



# **Hethersett Parish Council**

## **Annual Report 2009 Covering May 2008 to April 2009**

The last year has been a busy time for the Parish Council, with debates and decisions over a wide range of topics covering Hethersett; the Council, and wider Norfolk issues.

The year has seen additions and improvements to village facilities including the provision of three bus shelters as part of the developer contribution for Poppyfields. Bus users generally appreciate these but it is disappointing that one, almost from the time of its installation, is regularly scored with graffiti. The Parish Council is hoping to install two further bus shelters in response to requests from residents. Street lighting has been improved in the centre of the village and Queens Road by installing units that are more efficient in energy consumption and light output. Two dog bins are being installed in addition to the thirty already in place around the village. The Council has also had work done to refurbish the Village Sign and Pump.

The Parish Council has responded to a number of consultations during the year including the Boundary Commission's Local Government Review for Norfolk, the Greater Norwich Development Partnership proposals about future development and South Norfolk Council's Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan.

The Council regularly considers traffic matters affecting the village. Parking and traffic issues on Queens Road around the school sites are a concern and a review by stakeholder organisations, including the Parish Council, is ongoing. Norfolk County Council Highways has proposed speed limit and road layout changes to the B1172, which the Council is generally in agreement with.

The Parish Pit has again been the focus of Council activity with discussions regarding appropriate use of the Pit. The Council has acted upon advice from its Insurers and the Police and has also erected signs informing that use of the Pit by motorised vehicles is prohibited.

The Parish Council is actively seeking to gain Quality Parish Council accreditation before the end of 2009. Quality Parish status demonstrates that a council has met certain minimum standards expected from an effective, representative and active Parish Council.

The current Parish Plan was reviewed by the Council during the year with a decision that existing actions are rolled forward pending the outcome of Local Government Review and the Local Development Framework.

The Precept of the Parish Council for year 2008/2009 was £79,500. The Budget for 2009/2010 was set at £88,200 with the Precept amount being £81,100. The difference will be met from reserves. This represents an increase of 2% from the 2008/09 amount. A summary of Income and Expenditure (Unaudited) for 2008/2009 is attached to this report.

Members of the Council also serve on working groups or sub committees, which have specific areas of responsibility or interest and report back to the full Council.

Planning Applications affecting Hethersett are considered by the Council's Planning sub committee. There have been no major applications during the past year but proposals coming forward from the GNDP for 1000 or more houses are in the background.

In recent years the Council has been supportive of actions to make Hethersett 'greener' through The Hethersett Environmental Action Team or HEAT, which operates as a sub committee of the Council. During the past year initiatives by HEAT have included the delivery of cloth bags to all houses, a green information day in May 2008 and a questionnaire sent out with the Parish Council Newsletter in December.

Members of the Council's Youth Working Group are working with others in the village and outside to refurbish and reopen the youth club.

The Council is represented on the Safer Neighbourhoods Action Panel or SNAP as it is generally known. The public meetings of SNAP are an opportunity for residents to attend and raise concerns. One about speeding vehicles, has led to volunteers coming forward to form a Community Speedwatch team. However, it is disappointing that as yet Norfolk Constabulary have not managed to organise the training necessary for the team to become operational.

The Parish Council also has representatives who serve on other bodies outside the Council, principally the Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Committee and the Hethersett Village Hall Management Committee.

The life of any community depends very much on the clubs, societies and organisations within it. In this respect Hethersett is well provided having over sixty. Each will rely heavily on dedicated members and committees for their success and we thank them all. At the risk of missing someone, I would like to mention two notable achievements reported during the past year. Duncan Pigg for 40 years with the Hethersett Pantomime Group and Mel Perkins who received a national award for 44 years dedicated service to cycle speedway, particularly with the Hethersett Hawks.

During the past year the Council was saddened to learn of the deaths of former councillors Mrs Pat Bond and Cyril Murfin and last month of serving Councillor George Beckford. George, a past chairman of the Council, played an active part in many community and environmental issues over the years. A remembrance for George will be part of the next meeting of the Council.

Finally I am indebted to my fellow parish councillors and parishioners who serve on working groups and committees, we are all volunteers and many of us have other demands on our time. Thanks and appreciation are also due to Ian Weetman our diligent clerk who as well as providing invaluable advice and guidance keeps us all in order.

Fred Watkins, Chairman May 2009

## Who and what is the Parish Council?

The full Parish Council comprises 13 voluntary councillors who represent an electorate of 4475 and serve for a term of 4 years. Currently there are two vacancies for the remaining two years of this term which will be filled over coming months.

Mr Ian Weetman is employed by the Council as the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Parish Council meets on the third Monday evening of every month, except August, with additional planning meetings as necessary on the first Monday. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. Agendas are displayed beforehand on notice boards throughout the village, as are any changes from the normal pattern of meetings, (eg as result of bank holidays) and may also be viewed on the Council's website. Each meeting agenda includes time allocated for comments and observations by members of the public.

## Contact Details

### HETHERSETT PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS

#### Chairman

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#### Vice-Chairman

Mr. J. Nightingale, 2 Buckingham Drive, Hethersett, NR9 3HT Tel: 811513

#### Councillors:

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