



Codnor Parish Council

Annual Report 2014-2015

Chairman's Introduction

As Chairman of the Parish Council for 2014-2015, it has been both a privilege and a pleasure to work with Council members and outside bodies, to bring about achievements to both improve the future of the community environment and also acknowledge the rich history of Codnor. This Annual Report is to inform residents about the activities of the Parish Council.

The year has been dominated by the fight against the proposals to build over 1000 houses on green belt land around Codnor. The development has now been removed from the local plan, but this is still to be approved by the government's inspector, and so still might change. The Parish Council will continue to do all it can to protect the green belt around Codnor, and to try to use its influence to modify other building plans to get the best outcomes we can for the village.

This year has also seen the reduction of a government support grant for the council, meaning that we have had to raise our precept slightly just in order to maintain the services we provide. There will be a similar, smaller cut to the grant in 2016/17, and costs continue to go up, so we will be faced with some choices. We intend to consult with people in the village by means of the questionnaire enclosed with this report so please do tell us what you think we need to spend the council's money on.

May I pay tribute to the memory of George Parkes, former Chairman of the Parish Council. I attended the dedication of a bench purchased by his wife Councillor Molly Parkes in his memory which has been sited at the Community and Sports facility at Goose Lane.



Picture - From left to right – Councillor P Smith, Councillor Mrs M Parkes, Lorna Hitchcock (George and Mollys daughter), Councillor R Emmas-Williams (Mayor of Ripley Town Council) and his consort Sheila Emmas-Williams attending the dedication ceremony.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new Clerk, Andrew Sharpe, and many thanks to our previous Clerk, Anne Wood, for the dedicated service that she gave to the Council, its members and the village as a whole.

The Community and Sports Facility

Our new £450,000 facility was opened in November 2013 and since then it has hosted football and cricket training and matches, social events, civic functions and Parish Council meetings, as well as being available for private hire. It continues to prove its worth as a focus for the community.

Environment

Our Parish Warden, Daryl Hemsell, continues to provide Codnor with an excellent service. He has recently been helped by Neil Rumfitt, of 4 Occasions, Market Place, Codnor, who has voluntarily offered to open and close the Market Place toilets. This has meant longer opening hours for the toilets. We are aware, though, that the toilets are in need of costly refurbishment, and we need to know your views on what we should do with them - this is one of the questions in the attached questionnaire.

The very successful Best Kept Garden and Allotment competitions were again organised in 2014 by the Parish Council and sponsored by Shipley Garden Centre. Anyone with a garden or allotment in the village may enter the 2015 competition by contacting the clerk. The judging takes place in July.

The Council has received representations regarding flooding of gardens on Holborn View, and concerns that housing developments may lead to increased flooding. We have been in touch with the relevant authorities, and intend to keep a register of areas liable to flooding to pass on to Derbyshire County Council and the Environment Agency.

The area around the Mining Wheel will soon be grassed and tided. We are also considering what can be done with the site of the former Sheehy Hall, although it is still not clear who owns the land. If anyone has any information about the site, please contact the Clerk.

Litter Picks led by councillors and scouts are well attended. More helpers are always welcome so if you can spare an hour on a Saturday morning please see the Parish Council notice-boards and/or website for further information.

The Parish Council will continue the provision of free doggie bags for Codnor dog owners. These can be collected from the Post Office, Holmfield Chemists, M & C Hunts on Heanor Road, and the Jessop Arms, on Jessop Street. Dog fouling is a potential health hazard and all dog owners are asked to help keep Codnor clean and safe.

We were saddened by the closure of Village News on Mill Lane this year, and wish Brenda and Perry a restful retirement.

Police

PC Anna Wellberry along with PCSO Alison Dare and PCSO Sarah Dufton have maintained an effective police presence for the village ensuring public safety in the community.

Codnor residents are requested to report non-emergency calls to the Police on telephone number **101** or www.derbyshire.police.uk

The Council has been in contact with police concerning incidents of horses straying on to private land. The police are aware of the problem and urge the public to continue reporting incidents so that a full picture can be built up.

Youth Bus

Many young people accessed the Youth Bus service, which visited the Codnor area every week from April 2014 to March 2015. The youth workers are very positive about the attitude and attendance of young people in Codnor.

Annual Events

Codnor Fun Day, organised by the Amber Valley Rotary Club and sponsored by Codnor Parish Council, enjoyed lovely weather and good attendance.

The Band Concert by Newstead Brass was also well attended this year in reasonable weather. The event was generously sponsored by Friends of Highfields and Codnor Parish Council.

The best, free, spectacular Bonfire/Fireworks event in Derbyshire was again provided by Spyrotechnics. In spite of poor weather and a very wet bonfire, the fireworks were fantastic. The collection totalled £831 (which included a £225 donation from Bert Holland, the fairground operator). This was distributed, at a presentation held in February 2014, to the voluntary organisations who contributed once again to the success of the event. The 2015 Bonfire and fireworks will be on 6th November, and the council will attempt to seek sponsorship to defray some of the increased costs of the event.

Carols round the Tree was supported by the Heage Band accompanied by the children from Codnor Primary School. The event was well attended and the increased collection of £170 was donated to Children in Need. After the event, everyone was welcomed to Codnor Methodist Church for refreshments.



