infringements have been carried out by the Beat Team with help from their Police Specials Colleges on Park Lane and residents have been encouraged to form a Community Speed Watch group.

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.

**Fatal 4 -** The Beat Team continue to request assistance from our safer roads team to run another Fatal 4 Operation following the success of the one hosted by the Parish Council earlier in the year.

Fatal 4 seeks to target;

• Motorists travelling at excessive speed.

• Motorists who fail to wear a seatbelt.

• Motorists who drink and drive.

• Motorists who drive whilst using their mobile phone.

**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 and as a beat priority.

With assistance from Special Constables a number of vehicles have been stopped and dealt with appropriately. The area is remains on our Traffic departments brief who have been assisting in carrying out patrols at the appropriate times.

Working is ongoing with NWLDC in applying for a High Court Injunction to ban ‘Car Cruise’ type ASB District wide. PCSO Kev Bradley is collating and creating a combined file for presentation to the District Council’s Legal Team in preparation for a court appearance. This Section 222 Injunction has been used successfully to combat vehicle ASB by a number of local authorities across the country.

Further work has included:

* 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.
* Should you have any reports of ASB involving vehicles please quote SENTINEL 80694 we are then able to issue warning letters.

**Taxi Operation at EMA**

Members of the beat team were recently involved in a multi-agency Taxi Operation at East Midland Airport. A total of 138 licensed vehicles were inspected by the Police and Partner Agencies, out of the vehicles inspected, 2 were public service vehicles that were dealt with by the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), one of which received a prohibition notice due to issues with tachograph.

Of the taxis, a further 4 prohibitions were issued for tyres and C/V gator.

2 drivers have been reported for not having road tax, and one driver given a fixed penalty notice for a tire below legal limit. Some vehicles identified minor defects such as bulbs etc.

A total of 120 vehicles inspected identified no defects whatsoever.

During the initiative, a vehicle (not a taxi) flagged up on ANPR. This vehicle was being driven with the following - no road tax, no insurance, no MOT and various defects such as tires below legal limits. The driver also did not have a DVLA licence.

**Significant Crime Updates**

**PARK LANE ASB -** The high profile neighbour dispute has progressed to High Court and we are waiting an update from our Partner Agency, North West Leicestershire District Council who are leading on this case.

**Engagements**

**PREVENT -** PCSO 6867 Kev 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 NWLDC 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**

Planning continues to prepare for the Download music festival which takes place at Donnington Park from 14th – 16th June 2019. Download has been running since 2003 and is one of the biggest festivals in the UK.

Sgt Rog Barlow and Insp Jackson continue to attend a number of multi-agency planning meetings and work closely with the event organisers Festival Republic. February saw both attend a Crime at Major UK Festivals conference hosted by Festival Republic. The conference was a forum to share operational expertise to work together to combat crime and increase safety and security at music festivals. Those who attended included UK festival promoters who run large scale, professional festivals, their security companies and relevant planning, intelligence and operational officers from their local police force.

**East Midland Sergo Site (WINVIC)**

PC Lou Gravenall and PCSO Nicola Russell have been meeting with the security firm responsible for the huge EAST MIDLAND ‘SEGRO’ (WINVIC) site planned to open on the 8/03/19. It was reported that 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.

**Licensing Event**

In December the new Community Hub at Castle Donnington is where various departments within NWLDC and the Police launched our Christmas celebrate safely campaign. The morning consisted of inputs including Child Sexual Exploitation, Environmental Protection, Business Focus Supporting Businesses and Drug awareness.

It was appreciated the number of businesses and licensees who gave up their time to attend the event. Attendees commented that the Community Hub in Donnington is a fantastic venue and all appreciated Clerk, Fiona Palmer and her team for hosting.

**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.

Specific age appropriate topics include ‘Knife Crime, ‘Sexting’, Alcohol Abuse, (Year 9 & 10) and the ‘Keep Safe Club Workshop’ to the pupils at St Edwards.

