Hethersett Parish Council - Annual Report 2012
May 2011 to April 2012
From the Parish Council Chairman John Nightingale

This report is prepared as Hethersett Parish Council reaches the end of its first year as a fully elected quality parish council.

The Council is aware that many residents are concerned about the possibility of future housing development in or near Hethersett. The Council has participated in all formal consultations and will continue to do so.

During the year the Council has debated a wide range of topics affecting Hethersett including future development, winter weather, and the obstruction of footways by parked cars, overgrown hedges and trees.

The Council is still in the process of taking responsibility for 15 new car parking spaces and the adjacent green space following the recent development at Great Melton Close. All we are waiting for is the developer to complete agreed tasks so we can formally accept responsibility for this area.

The Council has continued to fund dog bags, dog bins and bin emptying. The current level of dog bag usage is about 50,000 per year. Thanks to the Library for being the distribution point for the bags. Some of the older dog bins and litterbins in the village, which were showing their age, have been replaced. One went missing and has been replaced. Again despite having more dog bins than most other similar sized communities in South Norfolk the nuisance caused by dog fouling continues to be a regular complaint to the Council

Through its Planning Committee the Council looks at all planning applications which affect Hethersett and where considered appropriate makes recommendations to the planning authority. This year a new application was made for 1176 houses and at this time is being worked on by South Norfolk all our responses are on the south Norfolk website or can be viewed in the parish office on Monday or Thursday mornings. It is anticipated that more planning applications from developers will come forward. These will require close scrutiny by the Council.

Some charitable donations have been made, the major donation being £750 to the Citizens Advice Bureau. During the year Council has received far more requests from charities for donations than in the past. The Council has a policy that these must have direct benefit to Hethersett residents before a donation is considered.

The budget for 2011 / 12 for the local facilities, services and activities funded by the Council was slightly less than the previous year at £82,750 (£83,000 in 2010 / 11). This money is raised in Hethersett through a precept on each householder’s Council Tax bill. For the year ending in April 2012, the precept for a Band D property in Hethersett is £39.27. Both the overall budget and the amount paid by households is at the lower end when compared with other communities of similar size in South Norfolk.

The Council continues to be the main contributor towards the running costs of the Memorial Playing Field and the Jubilee Youth Club.
The Parish Council has continued to support the Hethersett Olympic Committee, in its undertakings to organise a successful programme of sporting and cultural events to celebrate the 2012 Olympics.

Last July the 1948 Olympic Torch was brought to the four village schools, which gave the youth of Hethersett, the chance to experience first hand, the excitement of what is to come this summer. Also the Olympic Committee held more events for Open Weekend than any other community in the whole UK for the second year running. As a consequence, the village gained further local, regional and national recognition, including a further two awards from EDP & Active Norfolk, which are now proudly displayed in the Hethersett Library.

In January 2012, the Active Norfolk Pledge Pod came to the village and was erected inside Woodside School, (the only school in Norfolk to feature in this way.) Over the course of the day a record daily number of children and adults made a 2012 pledge. Photographs of this and all other Olympic themed events are featured on the village website at www.hethersett.org.uk

However, everything that has gone before is just a foretaste of what is to follow this summer! The Parish Council have commissioned the design and manufacture of The Hethersett Torch by the High School which will be showcased in many events and will also underwrite the cost (if needed,) of the gift of a 2012 Commemorative Coin for every Hethersett child.

Open Weekend this year will be held on 22-24 June with another comprehensive programme of events, details of which will find their way through every letterbox in the Parish this month.

This year, The Royal Norfolk Show on 27 & 28 June will feature up to 205 Hethersett children who will be carrying flags of the competing nations in a special mock Olympic Opening Ceremony in the Grand Parade Ring in front of Royalty.

The highlight of this year will undoubtedly be the arrival of the Olympic Flame on a special visit to Hethersett early in the morning of 5 July.

