

Annual Reports from Parish Organisations and Parish Council Representatives

These reports were presented under agenda item 9 at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council which was held at 20:00 hrs on Wednesday 9th May 2012 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

a) Ashby Canal Forum: Mr C Brown

No report was received.

b) Carlton Charity Land: Mrs J Orton

No report was received. The PC had been asked to communicate directly with the Chairman of the Trustees and not with the Secretary.

c) Carlton Footpath Group: Mr J Piggon

John Piggon reported that he had walked every public right of way in the Parish of Carlton over the previous three weeks, and they were all fully waymarked and clear of obstructions. The opening of the extension to footpath S90 and associated improvements in November had been well attended, and these paths were now very well used. Members of the CFG had led guided walks along the new and improved paths for the opening ceremony and over the following weekend.

There were problems outside the parish, in particular at Shackerstone Station where footpath S68, part of the Leicestershire Round, had been closed because of an unsafe footbridge. The temporary closure order had now expired, and it was understood that Leicestershire County Council had initiated legal action.

Physical improvement works to footpath S51 had been completed, except for the kissing gate and footbridge at the junction of S51 and S48. A minor diversion and physical improvement works had been completed at the western end of S48 near to Spinney Grange.

A diversion order and improvement works at Bosworth Mill on S69 had been agreed several years ago, but the necessary works had still not been implemented – once completed these proposals would make this popular route more convenient and stile-free (except for the footbridge over the Stony Brook) between Carlton and Market Bosworth.

John Piggon and the Clerk had made a bid for funding from the Bosworth Community Forum to provide kissing gates on S68 past Carlton Grange, but this had not been successful. It would be desirable to install kissing gates on S68 between footpaths S75 and S77, but this would depend on grant funding.

d) Carlton Heritage and Tree Warden: Mr C J Peat

Chris Peat had attended the East Midlands Tree Warden Forum at Derby Arboretum on 24th September 2011.

Further work had been carried out on willow trees along Carlton Brook, and a fallen willow tree at the western end of Westfields Farm had been cleared. Branches had been cut back from over the path and from around the Millennium sign in Little Lane.

A dead yew tree had been removed from the churchyard bank and a cypress trimmed ready for felling in the autumn. The crowns of a young oak tree in the west cemetery hedge, and a bird cherry in the east cemetery hedge had been raised, and a rowan in the east cemetery hedge had been cut back to a single stem. Shrubby conifers in the south west corner of the churchyard had been cut back and brambles removed.

The horse chestnut tree in the churchyard was considered safe, but had been crown thinned following tomographic and external surveys by professional tree surgeons.

A site for the planting of a Jubilee oak tree had been agreed with LCC Highways, who had agreed to mark out the site. A parishioner had volunteered to plant a mulberry tree on the Glebe Farm Green, but had not yet done so.

A guided tour of Larch Spinney (18:00 hrs on 10th May) and an open morning at Bull's Nook Wood (10:00-12:00 hrs on 13th May) had been arranged as part of the Tree Council's *Walk in the Woods* scheme.

e) Carlton Parish Council website: Clerk

The Clerk reported on the PC website and usage.

The PC had used the <leicestershireparishcouncils> website managed by LCC until the end of January 2012. This website had been reconfigured in 2010, when some page titles had been changed. The PC's bespoke website <www.carltonpc.co.uk> provided through 1&1, had been created in 2011, and had gone live in January 2012. The LCC website had been cleared of all PC data at the end of January 2012, apart from a link to the new website. Regrettably, all statistics for the LCC website had been unintentionally deleted at this time.

The data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 tabulated below are copied from Report 2011-09. The data for 2011-12 have been estimated by multiplying statistics for the new website for the four-month period 1st January - 1st May 2012 by three.

Page Title	Page views 2009-10	Page views 2010-11	Page views 2011-12 estimated
Home Page	906	1114	2052
Diary	394	451	801
Carlton News	227	376	1230
Agenda & minutes	188	172	285
Parish Councillors	100	158	225
Cemetery & Churchyard	54	102	192
Parish organisations	-	89	171
Affordable Housing Project	-	-	372
Parish Plan & Appraisal	39	54	159
Council information	25	53	141
Finance	33	32	159
Carlton History	-	-	165
Planning applications	22	44	-
Total page views	1988	2645	5952
Total site visits	-	2700	4674

These figures need to be interpreted with caution. There is no doubt that use of the PC website has been increasing steadily, and that the new website is more attractive and user-friendly. However, there may be significant technical differences between the site statistics collected by the two systems. The position will not be clear until truly comparable data become available next year.

f) Carlton Parish Plan Group: Mr C J Peat

Chris Peat reported that the Carlton Parish Plan Group had now met eight times. The minutes of all meetings had been published on a dedicated page of the Carlton Parish Council website, and progress reports had been published in Carlton News. Questionnaires had been delivered in

September 2011, and collected during October and November. The responses had been entered into an Excel spreadsheet and analysed during January and February 2012.

Data from the survey had been used to support the PC's bid for funding for the Affordable Housing Project. A series of Coffee & Chat mornings at The Gate Hangs Well had been arranged in response to requests for a regular social event of this nature.

The Final Report was now in draft form, and scheduled for publication in June/July 2012. One printed copy would be delivered to all consultees and to every household in the parish. Publication of the Final Report would be followed by a public meeting to discuss the results.

g) Carlton Youth Champions: Ms R Yule, Mrs K Owen

The Clerk reported that the Mobile Youth Club had been withdrawn in April, after operating very successfully for three years, with strong support from the Youth Champions. An appeal for volunteers to help run a new youth club, possibly in Congerstone Village Hall, had been published in the May issue of Carlton News, and three volunteers from Carlton and one from Congerstone had come forward. There were doubts about the numbers of young people from Carlton who would attend, whether a club in Congerstone would achieve the primary objective of improving contact between young people in Carlton, whether it would be possible to operate a youth club for 8-14 year olds, and about the financial viability of the project.

h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group: Mrs I M Peat

Irene Peat reported that over the past 12 months, volunteers from the Keep Carlton Tidy Group had collected 3 black sacks and 85 carrier bags full of rubbish from highway verges between Carlton and neighbouring settlements. Over the same period, four fly tipping incidents had been reported and cleared by the Borough Council.

The Annual Spring Clean Litter Pick had taken place on Sunday 11th March. Seventeen volunteers had cleared about 4m³ of litter from roadside verges and ditches between Carlton village and the Wellesborough Rd, Congerstone canal bridge, Barton in the Beans, the Green Lane, Lount Road bridge, and the Dixie Playing Fields entrance. Prizes had been awarded for the most interesting, most disgusting and most useful items discovered. H&BBC had kindly provided sacks and gloves, loaned extra grabbers and high visibility vests, and collected the rubbish.

All contributors **were thanked** for their reports, and for their work and that of their groups on behalf of the community. **It was resolved** that the reports received be amalgamated and recorded as Report 2012-11.