

## **Chair's Annual Report 2022-2023**

I would like to thank our clerk for arranging and managing our council meetings and for keeping our finances in excellent order again this year, as well as giving the whole Parish Council excellent guidance and support regarding procedures and standing orders.

I wish to thank all our councillors for their hard work over the past year and I list below some of the tasks they have undertaken, always as volunteers.

The working group involved with the cemetery and memorial grounds, along with several residents have worked incredibly hard, on a purely voluntary basis, to maintain and enhance these community assets and keep them looking tidy and attractive, including cleaning and oiling the wooden soldier at the War Memorial.

Councillors and residents moved all the benches from the Memorial Grounds to the Receiving House so that they could be refurbished and then returned in pristine condition to ensure that the Grounds remain welcoming and attractive.

This group also arranged for woodworm treatment and roof repairs to the recreation ground shelter.

Cllr Stevenson and her husband have completed vital tree work in the cemetery, Memorial Grounds and Lea Playground, which was required following our last tree inspection and we are very grateful for this work also completed on a voluntary basis.

An enthusiastic group of councillors and parishioners completely replanted the "triangle" opposite The Florence Nightingale Hall with low growing shrubs which will make this central feature more interesting and pretty, as well as lower maintenance. Our thanks go to Jan Scott who drew up an excellent planting scheme for us and who recommended which shrubs would be most suitable for this location. The shrubs were all paid for by donations from parishioners.

I wish to thank Cllr Andrea McDonald for continuing to do the important regular safety inspections at Lea Playground and for the work that she has done in rectifying many issues that have arisen from those inspections.

The Planning Working Group has had a very busy year, meeting regularly to carefully assess planning applications, and I wish to thank Cllr Steve Farnsworth for convening this group for the Council and compiling our comments to propose to the full council.

The Council Facebook page had to be discontinued this year, but our thanks go to ex-councillor, Steve Dewhirst who ran it for us until it ended.

I'm delighted to say that we were able to co-opt another new and enthusiastic councillor, Cllr. Angela Bradshaw and so we are now up to our full strength of 9.

The issue of road safety is extremely important through our villages and so I am delighted that the Speedwatch group will be out and about again soon. I wish to thank Cllr June Dennis for agreeing to take over the running of this important group and for all the volunteers who will be working alongside her.

Lea Road eventually reopened on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> of last year, after being closed for almost three years. Unfortunately, we then had torrential rain and storms over the weekend immediately after this, which resulted in a serious landslip along Leashaw, in the heart of Holloway. Much to everyone's dismay, this meant that Leashaw was closed only a few days after Lea Road opened again and remains closed, meaning there is no direct access through

to Crich. This has had a huge negative impact on the businesses and residents close to the landslip and so the Parish Council has been very active in liaising with Severn Trent and Derbyshire County Council to establish the time frame for a safe repair of this vital road link and to ensure that parishioners are kept up to date with progress. We are anxious to ensure that we do not have to face another nearly three years of a road closure. We have invited key people from these organisations to attend tonight to enable our residents to hear the latest update on the work's progress and to be able to ask questions.

I wish also to personally thank Cllr Joy Stevenson, who so capably and efficiently chaired our meetings until I was able to attend again from December 2022.

Pat Ward,

Chair, Dethick, Lea and Holloway Parish Council, March 2023