Along with PC Jason Underwood, both PCSO’s attended a Careers and Health Perspective event held at the Community College.

**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 Speedwatch [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)

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

Our group of enthusiastic and capable volunteers continue to provide a wide range of services to the community of Castle Donington and surrounding villages. A selection of highlights follow:

**Community Transport**We have now completed our plan to rationalise our wheelchair accessible bus fleet. 3 of our older vehicles have been sold with 1 brand new Peugeot Boxer purchased. We now have 5 vehicles which provide the functionality and reliability required for our type of work whilst controlling running costs.   
We have made a decision to retain the Wheelchair Adapted Vehicle (WAV), a 7 seater, so that we can trial this vehicle as a “dial a ride” provider to enable a pick up / take home service to and from The Community Hub. A number of Parish Councilors and Staff have been trained to assist in providing this service which will commence in April.

A highlight of the annual Download festival at Donington Park 2018 was the recognition by way of a UK industry award of “Best Large Festival Disabled Access Provision” to Festival Nation. This award reflects not just the quality of the disabled camping provision but also the site and stage accessibility which again was provided by the CDVC. Thanks, has to go to all our volunteers, including a number from UPS, who unstintingly gave of their time and care to a group of festival goers many of whom would not be able to attend without us. We have already held a meeting with the organisers of Download 2019 so that we can be even better this year.

**Medical Car**This valuable service continues to transport those who cannot use their own or public transport to attend hospital appointments. Whilst we have had a number of medical car drivers retire we have also had a number join during the year. This service is funded by the Derby Clinical Commissioning Group which, as with all other grants, is now subject to an assessment programme and therefore funding cannot be guaranteed in the future. However, the general demand continues to increase so this is an area where we welcome further drivers who are willing to give a few hours of their time by using their own car to help somebody in the community. Please contact us if interested.

**GrowCookShare (GCS)**GCS continues to thrive providing monthly three course meal events at both the Church Hall and the Wakefield Court sheltered housing complex. Thanks to the very professional teams at both venues for providing these events which are very eagerly attended not only for the quality of the food but also as a valuable social occasion. As a result of the way they are regarded we have recently increased the seating of the Church Hall event from 54 to 60 covers. Continuing thanks go to both the allotment team who keep the plots in good shape producing fresh produce for the lunches and the Parish Council for their support.

**Help@Hand**This service is a varied and unpredictable one that has seen us carry out a number of tasks ranging from putting up washing lines, changing batteries, bulbs etc. through to moving house contents to a new home. We have even been asked to provide phone and tablet guidance which has been a test but has always been successfully managed.

**Finances**The financial environment remains challenging as cuts in local government funding continue to bite. We are responding by reducing costs, having renegotiated many of our necessary service contracts, as well as moving to The Community Hub where we can mutually share costs with other organisations. We are also exploring ways to raise donations from all quarters including funding bodies and local commercial suppliers.

I would like to formally thank our volunteers and staff who deliver such an impact within the community plus all our local supporters including the Parish Council, UPS, Dimensions. Co-op and many others who make it all possible.

Finally, a quote from a person who has moved into the area recently;  
“What you do is unique. I had nothing like this where I moved from, you make a real difference”

