

The Precept 2018/19

The total precept for this coming year will be £31,000; this is made up of the £494 government grant and the remainder of £30506 will be raised through the precept. This is a decrease of over £500 from central government since last year. We were expecting the Government Grant to disappear totally this year as SKDC are still one of only a few local councils that are still passing this element on. The total from parishioners living in a Band D household will be increased by approx 2p per week.

This precept will enable us to meet our normal expenditure on services and continue with all the projects already in the pipeline.

Our forward planning for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 indicate that no major increases should be needed. In fact we will be looking at ways to reduce it if possible. Looking forward is becoming even more difficult as more services are likely to be passed down to the parish council. Also looking at how the government is expecting the parish to grow in size; we are still not able to fully assess the effects on our budgets. In this Newsletter you will see where some of the money has been spent this year.. With the major building work planned for the Spitalgate area, things will change dramatically with regard to our total electorate.

Woodland Trust Volunteers

We are now in our ninth year of operation and we are very lucky our membership still continues to grow. This year we have had four new members join, including two female volunteers. The age range of our volunteers goes from early twenties to late seventies. We still maintain the Woodland Trusts Londonthorpe Woods with great feeling of satisfaction. If this was not done the rides would close up, losing many of the excellent walks. Again our fantastic team of volunteers met last season's targets as set at the outset. Our manager at the trust Ian Froggatt this year arranged and ran a Tree Felling training event. Last year we worked on the Alma Park side of the woods. This season we have worked on two sections where we have opened out one ride that was very wet even during the summer. We

are now concentrating on a ride that runs alongside Londonthorpe Lane which was in danger of being closed off by Brambles. We are constantly facing the same old problems with the amount of dog faeces being left by their inconsiderate owners!

(Please pick it up and dispose of properly)
We would like to thank all of those people who have generously given up their time to help us in these tasks.

For more info please contact the Parish Clerk. Our last meeting of the season is on Sunday 11th March. We shall meet at the Woodland Trust Five Gates Car Park ready for 9.30am start.

Stop Press; We have just heard that The Woodland Trusts application for "Big Lottery" money to improve and connect the area at their Five Gates car park to Belton Park has been successful.

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LONDONTHORPE & HARROWBY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER No 12 Mar 2018

Chairpersons Message

Chairs Introduction

I would like to introduce myself as Paul Bakker and have been a member of the Council since March 2006 and Vice Chair for the last 7 years. The newly elected Vice Chair is Cllr. Mr. Geoff Parnham.

At the election of officers in May of last year I was voted in as the new chair of the Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council. It is an honour to serve all of you parishioners in this post. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two councillors who had to resign due to other commitments: Jenny Foster for all her years as a councillor, the last 13 years as Chair and Darren Thorpe for enthusiasm whilst on the Parish Council.

Through this newsletter I would like to wish every person in the Parish a belated Happy and Healthy New Year.

A new member joining the Council this year is Cllr. Mrs. Avril Gregory. Welcome! She brings with her experience of working on PC's in Yorkshire

Myself I am a member of all the committees and working groups, I have been a member of the Leisure & Outdoor since its inception. Through this I have been heavily involved in the improvements in the play amenities available within the parish. This has also involved me in doing work for the Woodland Trust in the Londonthorpe and Alma Park Woods via our council backed Working Party. As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter I'm heavily involved in our own Hills and Hollows Nature Reserve project. I have participated in the Tom Childs Memorial Award group for the last seven years along with the Newsletter and Best Kept Gardens

We have this year formed a new committee to deal with any large or controversial Planning Matters. This is just another necessary step that legislation has caused us to make in changes to the way the council is run. Another major shakeup this year will be the new Data Protection Act due to be brought in for Parish Councils in May. This will mean more changes to our remit.

I would like to thank the Parish Clerk Mr. Pete Armstrong on behalf of myself and all the Councillors for the excellent work he has done and is doing, including managing tasks in the Planning applications in unsuitable and undesirable places-Flooding-Speeding-Anti-Social Behaviour, Vandalism plus the extra work that is going to come because of the changes in the handling of Data. Many of these issues are becoming more complicated and time consuming each year especially of late. The future "Spitalgate Heath Village" being a good example of this. Thank you to all the Councillors and Volunteers for their support and hard work and time given for the benefit of all Parishioners.