The Parish Council acknowledges the passionate endeavours of the Hethersett Olympic Committee to make all this possible, together with the help and support of the village schools and numerous volunteers all pulling together towards a common goal, which is to create a lasting legacy and infectious community spirit.”

Councillors, in addition to attending meetings of the full Council also serve on working groups or sub committees, which have specific areas of responsibility or interest and report back to the full Council. The Parish Council also has representatives who serve on other bodies outside the Council, principally the Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Trust and the Hethersett Village Hall Management Committee.

Thanks and appreciation is due to Ian Weetman our diligent clerk who provides invaluable advice and guidance to the Council. I am also indebted to my fellow parish councillors for the service they give including on working groups, committees. As representatives, we are all volunteers and many of us have other demands on our time.

John Nightingale, Chairman 9th May 2012

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2011-2012

Income £96857.46
Expenditure  £85391.00

Deficit/Surplus 10/11 £11466.46
REPORT FROM HEAT CHAIRMAN—ANNE EDWARDS

Green Village
In 2011 HEAT was pleased to be one of only three villages successful in a grant application to South Norfolk’s Greenest Communities Competition. The funding was aimed at reducing domestic energy use, and we were awarded £20,000 to upgrade insulation in Hethersett households selected on the basis of need and vulnerability, e.g. the elderly, the sick and those in fuel poverty.

With the help of South Norfolk DC, we selected Aran Insulation as the installer for the project and with their assistance publicised it widely in the village. A special edition of our regular newsletter was distributed to all households in the village, flyers were given to local associations & clubs, posters were displayed on notice boards and at the library, an article was published in the local newspaper, personal approaches were made to the churches, GPs and a village poor charity, and a display was put on at the Christmas market where an Aran representative was on hand to take enquiries.

Disappointingly, despite all our efforts, the grant was considerably under spent at the end of the year, although we do know that many households had insulation installed by Aran which was funded by direct government schemes for those on benefits or with disabilities, rather than from the HEAT grant, so perhaps the exercise did achieve its aims despite the under spend. At the time of writing, SNDC is still deciding what will happen to the unspent grant money. We have asked if it is possible to use it for other environmental projects in Hethersett, but this seems unlikely at the moment.

Wild About Hethersett, an Almanac of Biodiversity
In January 2011 HEAT commenced a yearlong biodiversity survey of the village entitled “Wild About Hethersett”. The study was in memory of our founder member and previous chairman, George Beckford. We amassed a miscellany of wildlife photos, poems, weather reports, anecdotes, adages, sketches and general rustic ramblings. At the beginning of this year we compiled and published a village almanac of the information, jottings and musings. 200 copies of the book were printed, with the cost of printing being subsidised by a £500 legacy from George. They sold out in less than two weeks. We are now preparing a second edition with the funding from Waitrose. The book has been a great success and has even received praise from Prince Charles!

Blooming Hethersett
Flower Beds and Tubs
Thanks are due to HEAT members who have continued to maintain a number of flowerbeds and tubs around the village. Sites include the village sign, close to Church farm, outside the Priory, Ketts Close, Back Lane, outside Old Hall School, outside the Church, at Churchfields, outside the Village Hall, at the surgery and at Oak Square.

Open Gardens and competition 2011
Open Gardens 2011, which took place on 5th June, was another big success. Around 300 people visited 17 gardens of all shapes and sizes. There were plants to purchase, crafts to admire and teas galore! A total of £850 was raised which was donated and shared between the United Norwich Kidney Patients Association and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Thanks are due once again to all those gardeners and their helpers who opened up, all those who sold (and printed!) programmes, plants, teas etc. and of course all those who visited the gardens. 7 private gardens and 7 businesses entered the competition, which was, once again, expertly arranged by Heather Williamson. Certificates were awarded by John Nightingale, Chairman of the Parish Council at a presentation evening on the 13th July. A film show of the Open Gardens was also shown. Our next Open Gardens will be held in 2013.
Litter—Since the last parish meeting, HEAT has arranged 7 litter picks (including a Christmas special) and harvested 103 sacks of rubbish. Congratulations to the team of dedicated pickers who turn out in all weathers in order to keep Hethersett’s streets clean. The winner of the Goshworthy trophy this year will remain a closely guarded secret until the night of the Annual Parish meeting.