*No questions asked.*

**3. Library Report – Jane Hancox**

The Castle Donington Community Library continues to achieve its objective of the provision of a public library for recreation and or other leisure time occupation of individuals 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.
* Moved premises to join the Community Hub linking with other service providers in the community to centralise support and recreation areas for the local residents. This was completed with the help of many volunteers and local businesses including staff from RBS who helped with the move.
* Continues to recruit and train volunteers able to operate the library systems.
* Continues to expand the library services by providing enhanced book availability by encouraging the donation of suitable books; the development of a classic book section and the purchase of recently published books.
* Maintained an income stream by:
  + the sale and return of jigsaw puzzles,
  + the provision of craft activities at Christmas and Easter,
  + charging fines for late LCC book loans,
  + charging for using printing and photocopying facilities,
  + charging for reserving books or obtaining books from other libraries.
* Developed the outreach programme in which books are taken to local groups (especially elderly or infirm) to enable book loans for those without access to the library.
* Encourages use of the library premises by groups, such as games clubs, reading/book clubs, craft groups etc.
* Ran a successful children’s book reading challenge over the summer holidays in conjunction with Leicestershire libraries.
* Obtained grants to enhance the provision of computers in the library – now offering a laptop service of 6 computers available to library members
* Maintained the library in the public eye by holding a stand at the Medieval Market and Music in the Park events.
* Implemented a “Friends of Castle Donington Library” membership scheme to encourage support from local residents keeping them informed of events and encouraging them to support the library at our regular events.
* Maintained the Library website and social media as a source of information on library activities for the public.
* Participates with the regional library cluster group to enable benchmarking and to share ideas and experiences.

*Questions asked:*

*Are you looking to increase the opening hours? Yes, this is being discussed, and an off-line system is in place for use by the reception volunteers.*

*How is the library membership going? There was an increase to start with after the move, but now there is a bit of a dip, so more advertising is needed.*

**4. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Bob Sizer**

Once again it has been an extremely busy year for the Parish Council especially for the staff and in particular for Fiona Palmer our Clerk.

During both my time in the RAF and the 25 plus years since, I have been on various committees in several different positions. However, those experiences turned out to be nothing like that of being Chairman of this Parish Council. I am now coming towards the end of my extended period “in the Chair” and there have been some ups and downs along the way.

One of the major ‘down’ events leading to my extended time “in the Chair” was the diagnosis and subsequent treatment required for the then Chairman Councillor Chris Hills. His illness then appeared to start a trend with Chris’s other half Jan also becoming unwell at the same time. On the ‘up’ side, both Chris and Jan are now well on the way back to full health.

Following on the same theme, our Parish Clerk Fiona Palmer took a tumble outside the Community Hub and her partner PCSO Kevin Bradley has been into hospital a couple of times. Our Deputy Clerk Jayne Mitchell also found that taking the dogs for a walk was a dangerous past-time and then there is the on-going health concern with Councillor Derek Wintle and his wife Christine. Who thought the Parish Council could be such a dangerous place?

Also, on the down side, 3 councillors resigned during the year, one just a short time after being elected, it would appear it is not only dangerous but also very challenging.

The main plus has been the move into the Community Hub despite a small minority of gainsayers not only from outside the Council but also from within. After numerous delays the planning permission was finally granted that allowed the renovation work to get underway in March 2018. The contract to carry out the renovation work was handed to Keller Construction Limited, a local firm based in Ashby de la Zouch and what a great job they did.

The Parish Council moved from the Parish rooms on Hillside into the Community Hub in September 2018. A short time after that the library moved in thereby ensuring the continued existence of the library in Castle Donington. This left the CDVC who finally moved in at the beginning of January 2019 once the Christmas and New Year Holiday period was over. The Farmers Market has also relocated to the Community Hub and hopefully it will continue to grow now that it can be seen in the car park from the road. The reception is ‘staffed’ in the main by volunteers and a Hub Café is now open in the smaller section of the function room.

It had been the hope of the Parish Council that by providing the ‘Community Hub’ the community would have an extra facility for local groups and charities to use. It would appear that this has been the case with people using the facility and there continues to be a large number of bookings for the function room(s).

To enable the opening and continued running of this facility an enormous amount of work has been put in by several people, but by far the greatest amount has been done by Fiona our Clerk. Also, Chris Hills may have been ‘out of circulation’ during his treatment period but he continued to do an amazing amount of work in the background when he was feeling up to it and in fact, he still does on almost a daily basis. There are many more that freely give their time and as this community of ours continues to grow this facility should serve our community well for many years to come. To that end a huge vote of thanks goes to all those involved for their efforts.

Several volunteers have been trained by the CDVC on ‘GLF’ (their small mini-bus) so once the details have been ironed out it is hoped to run a ‘Dial-a-ride’ type service to and from the Community Hub.