Kind Regards Paul Bakker



Many hands make light work!

Harrowby Hill

STOP PRESS; S17/0566 this application to build 100 homes on this saturated hillside position was refused planning Permission at the SKDC Planning Committee Meeting on the 6th February.

SKDC Ward Councillor George Chivers and Pete Armstrong our Clerk spoke against the application. Several residents of the area also spoke against it. This site has many major planning problems to overcome in the view of the SKDC and the PC for it to become viable, in fact we can't see how it could. It is in the No-Build Red Zone on the Local Plan (SKLP249)! Cllr Chivers and the Clerk included flooding in their reports not only on the site but lower down the Withambrook. Flooding of gardens along Fifth Ave is also a major concern. Grave concerns were expressed by all on its connection to Harrowby Hill. (Totally unsafe) Other Highway reservations such as the ability of Refuse Freighters to access some areas of the estate especially in wintry conditions could be a further problem. The loss of a vital wildlife corridor was raised by one resident and supported by others, including Lincs Wildlife Trust.

We will keep you the parishioners informed as and when anything further happens.

General Planning Applications

We have received more than the usual number of applications over the last year. All applications go out to all councillors for their observations, five of whom are selected to report back to the Clerk. This information is formulated into a reply to SKDC Planning. This year we have formed a planning committee to deal with any applications that are deemed likely to cause a problem. The five members then go through the application in finer detail before submitting the comments to SKDC Planning. Any councillor can ask for an application to be brought before the committee.

Hare Coursing

Unfortunately Lincolnshire continues to be one of the areas most frequently targeted by coursers – the illegal act of setting dogs to chase and kill hares. You can help Lincolnshire Police fight hare coursing by looking out for activity in our area. There have been sightings within the parish. The most obvious sign is groups of vehicles parked in a rural area, perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path. They will usually be estate cars, four wheel drives or vans. It will be obvious looking inside whether there is evidence of dogs or not. They often travel in convoy, with vans at the front and rear containing minders. They will often use binoculars to spot hares. Coursers will often walk along the edge of a field to frighten a hare into the open.

See it: Report it - If you see hare coursing taking place, or suspect it is happening contact the Police immediately.

They advise that you do not approach the participants, but do make a note of vehicle registration details and take photographs if it is safe to do so. Please report all sightings on 101 or if the hare coursing is in progress, dial 999.

PLANNING AROUND THE PARISH

SPITALGATE HEATH-SOUTHERN QUADRANT

As stated elsewhere we are still waiting for this application to come back in; it was before the SKDC Development Committee in the autumn of 2017. The Parish Clerk spoke on behalf of the council raising several points that we want clarifying. These are such things as a set timetable of events e.g. when are certain things going to come on board such as the village centre and schooling. We are informed that no more than fifty homes will be built in the first year of development. We want to have complete clarity of when the Relief Road will be completed as there is a maximum numbers of homes that can be built prior to that. Considerable resources are being committed by the developers to the assessment of the application before putting it before the Planners. The process is still going to be very long and thorough. The applicant is making every effort to supply as much information as is possible so that all concerned are able to consider every aspect of the proposed development, in order to make a well informed judgement. The amended application is still awaited by SKDC and will only go before the SKDC Planning Committee when it has been fully assessed. We will have a say at this time and will insist that our agreements made with the developers previously are included. We wonder if the fact that the same developers have now got permission for the Outlet Centre means it has taken precedence

Grantham East West Relief Road

Phase one of the Relief Road was completed in August 2016 and saw the creation of a roundabout off the B1174 and a road along Tollemache Road that leads to a second new roundabout.

2018 in Grantham has kicked off with on-site archaeological works near the A1 starting, signifying the continuation of preliminary works as part of the £81m project's second phase. Allen Archaeology, the firm tasked with undertaking the nine-week investigation, started work earlier in January and are expected to complete their works on-site by the end of March.

Initial archaeological investigations have already been completed for phase three and at the beginning of January the county council's executive gave officers the green light to pursue the necessary legal orders and land acquisitions for the project.

When complete, the relief road will link the A52 at Somerby Hill to the A1, attracting a significant volume of traffic, including HGVs, and resulting in a reduction in congestion in Grantham town centre.

