

Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council Chairman's Report 2015/16

Your Parish Council has once again had a very busy year, which started with the local elections in May 2015, the results from a Parish Council point of view were very disappointing with three vacancies still remaining. The results of a transport survey in the parish, to which 31% of the parish responded, were passed on to NCC & Trent Barton Bus Services.

Once again the LcB Festival in June proved a great success and our thanks go to all who made it possible. We have also, in an effort to improve the parish facilities in general, appointed two Parish Wardens, who will become the eyes and ears of the community. They will be carrying out maintenance on parish properties and ensuring local footpaths are maintained to a reasonable standard as well as other duties.

2015 was the year in which the PC who, after many years of badgering the relevant authorities, were pleased to see Superfast Broadband introduced in the parish. We are aware that not everyone has been connected, but as technology advances we hope they too will soon be connected up.

The PC continues to carry out its programme of improvements to the village hall, a new water heater has been installed and we will shortly be installing a new heating system, unfortunately the present system has been found not fit for purpose, this has been borne out by the number of complaints received from the users of the village hall. On a brighter note I am pleased to report that the new heating system has been donated by a heating contractor with the Parish Council only being invoiced for the installation costs. I would like to mention at this point that the PC has also taken over responsibility for the financial management of the village hall.

From a financial point of view I am pleased to report that the PC has been successful in applying for funding in order to install outdoor gym equipment at the Barnstone outdoor play area in May 2016, we were awarded a total of £5000 towards the cost of the equipment.

In October of last year the PC received a letter from the solicitors of the late Mr R Gale of Langar which informed us that we were to receive a legacy of £25,000 towards the upkeep of the Parish village hall. For those of you who may not be familiar with the name, Mr Gale was a local farmer and owner of a major part of Langar airfield.

With regards to highway matters we continue to correspond with Notts County Council regarding safety at Langar crossroads with no progress being made despite many suggestions being put forward, however I am sure that you are all aware of the signs that have been erected around the village school, this all part of a county wide safety programme where it is hoped that the entrance and exit areas are a safer place for parents and children alike.

On a more sombre note, despite efforts made by various bodies, the Church of England authorities have decided to close St Marys Church Barnstone due to the cost of repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the building. There was also the unfortunate incident of the fire at The Unicorns Head which robbed the Parish of its only Public House. However I am sure that we will all be extremely interested to learn of the progress being made in the rebuilding programme which we will learn about later in the evening in a presentation to be given by representatives of Everards Brewery. We as a Parish have also suffered the recent loss of our local Post Office.

Finally, the Parish Council will continue to strive to improve the facilities within the Parish and make further improvements to the village hall for the benefit of the Parish in general.

R Brooks 21st April 2016