We all know to our cost that numerous developments have and are being undertaken in the local area. There has been the ‘Smart Motorway’ work on the M1, the numerous adjustments to junction 24 of the M1 plus the Roxhill development. These have led to on-going problems with the amount of traffic coming through the village. The problem became so bad that the traffic lights at the ‘bus station’ had to be replaced with ‘smart lights’ by Leicestershire County Highways Department. At the same time the sequence of the lights was set at ‘4-way operation’ in an attempt address the traffic hold-ups at peak periods. One of the problems with these ‘smart lights’ is that they rely on sensors in the road to detect the traffic. It would appear that leaving gaps in the line of traffic causes the sensors to see a gap and not a vehicle. This fools the computer controlling the lights into thinking the traffic has gone and it therefore changes the lights to allow traffic from another leg of the junction to move.

Then of course there are the 1,300 extra houses that are in the process of being built off Park Lane and the construction to the western “relief” road. These works still have quite a way to go before they are finished so unfortunately the associated disruption will continue. The construction of the road is well under way and despite a few problems it is hoped the road will be finished this August. However, this means that apart from during ‘Down Load’ there will be traffic lights where the new roundabout is being constructed at Hill Top until the work is completed. Hopefully as these works are completed the problem with traffic will reduce and allow the lights at the ‘bus station’ to be reset back to normal.

One of the more pleasant jobs of the Chairman is to deliver flowers to couples who have reached their Golden or Diamond wedding anniversaries and this past year has been no exception. However, one bunch of flowers I had to deliver last year was for a totally different reason. Julia Jackson, one of our residents was attacked and mugged in the village. I was lucky enough to meet her when she was well on her way to recovering from her injuries. That meeting was just before her return to her own home having stayed with her daughter whilst she was recovering. I was pleased to hear she was feeling much better and she was touched that I was there with the flowers for her on behalf of the people of Castle Donington.

The ‘events’ the Parish Council undertakes appear to have gone well and you should hear more about them latter. A great deal of thanks goes to our staff for all their work in organising these events. Our thanks must also go to the volunteers from M&S for their assistance in putting on these events. It has been somewhat disappointing to see the dwindling number of councillors being able to assist with the running of these events, so without that assistance from the M&S volunteers it would have been very difficult to cope with these.

The Parish Council makes every effort to make Castle Donington a pleasant place to live and work. To that end our Groundsman Martyn and Lengthsman Kieran work hard to keep the village looking smart.

Spital Park and Moira Dale Recreation Grounds continue to be well maintained by Barbara and Dave. Barbara now has extra work in looking after the Community Hub plus running the Hub Café. It has become clear that she is going to need some help to manage all this, so an additional helper is being sought.

Finally, a big vote of thanks must go to our office staff Jayne, Grace and Fiona our Clerk for all their hard work. Also, I must not forget Anna who has been standing in for Grace whilst she has been on maternity leave. It has been a very busy time and you all have done a great job.

*No questions asked.*

**5. 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 parishioners. The aim is to provide 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.

I believe the Rotary Club who give what they raise to local charities have their best 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 741 years old! It has changed a little over the years.

All the events are free and the final one in the year is our Christmas Cheer event. This is the official ceremony for the Christmas lights switch on sees the College Orchestra playing music 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.

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 and Kieron Lehrle.

*Questions asked:*

*About the badger issue in the Cemetery. The Clerk explained what the Parish Council was doing to rectify the damage, and then monitor for the next season. It is hoped that the badgers will find other foraging grounds by autumn this year.*

**6. Report of the Chairman of Planning Committee – Cllr Angus Sowter**

Refused to supply a copy before the meeting. Report read out and confirmed to the meeting that a copy would be available for inclusion, but none received.