Cllr Richard Davies, Executive Member for Highways and Transport, said:

"Building a major new road like the relief road involves a lot of preliminary work before tarmac can be laid. A major aspect of these works is carrying out a thorough archaeological investigation to protect the heritage of the area before we start building."

"Whenever you're building a big piece of infrastructure, like Grantham Southern Relief Road, it's incredibly important that work is carried out to gain a better understanding of the heritage and history that can be found just below your feet. From this, future generations then have the chance to learn and understand what was happening on-site thousands of years ago."

Somerby Hill Proposed Planning Application

As many of you will have heard the application for around 250 homes on Somerby Hill was rejected by SKDC and then on Appeal by the Inspector. We would hope that is an end to that but it is expected a further appeal will be lodged in the near future.

The main point for refusal quoted by the inspector was the proximity to the Prince William Gloucester Barracks and Industrial site. One of our main objections was also that this is on the Grantham Local Plan as a no build area.

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LEISURE & OUTDOOR COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

It is with great pleasure that I report that we now own the Hills and Hollows nature reserve mortgage free. With prudent budgeting the Parish Council has been able to repay the mortgage early, thus saving a considerable sum of interest. The Voluntary Working Party Group is also doing a tremendous job of improving and maintaining the area to enhance its role as a SSSI nature reserve.

The Parish Council has five play areas, and part of our role is to maintain and improve these areas. This year we used a different Safety Inspector whose report was very comprehensive. Due to this we have been able to do a complete maintenance up to date, knowing now that everything is as safe as it can be. This is allowing full use by a considerable number of parishioners.

I am also pleased to announce that the old wooden trim trail in the Belfry area is to be replaced this coming year with a more modern trim trail. The old equipment is simply worn out but the Chairman of the Parish Council has said he will recycle some of the wooden posts by making them into benches.

I set myself a task this year of walking the Parish boundaries to see if any old markers were still visible. I have almost completed my journey and unfortunately there is very little to report so far, except where the boundary crosses Belton Park.

The boundary follows the river from Belton Lane to well within the Park. Where it emerges is an old Mews House, the only one in the park. As you walk up the boundary there are two walnut trees in a small spinney, originally there had been three. On into the large deer field a number of oak trees mark the old boundary hedge, including the Park's oldest tree, which is now fenced in to prevent the deer from damaging it. The boundary then leads into and through Belmont Tower wood towards Pyewipe Cottages on the High Dyke. It then follows the High Dyke to Old Somerby roundabout and beyond the Rugby Club. The boundary then turns west towards Spittlegate Level and follows the river to just north of Paper Mill Farm before turning back east to cut through the middle of the Bridge End Road Estate taking part of the Eatch's Estate. With the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks and the Hills and Hollows on the south east of the boundary. Two black and white parish boundary markers can be found here, one on Bridge End Road and the other on Cold Harbour Lane. The boundary here does some wandering off a straight line but turns North just below Harrowby Hall and across to the Green Lane that leads from Belton Lane, it then drops back to the river as the final boundary line. You may have seen the Black & White marker post on the left as you leave Grantham.

The Parish Council also maintains the footpaths in the Parish for the benefit of walkers and runners, and it is gratifying to see so many parishioners using these paths. The dogs seem to like them too.

Unfortunately, we do experience a small amount of vandalism and I ask anyone who notices any such damage to report it to the Clerk of the Parish. If you witness damage being done, please do not confront the person or persons, please just ring the Police on the non emergency number of 101.

As Chairman of the Leisure and Outdoor Committee, I wish to thank the Clerk of the Parish for his tireless work; the Parish Cleaner for his contribution and the volunteers who make up the Working Party for their sterling work, not only at the Hills and Hollows but also in conjunction with the Woodland Trust for the work in Londonthorpe Wood.

Notes from Cllr J Anderson Committee Chair



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Church Service Times
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Londonthorpe

1st Sun Family Service 11.30 am
 2nd Sun Said Holy Communion with
 Traditional Language 8.30 am
 3rd Sun Family Service/11.30am
 4th Sun Holy Communion 8.30am
 5th Sun Holy Communion 8.30am

Church of the Ascension,
Harrowby all at 10.00 am

1st Sun Worship for All
 2nd Sun Holy Communion
 3rd Sun Service of the Word/Service of
 Healing Prayer
 4th Sun Holy Communion
 5th Sun Holy Communion
 Families and children welcome at all
 services.

