

ULNES WALTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

INTRODUCTION

The past twelve months has been a period of major achievement of the Parish Council firstly with the launch of the Parish Plan, the Clerk attaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration and finally the Council being Awarded Quality Status. The report that follows is a brief summary of the main activities undertaken by the Parish Council during 2004/2005.

MEMBERSHIP

There have been no changes during the year, however May 2004 saw our much respected Chairman Eileen Doran deciding to take a back seat and a new Chairman – Derek Ormerod was selected, Grateful thanks is recorded to Eileen for all the hard work contributed in her leadership over the years. Membership still stands as follows:-

Derek Ormerod, Dorothy Todd, Eileen Doran, John Ascroft, Philip Mortimer and David Williams.

QUALITY PARISH STATUS

Without doubt the most notable achievement of the year was the award of Quality Parish Status. Ulnes Walton became the first and still is the only Parish Council to attain this status in Lancashire. It was a very proud moment when the Chairman was presented with the Certificate of Accreditation at a special ceremony in County Hall by the Leader of Lancashire County Council.

As a result of the Quality Status the Council was able to apply for a grant to a special Government Investment Fund. The application was selected as one of the best in the country and an award of £8000 was given to allow the purchase of much needed equipment.

PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan Steering Group worked very hard to bring together the final document which was launched at the Parish Assembly in May 2004. The Steering Group has now evolved into Action for Ulnes Walton, some group members left but other new faces have been welcomed. The Plan has already begun to prove its worth attracting Lottery money for the start up costs of Action for Ulnes Walton and recently announced a grant of £17000 for a Wild Flower and Bee Project. There is much work to be done in the Plan and residents support is needed to carry the proposals through, please join in the events and activities that will be publicised through newsletters.

CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Another major achievement saw the Parish Council Clerk, Lynne Rowett successfully passing the Certificate in Local Council Administration, she became the first Clerk in Lancashire to gain the qualification and the Certificate was one of the main criteria along with the Parish Plan in allowing the Council to attain Quality Status.

WEBSITE

During the year David Williams has worked hard on developing and expanding our website – www.ulneswaltonpc.co.uk. Many favourable comments have been received about its make up and content. The Parish Council is very grateful for David's expertise. The website is a welcome addition to the Parish Councils assets and again helped immensely with the application for Quality Status.

DONATIONS

A donation of £50 has been made to the work of the North West Air Ambulance.

PRISON ISSUES

Following concerns voiced over planned extensions to the prisons the Parish Council met with representatives from the Prison Authorities, the Borough and County Councils to discuss possible ways of reducing the impact that the complex has on the community. Proposals were agreed to address some of the issues raised, but regrettably progress has been slow with implementation.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Members have continued to lobby the County Council regarding traffic and road safety issues with some success. Three items were put forward for inclusion in the County Councils business plan – road safety along Southport Road; improvements to the signage at the junction of Moss Lane with Ulnes Walton Lane and signs to warn drivers of the presence of horses/pedestrians along Ulnes Walton Lane.

A meeting took place in October 2004 between Officers from the Traffic and Road Safety Unit; Traffic Police Officers and representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the problems along Southport Road. As a result detailed plans were prepared which have recently been put to public consultation.

A decision is still awaited on the other two items.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Following receipt of several letters from young residents on the Wymott Estate the Parish Council persuaded the Borough Council to provide some new goal posts on Wymott Park.

A successful grant aided Willow Weaving workshop was held in October which was much enjoyed by those taking part.

The Elderberries need also to be congratulated on the production of an excellent calendar.

AND FINALLY

There are lots of people to thank for their help here are just a few – the team of trusty volunteers who assist in delivering the newsletters; Dominic Rigby the LCC Countryside Officer; Darren Wilson and Judith Allnut from the Environment Agency; the committee members of Action for Ulnes Walton, all these people have assisted in helping the Parish Council achieve some of its goals during the year.

SUMMARY

The Parish Council has had very successful year with some milestone achievements and is looking forward to moving ahead with other plans and grant opportunities. In order for the Council to be successful it needs the support of the public that it represents, if you feel the Parish Council may be of assistance, in any way, by working to improve the Parish or putting forward opinions, ideas etc. please contact one of the Members, the Clerk or make your views known at a Parish Council meeting which are open to all residents to attend.

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