

**Reports from Parish organisations and Parish Council representatives**

These reports were presented under agenda item 7 at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council which was held at 1950 hrs on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main St, Carlton.

**a) Carlton Charity Land**

The Clerk reported that the Secretary was in hospital and the Chairman had tendered her resignation and left the village. The Vice-Chairman had advised that a meeting was being arranged for the end of May at which new Trustees and Officers would be appointed. A report would be submitted after this meeting.

**b) Carlton Youth Champions**

No report had been received.

**c) Bosworth Community Safety Forum**

No report had been received.

**d) Ashby Canal Restoration**

Chris Brown had submitted a written report. Only minor works have been undertaken in the last two years, and the next phase – Snarestone to Measham – will probably have to wait for alternative sources of funding.

The East Midlands Development Agency is being run down and will cease to exist next year. The Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership will be dispensing the remnants of the Agency's funds but it is unclear if any of it will be allocated to the canal restoration project. Likewise, the Regional Growth Fund is so oversubscribed that it cannot be relied upon.

A more realistic funding source may be developer contributions made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the rationale being that the improved living environment created by the new canal infrastructure will enhance land and property values – and therefore demand. Of course, this will depend on the recovery of the residential and commercial property market.

Works undertaken recently include a slipway and a pedestrian swing bridge at Snarestone and a structure to enable the temporary stopping-off of the canal for draining and maintenance purposes. Last year British Waterways funded the creation of an off-line reserve, fed by pipes from the canal, to provide a refuge for flora and fauna displaced by canal maintenance.

With the little funding available, only about 120 metres of actual new canal cut was achieved last year, and a similar length may be possible this year. To complete the entire project a sum of £10-12 million will be required, but as the new works will partly utilise existing defunct transportation infrastructure – i.e. old railway corridor – some funding from government sources may be a possibility.

**e) Carlton Footpath Group**

Chris Peat reported that the CFG had led three local guided walks as part of the 2010 Leicestershire Walking Week. Kissing gates had been installed on the footpath through Manor House Farm to Main Street, Barton in the Beans, and a footpath diversion and creation order for various paths on the south side of Barton village was expected later in 2011. There had been complaints that the jitty between Main St and Bosworth Road was becoming obstructed with vegetation, and a stile near Carlton Grange was in need of repair. Other RoW in the Parish were waymarked and clear of obstructions.

#### **f) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

Irene Peat had submitted a written report. Over the past 12 months volunteers from the Keep Carlton Tidy Group had picked 4 black sacks and 67 carrier bags full of rubbish from highway verges between Carlton and neighbouring settlements. Over the same period, 6 fly tipping incidents had been reported to the Borough Council, one of which was builder's rubbish blocking the culvert under the railway bridge.

The Spring Clean Litter Pick on 20<sup>th</sup> March had been a great success, and cleared an additional 3 cubic metres of rubbish from local verges and ditches. This event showed the best annual attendance with 13 adults and two young people as well as Lisa Kirby our Neighbourhood Warden. Prizes were awarded as usual.

The annual hard work has paid dividends, and we can now clear from Carlton to the Tennis Club, Osbaston bridge, Bufton, Congerstone Road canal bridge, and the Wellsborough Road in one morning session.

#### **g) Carlton Heritage Warden**

Chris Peat reported that pollarding work on willows along Carlton Brook had continued with the help of volunteers over the winter. Eight ash saplings of local provenance had been planted in two locations at Manor House Farm, and two rowan and two apple in one location at Westfields Farm. The crown of the ash tree on Congerstone Road had been raised to prevent obstruction of the highway. One woodland had been inspected, and advice given on tree planting. A report (2010-03) had been submitted on the annual Tree Warden Forum.

#### **h) Report on the Parish Council website**

The Clerk reported on website usage. The website had been reconfigured in 2010, and some page titles changed. The Parish, Borough and County Council websites were now interlinked, so pages on the PC website could be hit without the user hitting the PC's home page. Similarly, PC users could access the services pages of other council websites.

Page hits for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, compared with the same period the previous year, were :

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page views 2009-10</b>	<b>Page views 2010-11</b>
Home Page	906	1114
Diary	394	451
Carlton News	227	376
Agenda & minutes	188	172
Parish Councillors	100	158
Cemetery & Churchyard	54	102
Parish organisations	-	89
Parish Plan & Appraisal	39	54
Council information	25	53
Planning applications	22	44
Finance	33	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>2645</b>
<b>Total page views (LCC site stats)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2700</b>