The Church of the Ascension does have a children's group during the services on all Sundays except the 1st Sunday of the month. Baptisms and Weddings arranged by appointment.

For more information please
 contact Reverend Chris Boland,
 Tel: 01476 564781,
 email: cpboland@btinternet.com

Council Calendar 2018-19

14th March 7.00 pm Parish Annual Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School
11th March 9.30 am Woodland Trust Working Party meet @ Five Gates Car Park
1st May Tom Childs Awards Nominations Close.
9th May 7.00pm Annual Parish Council Meeting
1st July Best Kept Gardens Nominations Start
4th July 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting
August Best Kept Gardens Judging Continues
10th Sept Best Kept Gardens Judging Ends.
12th Sept 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting
19th Sept 7.00pm "Open Evening" to include Best Kept Gardens Awards @ Belmont School
14th Oct 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party
4th Nov 9 .30am Woodland Trust Working Party
14th Nov 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting
2nd Dec 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party
2019
9th Jan 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting
13th Jan 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party @ Hills & Hollows
10th Feb 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party
10th Mar 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party
13th Mar 7.00pm Parish Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous Sponsors/Advertisers for their support. We would ask you to consider them when making an appropriate purchase.
We would like to make a special mention for the ongoing assistance given by East Midland Electronics to enable the Defibrillator to be sited on their building.
We would also like to thank Ropsley Farms for the work they have done cutting our hedgerows at Londonthorpe and the Hills & Hollows
Thank you all!

BEST KEPT GARDENS

The competition, now in its ninth year was again exceptionally challenging for the three judges. As usual in some areas of the parish there were many different gardens to choose from all with something to commend them. As always every garden was originally viewed by at least two Councillors walking around the area of the parish local to them. A long list of gardens showing promise was then produced and passed to the three judges who re-visited each nomination and had the unenviable job of reducing the numbers to a shortlist for each area of the parish. Some very promising gardens unfortunately quickly fell by the wayside after very early promise. (No deadheading and obvious weeds on show)

In some areas of the parish unfortunately we had just two or three possibilities after leaving aside all the previous winners in the last three years; these have their own individual section. The Councillors when carrying out their judging visits around the parish witnessed some lovely gardens which displayed skill, imagination and hard work. As always it must be remembered the major consideration has to be given to those gardens which were maintained in a consistently tidy condition throughout the summer, after all it is a "Best Kept Gardens" competition. Judging took place over the period late July to early September. We would wish to remind you that it is what is seen from the road/pavement that is judged.

The lucky winners again received their prizes (garden vouchers) and certificates at the Parish Open Evening at Belmont School on the 20th September.

The winners for each area were: Sunningdale East; Mr C Marshall of Sunningdale, Sunningdale West; Mr & Mrs Beaumont of Moortown Close. East Harrowby Lane; Mr & Mrs J Lenton of Alma Park Road, West Harrowby Lane; Mr J Pearson Windsor Dr, Somerby Hill; Mr & Mrs S Wells Hillside Dr, Londonthorpe/Harrowby was won by Mrs M Marshall of Turnor Rd.

This year the Container Gardens Category was won by Mr & Mrs P Hoyes of Kenilworth Rd. The Past Winners Category was won by Mr & Mrs A. Parker Kenilworth Rd.

Well done to each and every one of you.

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 BLIND SOCIETY**



We are South Lincolnshire Blind Society and have offices in Grantham and Boston. We help Blind and Partially Sighted people to live as independently as possible by providing advice, emotional support, equipment and information on different eye conditions. We also have a variety of groups and clubs ranging from coffee and social mornings, craft clubs, books clubs and even a swimming club to help tackle social isolation and enable them to stay independent.

We are celebrating our Centenary Year this year and our society President David Carter has launched our Centenary Appeal where we have set ourselves a target to raise £100,000 within the next 12 months. We are hoping to be able to develop and improve the work of the society and to better support our many wonderful volunteers. We have already held our first Centenary event this year and are looking forward to arranging many more so we may reach our target with time to spare!

We are always looking to promote our services for Blind and Partially Sighted people and let people know where we are and what we do... Can you help? We are very reliant on our wonderful volunteers who help with our fundraising, home visiting and telephone befriending but are always looking for more volunteers – Can you help?