Green spaces—Ullswater Open Space. HEAT has worked with Matt Davies from the Norwich Fringe Project on two occasions. Last November we helped clear the pond (dry) of rubbish and unearthed a veritable cornucopia of goal posts, beer cans, bottles, road signs and unidentifiable random plastic articles. The site now not only looks more attractive but also is a much safer place for wildlife. All it needs now is some water!! We returned in January to assist with hedge laying – it looks quite professional even though we say it ourselves!

Memorial Playing Field. We are in the process of developing a wildflower area which we hope will be attractive to insects particularly bees and butterflies. We are grateful to Peter Hoult for rotavating the area and for all those who have helped with the planting and seed sowing. We are planning to publicise the area at the Jubilee Fare, Sunday June 3rd when we will be running a wildlife friendly plant stall. Three HEAT members attended the Community ‘park design’ workshops on Sunday 4th and 25th March.

Footpaths and Village Map—This year, HEAT will be an embarking on a project to highlight Hethersett’s footpaths, possibly joining them up to form a network with neighbouring settlements. Andy Panes is already liaising with Natural England and Gary Wyatt will be in contact with the Ramblers Association. There may also be involvement via the Green Spaces Group and the CPRE. We also plan to produce a new village map with the footpaths and other village information marked.

Tree Warden Report
My fellow tree warden, Colin Ward, has worked very hard again this year, planting new trees and checking the progress of those planted in previous years. At Park Farm, he has replaced three oaks that were planted in 2010 but perished in the dry spring of 2011. He also completed the planting on the A11 bank. In the Memorial Playing Field, he planted groups of three each of rowan, bird cherry, whitebeam and silver birch at the request of the management committee. These species were chosen for their limited final size and shape and for their wildlife value. Unfortunately, they are at the mercy of stray footballs and late night revellers so their long-term future is not guaranteed. Colin has also established 28 trees of nine species at Ivy House farm, Ketteringham and last, but not least, he has planted a wild service tree, Britain’s rarest native tree, in a secret location in the village.

Planning—We continue to respond to planning applications, which will adversely affect local wildlife. Unfortunately there seem to be more and more of them.

Toad Watch Report
The annual toad migration began in mid-February and lasted throughout most of March. HEAT volunteers donned buckets, torches and hi-viz jackets and escorted amphibians in peril across the road to their ancestral breeding ponds in Great Melton. Every spring the poor toads have to brave ever-increasing traffic to get to their specific pond (nothing else will do). They like to move on warm, wet evenings but weather conditions were far from ideal this year. Just as in 2011, it was much too dry and the evenings were very cold. At the start of the migration, the pond in Great Melton was completely dry though heavy rain at the beginning of March brought some respite. Despite the adverse weather conditions, a total of 17106 toads were successfully assisted across the road at the 10 Norfolk crossings (869 animals at Great Melton). We can only hope that some water remains in the ponds to allow the tadpoles to develop. New volunteers to any of our activities are always welcome. Next meeting: Wed 13th June, 8pm,
**JUBILEE YOUTH CLUB**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Table Top sale recently despite the dreadful weather we managed to make money for the club!

Our next fundraiser is for the Ladies so the men can watch the football in peace!!! We are holding a ladies Pamper Eve on 15th June 7.30 at the youth club hall. We have managed to find providers for Reflexology, Manicures, and relaxing massage amongst others. Tickets are £3 in advance from any committee member or £3.50 on the door. If you are not sure about the pamper then we have some retail therapy as well with Secret Kitchen, Jamie at Home, Vie and cards for you to browse! Refreshments will be served during the evening so you can stay and chat!