*Questions asked:*

*If you complain there are insufficient planning meetings, then why is there no items on the agenda except for the plans? No answer could be given.*

*In terms of the new housing developments are there going to be new doctors/schools etc. The terms of the Section 106 for the sites were discussed.*

*Complainant voiced about not be able to get a doctor’s appointment due to the numbers of new houses. the meeting all agreed that it was possible to get an appointment on the day, unless you were requesting a specific doctor! It was suggested that the complainant should perhaps look to join the Patient Participation Group.*

**7. Report of the Chairman of Recreation Committee – Cllr Colin Burton**

Once again, a large proportion of our precept is Grass cutting / mowing. Our contractors Ulyett are into the third year of the contract and have proved once again that the work done is excellent.

Mowing is done fortnightly across all areas throughout the village; our sport pitches and open areas are included in this programme along with any required maintenance. I would like to thank Ulyett also for the gift of refurbishment they carried out on the Hubs garden this include the removal of a tree and the levelling and laying new turf.

All Castle Donington play areas are still part of an improvement program this will also include all recreational apparatus.

Allotments.

There are 171 rentable allotments of which 49 are orchards, and only 2 spare allotment plots at present, we have 4 people on the waiting list.

The Parish Council is privileged still to be involved along with the British Legion, in the national Fields in trust Programme to commemorate the 14-18 war.

This year the CO-OP Funeral Dept has offered to donate a plaque with all the names of the fallen in the 14-18 war in conjunction with British Legion.

The Legion are in the process of raising funds to buy a lectern to place the plaque on and also raising funds to provide a memorial 14-18 World War bench to also go on Bentley Road Memorial Park.

Bentley road open area was planted over 20 years ago with 90 plus trees in memory of those from Castle Donington that fell in the 14-18 war.

As part of the Council’s Recreation Strategy and the availability of Section “106” housing money for formal recreation, the council is looking at the opportunity to embark on new projects, one being the refurbishment and upgrading of Moira Dale changing rooms and Social area and the provision of possible two extra sports pitches on the College grounds with combined access from Moira Dale and the College.

The Council will also be undertaking a pitch assessment survey in conjunction with the National Football foundation body to help in the forward planning of playing surface management.

Discussion are being held with NWLDC, The Football Foundation, Castle Donington College and the Parish Council with regards to the provision of a 3g pitch at the college and the possibility in the future of a new sports hall and fitness suite.

Castle Donington is due to grow from around 7000 residents to 10000 plus in the next 5-12 years. To cater for this more formal recreation will be needed.

Finally, I would like to thank fellow councillors for their support over this last year, also the Clerk Fiona, Deputy Jayne, Grace, Anna, Grounds man Martyn, Length man Kieran and Barbara our Caretaker.

*Questions asked:*

*Why are there a number of plots that don’t appear to have been maintained? Allotment review policy explained.*

*Additional formal pitches/recreation ground – is there going to be any with the new houses. Yes there is some allocated as part of the planning permission.*

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

This year as a whole has been a quieter year than last. Much of my time has been involved with planning matters. I am proud to have kept my place on the planning committee following the independent planning peer review and the ensuing reduction of councillors on the committee. I have noticed a marked decrease in the number of applications coming before committee. I am pleased that ward members are being included in discussions at a much earlier stage and so many issues can be ironed out, eliminating the need for committee decisions. However, this does highlight the need to elect committed ward members to each ward, to be able to take the necessary actions as needed.

The traffic coming through Castle Donington has been a major problem this year. Now that the road works and improvements have been completed around junction 24 and the Kegworth by-pass open, traffic seems much better. However, hold-ups or accidents on the now increasingly busy M1 and surrounding area continue to see our roads being used as a cut through and queues easily build up again.

I welcome the work being undertaken on our relief road and can see much progress. I worked with Highways and the Parish Council to keep back lane open through the initial work. I am concerned, though, at the amount of vehicle build up around the Willow Farm industrial area at rush hour already. The extra traffic generated by the new housing developments and cars using the relief road to by-pass Castle Donington’s centre can only add to the existing queues.