Call our helpline today 01476 592775 e-mail slbs@blind-society.org.uk
www.blind-society.org.uk Open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Councillor Contact Details

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Projects

We are always looking for new ideas to enhance and maintain the parish as a whole and not just any one area above another. We have a Project Fund which we try to top-up each year. We are holding monies for two or three projects which for different reasons can't be completed until third parties complete their operations. Where possible we try to get grants especially for any major projects. We would be pleased to hear from you about any ideas you have to improve the parish.

Harrowby & Londonthorpe Villages

Cllr. Margery Radley
01476 565081

-
Cllr. Yolanda Martin
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yolanda.martin@btinternet.com

Prince William Of Gloucester Barracks

Cllr Wayne Charley
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Wayne.charley237@mod.uk

Somerby Hill
Cllr. Avril Gregory
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St Vincent's Ward

Cllr. Adam Stokes

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CllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Councillor Vacancies

At present there are two vacancies which we wish to fill by co-option. These were advertised in November through the proper SKDC channels and as there were no requests for an election we can now co-opt. If you are willing to give up some of your spare time we would be pleased to hear from you. *What does it entail you may ask?* We hold six meetings a year and most councillors participate in one or more committees/working groups which could mean two or three more meetings. Most meetings are on Wednesday evenings. Training is available at no cost to you. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

OPEN EVENING

September's Open Evening once again proved to be a great success with many residents attending to speak to representatives on several different subjects.

All projects ongoing in the Parish were once again displayed around the hall. The main areas covered this year were the updates on planning applications around the parish. There were four that have proved controversial including one for 100 homes on Harrowby Hill behind Fifth Ave, one for a planned Travellers Site on Harrowby Lane, Harrowby. The latter was passed by SKDC Planning with restrictions applied; *the first one is still ongoing. We will be speaking against this as a Parish Council when it comes to the Committee stage including what was said by parishioners on the night and since.* The others were the major development at Spitalgate Heath and the Somerby Hill application. Somerby Hill was refused permission by SKDC Planning and went to appeal; this was also turned down. Spitalgate Heath is now to be considered as a "Garden Village" with some additional funding having become available to SKDC because of this. The revised plans are not now expected until the March meeting at the earliest.

We had visiting stands from both the Red Cross, plus the Veterans Association who have unfortunately had to cease functioning due to their funding being withdrawn. The highlight of the evening was of course our presentation of certificates and prizes to all of the Best Kept Gardens competition winners; all but one were able to attend. They were all very appreciative of being chosen to be the recipients of these awards and pleased their efforts had been recognised.

We would like to see even more parishioners this September. The event is very informal and gives you the opportunity to view the displays on show of what the Council has been up to during the year and what is planned as well as the chance to speak to other agencies and organisations.

Our extremely active County Councillor Linda Wootten was again in attendance dealing with queries from you our residents. Our District Councillors Nick Craft and George Chivers were also in attendance taking on board any queries relating to SKDC. All remarks, comments or complaints were recorded and taken back by the Clerk for him to deal with. If you have any ideas on who or what you would like to see this coming September then please contact the Clerk. Look out for the confirmed date and time in the next Newsletter and on the notice boards.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

During the course of this year maybe as early as April, it is expected that the partnership will be trialling the use of speed guns in the county. These will be community led groups who would take on the appropriate training to be able to use them correctly. We expect to get the information that the councillors require to make a decision between Newsletters, so we would like to know now if there are any volunteers out there who would like to be involved.

If there are any volunteers amongst you would you please contact the clerk with your contact details?

We would hope that we may get volunteers from all those areas that complain about speeding.

If the decision is made to back this scheme the parish council would purchase the machine.

TOM CHILDS MEMORIAL AWARD 2017

This year's "Tom Childs Award", the eleventh, was held at the Officers Mess at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. Paul Bakker, the Chairman of Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council welcomed all the guests.

Unusually this award went jointly to a husband and wife team. The winners were Dave and Joan Chambers. How can you separate a couple who have both put in tremendous amounts of their free time to work for others for nothing?

They were proposed by Matthew Davidson the head teacher at Belmont Primary School.

They both started volunteering at Belmont when their granddaughter started in Reception 6 years ago. They have worked tirelessly throughout with Joan working mainly in *Reception/Early Years*. She undertakes many tasks from listening to children read to helping in small groups as directed by the teaching staff.

Out of the classroom she can be found preparing wall displays plus much more.