Then our final event for the year is a Family Treasure Hunt around the village starting at the youth club hall from 4.30-5pm on Saturday July 7th. Refreshments will be served as we wait to find the best Treasure Hunting family for 2012. This event is being organised by the young people so please come and support them. There is nothing worse than putting on an event and nobody turning up! Prizes will be awarded!

We are holding our AGM on 19th June 7pm at the youth club hall. It would be good to see members of the community coming to see the newly painted hall and hear what we have done for the last year and our plans for the future. It doesn’t last very long I promise! Refreshments will be served after the meeting so you have a chance to talk to the committee and see the hall.

Finally we are looking for a secretary for the club due to the retirement of our current secretary who has been with the club for a number of years. It is not a huge job and basically requires taking minutes at our meetings which take place 4 or 5 times a year including the AGM and distributing these to the committee. We have very little correspondence to deal with only the occasional letter. So if you could spare a few hours a term to do this vital job please speak to Gillian or phone for further details!

We are always in need of people to volunteer with the club and on the committee so please consider coming onto the rota for club nights.

Thank you    Gillian Saunders 01953 607566

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**HEATHERSETT OPEN WEEKEND 2012**

**FRIDAY 22—SUNDAY 24th JUNE**

**FLOWER FESTIVAL**—St. Remigius Church

**FRIDAY 22nd JUNE**

**HEATHERSETT’S GOT TALENT**
The finals of a talent/variety show in the Village Hall starting at 7pm.

**24hr SWIMMING MARATHON**
Junior School Pool starting at 8pm

**SATURDAY 23rd JUNE**

**SPORT IN THE PARK**
This event is open to all and gives the opportunity to come and try up to 20 different Olympic sports in one place. Held between 11am—4pm on the Memorial Playing Field

**BRASS BAND**
St. Remigius Church—7.30pm

**SUNDAY 24th JUNE**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER**
A 30 minute multi-denominational service with an Olympic theme at 10am in Hethersett Social Club

**RUN THE SQUARE**
A marshalled 2 mile fun run along closed village roads starting at 11am with a medal and certificate for all finishers. Warm up routine by Paul Evans, former Olympic Athlete.

**LADIES 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION**
An all day event to be held at the Memorial Playing Field

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**Hethersett Village Hall Management Committee**

The Hethersett Annual Parish Meeting failed to appoint the required number of residents for the Committee. There is a need for two residents to serve as Trustees.

If you would like to know more about what is involved in helping to run this valuable Village Facility please contact the Parish Clerk
Return to the Wild
Thanks to the Community Scheme run by Waitrose, HEAT is pleased to announce that more copies of “Wild About Hethersett” are now available. If you missed out on the first edition or would like an extra copy or two for friends or relatives, order some now by email mail@greenhethersett.org.uk, by phone 812309 or by asking any HEAT member. A bargain at just £4 a book!
At the Annual Parish Meeting on May 9th, HEAT presented the “Goshworthy” trophy which is awarded to the person who, during the past year, harvested the piece of litter most likely to elicit the word “Gosh”. This year’s lucky winner, for a most remarkable retrieval of a semi-functional folding deckchair, was talented young picker Annie Floyd. Congratulations Annie! Our next pick is taking place on Saturday, June 9th at 10 am, starting from the Methodist Church car park. Why not come along and compete for the coveted Goshworthy!
The next HEAT indoor meeting is on Wed 13th June starting at 8pm in the Methodist Church room (upstairs). Everyone is most welcome!

Parish Council Annual General Meeting
At the Parish Council AGM on Monday 21st May 2012 Councillor Fred Watkins was elected Chairman of Hethersett Parish Council. Councillor Jacky Sutton was elected as Vice-Chairman. The retiring Chairman, Councillor John Nightingale was thanked for his work during the past year.

PC INFO
Parish Clerk’s address: Mr I Weetman, 9 Melton Court, Hethersett NR9 3HE. Tel: 01603 810915
Email address:hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk
The Parish Clerk is available in the Parish Council office, upstairs in the Village Hall, from 10 to 12 noon Mondays and Thursdays.