The Codnor and Crosshill Christmas Lights display was enhanced and provided by LITE Ltd.

Codnor Civic Service was held at St James' Church. The congregation included local dignitaries, members of local churches, our police and representatives of local organisations. The service was led by Rev Christopher Holden, the sermon given by the Rev. Judy Smart of the Methodist Church. The music group led the singing of hymns and members of the church provided refreshments afterwards.

The Council provided individual remembrance crosses for each of the men from the village who died in the First World War, and those from 1914 were placed at the Lych gate in the November service and can now be seen in the church.

Finance

As in previous years the draft precept for 2015-2016 was published for public comment. The Parish Council's 2014/2015 revenue income was £56,000. Total expenditure in 2014/15 was £62,000 whilst the 2015/2016 precept is £58,000. Full details of the budget can be found on the Council's Website.

How to Contact the Parish Council

Clerk to Codnor Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Sharpe, 25 Wilmslow Drive, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2HR

Telephone - 07972 209703 or e-mail: codnorpc@yahoo.co.uk

Details of Parish Council meetings are posted on the notice-boards at Mill Lane & Crosshill and on the Parish Website; www.codnorparishcouncil.co.uk

To raise an item for consideration at a Council meeting, please contact the Clerk at least **3 working days** before the meeting, stating your name, address, relevant information and whether you will be attending the meeting or require a written response.

Codnor Parish Councillors for 2015/16

Celia Cox

*1 Calladine Close, Heanor, DE75 7EW
Tel: 01773 715759*

Rebecca Deans

*72 Holborn View, Codnor, DE5 9RF
Tel: 07773 797906*

Chris Emmas-Williams

*4 Springhill Way, Codnor, DE5 9PN
Tel: 01773 746041*

David Jowett (Vice Chairman)

*15 Hardy Crescent, Codnor, DE5 9GH
Tel: 01773 513852*

Alan Longdon

*94 Upper Nelson Street, Heanor, DE75 7QR
Tel: 01773 530557*

Heather Longdon

*94 Upper Nelson Street, Heanor, DE75 7QR
Tel: 01773 530557*

Anna Moon

*20 Crosshill, Codnor, DE5 9SR
Tel: 01773 570235*

Bob Moon

*20 Crosshill, Codnor DE5 9SR
Tel: 01773 570235*

Robert Phillips-Forsyth

*34 Middleton Avenue, Codnor, DE5 9SS
Tel: 01773 749566*

Peter Smith (Chairman)

*50 Alfreton Road, Codnor, DE5 9QY
Tel: 01773 747585*

Gary Whalley

*47 Jessop Street, Codnor DE5 9RN
Tel: 01773 742549*

David Wood

*7A Wright Street, Codnor, DE5 9RQ
Tel: 01773 742836*

Thanks for all their hard work to Councillors Peter Baxendale, Molly Parkes and Mike Whittall who were members of the Parish Council during 2014/15

Useful Contact Numbers:

County Councillors:

Steve Freeborn, 56 Alfred Street, Ripley, Derbyshire Tel: 01773 749000

Mrs Celia Cox, 1 Calladine Close, Heanor, DE75 7EW Tel: 01773 715759

Amber Valley Borough Councillors: Isobel Harry, 18 Queensview Drive, Waingroves, DE5 9TP
Tel: 01773 742672 Email: isobelharry@aol.com and Chris Emmas-Williams, 4 Springhill Way, Codnor, DE5 9PN

Amber Valley Borough Council - Town Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire; Tel: 01773 570222

Planning applications can be viewed and commented on at the Council offices or by using Amber Valley Borough Council website www.ambervalley.gov.uk and then click on the planning application register.

Derbyshire County Council - 'Call Derbyshire': Tel: 01629 533190

Monday-Friday, 8.00am to 8.00pm & Saturday 9.30am to 4.00pm

Member of Parliament - Nigel Mills MP, 1st Floor, Thomas Henry House, 1-5 Church Street, Ripley DE5 3BU Tel: 01773 714413

Codnor Parish Council

Questionnaire



In the last two years, government funding of over £6000 has been removed from the Parish Council. Although the Council has increased its precept, costs continue to rise, and we realise that we may in future have to cut back on some of our projects.

We would like to hear from the residents of Codnor about what you think we should be spending money on. Please help us by completing this questionnaire and returning it to Andrew Sharpe, Clerk, 25 Wilmslow Drive, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2HR. It can also be found online on the council's website www.codnorparishcouncil.co.uk

Christmas Lighting

Should we spend **MORE** or **LESS**?

Market Place toilets

The toilets need expensive refurbishment. Should we spend **MORE** on them, or **CLOSE** them?

Mill Lane Car Park

The land at the back of the car park needs a lot of money spent on it to turn it into an acceptable youth football pitch. Alternatively, we could extend the car park slightly and keep the land as a rough green space.

Should we spend on a **YOUTH FOOTBALL PITCH** or extend the **CAR PARK**?

Other Ideas and Comments

Please circle your preferred alternative above, and write any other views you have below and continue on the reverse of this sheet. If you wish you may also supply your name and contact details.