



## CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Dear Neighbour,

I have the honour to introduce the Parish Council Report for 2008 / 2009. This year has not been as busy as some recent years yet it remained eventful!

Time has flown and just as I'm getting used to the Chairman's role, it is now time to pass on the baton. The support from my colleagues on the Parish Council is invaluable. Councillors have "a life outside of council" and I appreciate the efforts each individual goes to, because sometimes council matters need to be addressed at odd hours through the day and evening. The Clerk to the Parish Council has kept us all in order and as a result, business is dealt with swiftly.

The Council is dependent on other local authorities. County and Borough Councillors appear supportive of the work the Parish Council is trying to achieve, however improvements often get bogged down with bureaucracy and the Clerk spends an unreasonable amount of time dealing with this. The frustrations reported on by my predecessor do not seem to have been noticed.

The first Ulnes Walton Village Gala was successfully organised by the Parish Plan Review Group which has now evolved into the Ulnes Walton Community Group. This Community Group consists of representatives from many of the voluntary organisations in the Parish including Action for Ulnes Walton, Trustees of the Old School, WI, Elderberries, and Bridleways Association. All of these organisations need the support of the local population for future events to take place and the Parish Council is appreciative of their efforts.

Traditionally, Parish Councils were responsible for social welfare and civic duties in towns and villages. Depending on the council some of these duties have devolved to other authorities, however the local council remains responsible for providing amenities such as halls and play grounds and has influence within other authorities. Without the support of the community, then it is difficult for the Parish Council to function.

The Parish Council should be the most representative of any of the democratically elected councils and governments because the councillors actually live amongst the people they represent. Get things wrong and folk should say so.

In order for the Council to be successful, it needs the support of its community. If you have any issues, concerns or wish to propose a new initiative for the Parish Council to pursue, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk.

**David Williams**  
**Chairman of Ulnes Walton Parish Council**

## SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

### Council Meetings and Membership

Your Parish Council met for its Annual General Meeting in May 2008 and elected Councillor David Williams as its Chairman. During the year the Parish Council has held 11 ordinary parish council meetings, 1 extra ordinary parish council meeting and 3 planning meetings. Membership of the Parish Council has remained constant with six Members throughout the year.

### Value for Money

The Parish Council is diligent in ensuring that the money it spends on your behalf is wisely used for the benefit of the residents in the parish. A financial summary of 2008/09 is provided in this report.

The Parish Council has now set its budget for 2009/10 and through careful planning and mindful of the current economic climate felt it appropriate to maintain the precept value at the same level as the previous year. The precept has therefore been set at £5,305, making an average Band D property in the parish to £20.68. You will note the average Band D has marginally increased compared to last year, this is as a result of Chorley Council decreasing the tax base to take into account anticipated bad debt and new property growth. The Parish Council will continue to seek external grant aid for projects wherever possible and is now encouraging business advertising in its newsletter to generate income to cover the costs of production.

### Engaging with Residents

The Parish Council website continues to be updated and can be accessed via [www.ulneswaltonpc.co.uk](http://www.ulneswaltonpc.co.uk). This site continues to be a key and useful information tool and we would be happy to receive your views as to how we can improve it. We will aim to develop the site and add useful information as time progresses.

We have continued to produce the newsletter on a quarterly basis throughout the year and have also updated and issued the Information Leaflet. Thank you to our team of volunteers who have hand delivered our newsletters to all homes in Ulnes Walton over the past 12 months.

The Parish Council is also grateful to the many volunteers we have within our community who run organisations and community events with varied subject matters, many of whom update their events and achievements in the newsletter.

The notice boards continue to be updated regularly and can be found at The Old School, corner of Holker Lane/ Leyland Lane, Gilsons Garage, Ulnes Walton Lane (lay bye at North end); and The Green, Wymott Village.

In an effort to engage with the youth of Ulnes Walton, we arranged a meeting and invited a Youth Officer from Chorley Council, representative from the Scouting Association and Local Community Police Officer. The event was organised to come up with ideas and suggestions for activities that could be carried

out here in Ulnes Walton. We hope to report on progress in the forthcoming newsletters.

### Road Safety in the Parish

The Parish Council continues to pursue highway safety across the parish. Firstly, it is pleased to report that a safety scheme has been approved for Leyland Lane, reducing lengths down to 40mph and work will shortly commence on this scheme. Secondly, the long and arduous efforts to have the speed limit reduced on Southport Road will shortly become real, following a review of all A and B roads in Lancashire, reducing the speed limit on lengths from 40mph down to 30mph.

### Ulnes Walton Trail

The Parish Council is currently working closely with Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council towards concluding sections of the trail, albeit on a much smaller scale than originally envisaged.

### Wymott Park

The Parish Council has been working closely with Chorley Council and Groundwork Trust to establish the best way forward to improve the facilities at Wymott Park. We are pleased to be able to confirm that Chorley Council has offered to install a metal framed multi purpose piece of play equipment suitable for 4 to 8 year olds. As the weather begins to improve, work will begin on the maintenance of the site.

### Parish Plan Review

The Parish Plan Review is now complete and the remaining funds received via a grant in 2007 have now been fully expended during the financial year. The money was spent on the updated parish plan review document, contribution towards installing a broadband line into the Old School, presentation equipment which is located at the Old School for all community groups to use and the Village Gala day. An Updated Plan for the Parish was published as a response to a questionnaire distributed among households in the village. It will be interesting to see how the plan develops and evolves over the coming months and years.

### Quality Parish Status

Over the past 12 months the Clerk and Parish Council has been working towards the criteria which must be met for re-accreditation for Quality Council status. This has included ensuring documents such as standing orders, financial regulations, complaints protocol, risk assessment and freedom of information publication scheme are all current and up to date. The Clerk continues to pursue the CILCA qualification and work on re-accreditation will continue.

### Other Involvement

In order to keep abreast of key issues and improve knowledge, your Parish Councillors and the Clerk have attended many meetings and also some training sessions during the year with other bodies and organisations including Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Association of Local Councils.