Air pollution continues to be a concern. Councillor Tony Saffell and myself met with members of the Environmental Protection team to bring this matter to their attention. There is an AQMA along Bondgate. 40% of the pollution is produced by HGVs which comprises just 6% of the total traffic. There is a weight restriction, but HGVs still seem to flaunt it. I can hear them rumbling through at night! The relief road should help in this matter and it is important that the traffic calming planned for the central area does deter the lorries.

Another area of pollution I have been dealing with is noise. Many of our local eating and drinking establishments are providing live entertainment, often open air. Whilst I wholeheartedly support live music, it shouldn’t be a public nuisance and I have instigated monitoring by our Environment team for several establishments and will continue to do so as necessary.

I would like to thank Councillor Saffell for his continued support, in particular, during the last couple of months, when I’ve not quite been myself.

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

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 four years for the good of all the people of Castle Donington.

The East Midlands Gateway development has is now well on the way and we are all just beginning to feel the effects of the increase in traffic using our village as we all predicted. The Highway Authority seem incapable of solving the problems which could kick in when the massive warehouses begin operation.

I have again been helping people with their Council Housing and Planning Problems and am currently looking into the removal of the Sound Bund at the College which has for the last 20 years protected the residents of Routh Avenue from the noise generated by the various uses of the all-weather play area. I have also asked the officers to investigate the design of the Bridle Path off Diseworth Lane as it seems very narrow for horses with steep slippery sides down to a deep pool on one side and into a valley on the other. There is also some concern over No.1 Market Street, the former Turks Head Pub. The new operators seem to have very little regard for the Conservation Area and the Policies in place to preserve and enhance the Historic Environment.

I have been worried for some time about the Staffing levels at NWLDC, because although we seem to be always setting up shared services and other ways of saving money, but the number of Full Time Staff equivalents never seem to reduce. So I asked the following question:- Over the last 10 years in spite of all the money saving initiatives, like shared services, FTE staff numbers have remained high, I don’t have complete records for the numbers of agency staff for every year, however the numbers and costs of the staff supplied by agencies is unrealistically high.

2008/09 489

2009/10 480

2010/11 460

2011/12 456

2012/13 466

2013/14 462

2014/15 451 + 32 Agency

2015/16 443 + 70 Agency

2018 480 + 55 Agency

FTE Staff costs without any reductions this year will be:- £16,413,301

Agency Staff Costs will be:- £1,176,066

So the total assumed establishment costs this year will be:- £18,173,368

To approve the General Fund revenue budget for 2018/19, subject to an across the board 20% reduction of establishment costs.

Although this proposal was not adopted it was referred to the Performance and Development Group of which I am a member. As a result, there has been around a 10% reduction in staff costs and the number of Agency Staff is now below 20.

The District Council has established a Planning Peer Challenge Cross Party Working Group of which I have been able to gain membership. This Group has now almost completed the work to identify and implement the new processes identified. 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 have also been taking part in the Local Government Associations Leadership Academy, I have been successful and have been invited to the Graduation in June in London. I will again be attending this year’s LGA National Conference in Birmingham during July.

I have now completed 20 years on North West Leicestershire District Council and will be standing again in May working to represent my Community for another 4 years.

**10. Report of the District Council Ward Member – Cllr Dan Harrison**

No report received.

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

No report received.

**12. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended March 2018**

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

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

*Questions asked:*

*There is a board at the Miller Development that states what is coming to the village, in terms of money and facilities. Is this all true? Various people set to explain the content of the board and relate it to the Section 106 agreement for the site.*

*It was asked why there are no white lines on the junction if Hastings Street/Eaton Road. The response received from the LCC was given again, as this question has been asked previously.*

*Questions of a person at the meeting who is standing for election but is not from Castle Donington and do they really think they will be able to represent Castle Donington properly.*

*Are there going to be any more houses built in the locality? The LCC long term plan up to 2035 was discussed, but nothing is set in stone.*

*It was confirmed the Airport Community fund had contributed to the British Legion memorial bench and board.*

*Meeting closed 8.35pm*

*Signed…………………………..*

*Chairman, Cllr …………………………………………….*