Dave has worked on many other things within the school environment besides helping doing some of the same sort of tasks as Joan. He is also a bit of a handyman to say the least; during the time that the school was without a caretaker last year he carried out many maintenance jobs. Last summer he was painting the

Early Years Area fence along with other repair work and gardening.

Both can also be found working at most of the events put on by the school, such as the Summer and Xmas Fayres as well as the Sports Day.

Dave also helps in other spheres of education, especially with regards to sporting events.

He assists at the Priory School with Badminton Classes; he's also helped out with the Inspire Mini Olympics amongst many other things.

Over the years their generosity with their time has helped many a child to have that bit more time with adult assistance than would be the case otherwise. Hopefully the children and parents appreciate it too.

Dave and Joan were nominated for these reasons and were unanimously selected by the organising committee to receive this recognition.

We would like to thank Col Dougie McDougall who presented the certificates and cheques.

This year the charities nominated were Lincs Air Ambulance and St Barnabas Hospice (Grantham Branch).

Each received a donation of £200, which comes from the parish councils Section 137 Fund.

The Clerk Pete Armstrong, a friend of the Childs family for over 40 years, said that, speaking on their behalf,

Tom would very much agree with Joan and Dave receiving this award.

The qualities shown are very much in the vein of Tom himself who most often put others first.

This Award was set up in the memory of the late Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council Clerk Tom Childs, to give credit to someone who has gone out of their way to help others in the Parish, much in the way that Tom himself did his during lifetime.

Also present were Mrs Kath Childs and Mrs Susan Birkett (Tom's widow and daughter) Mrs J Stevens representing Belmont School, and Cllr W Charley.



Who do you know in the Parish who deserves recognition for doing good deeds outside of their work? Nominations for 2018 should be submitted by the 1st May 2018. For full details please contact the Parish Clerk on 07929 321426 or email: londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com

Hills & Hollows Nature Reserve

One of the most ambitious projects undertaken over the last few years was the purchase of the land known locally as The Hills & Hollows. This year we have paid off the mortgage in full. This will save us over £1000 over the time remaining on the loan. This of course has depleted our bank balance at present but this will recover during the next two years. This area is now a protected Nature Reserve which will hopefully, in years to come, be listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

We are continuing with improvements year on year; if you have visited recently you will have noticed how the Memorial area is much more open. The Working Party in January cleared away approximately three metres of ivy covered vegetation, thus opening up space for at least two more memorial trees.



All the land in the area has now been sold, unfortunately we don't know who to in most instances. Those that we do know about, we are working very closely with to improve all the areas used by people for whatever fitness activity they are involved in. We have seen dog walkers, joggers, hikers and wildlife enthusiasts. On the downside we have also had problems with motorcycles tearing up the area. Under the terms of our purchase it is illegal to ride/drive any motor vehicle on our land unless being used during maintenance etc.

The Working Parties as mentioned above continue with the general maintenance of the area, a lot of the work undertaken is repairing damage done by vandals. At the last event eight new signs and boards had to be erected to replace those lost to the vandals. This of course incurs a cost to the Parish council and consequently you the parishioners.

A smaller working party will be arranged in the spring to burn the brash from the latest event. The Bluebells planted last year gave us some new colour but not as much as expected, we hope this will be better as time goes by and they start to form clusters. Also last spring a trial of planting Native Snowdrops was undertaken. We hope to see benefits of that in the next few weeks. Work continued during the whole of last year and was undertaken by the Parish Council Chairman Paul Bakker and Pete Armstrong the Parish Clerk. They sprayed the hedge bottoms with weed killer which then encourages better growth of the young saplings. Although it is fair to say that the hedge has made tremendous growth, it's at the stage where we have to trim it back. Our Community Cleaner Tony Parker also makes regular visits doing repairs as required. We are very grateful for those users who regularly collect and take other peoples rubbish home with them. The police are aware that we are still getting criminal damage and we would ask that, if you see any vandalism or unsocial behaviour taking place please call the police on 101 and if possible also contact the Clerk.

If you see a problem, blocked path ways or damage, please contact the clerk or your local councillor. We are always looking for more volunteers, the group at present is made up of residents and councillors. At times they have also had volunteers from The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme! To join the Working Party, please contact the Parish Clerk. **Item by J Anderson & P Armstrong**