

# **COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2006-07**

### **Chairman's Overview**

In some respects this year has been a challenging one.

Residents in the Low Green area experienced serious problems last summer, when considerably large numbers of youths took to congregating on and around the Green late at night and in the early hours of the morning, causing a disturbance and considerable discomfort to residents by their anti-social behaviour. At first, the Police were slow to respond, but we requested a meeting with them and they took action to try to identify the culprits and inform their parents. It is some comfort to know that only a minority of these were Copmanthorpe residents. In an attempt to prevent any recurrence of this, the Parish Council worked with Ward Councillors, the Police and the Licensing Department at the City of York Council to establish an Alcohol Free Zone. This Zone covers the whole of the village, and we are hopeful that it will prevent any recurrence of these problems in the future.

Vandalism has also been a problem, notably at the Recreation Centre, where we funded the installation of CCTV cameras in an attempt to identify those responsible and deter others from similar behaviour.

Another problem has been the threatened closure of our post office. We have launched a campaign to try to prevent this, urging people to continue to use the post office on a regular basis and to make known their concerns to those who make these decisions.

We are sorry to lose the valued services of the Reverend Maurice Staton, until very recently Chairman of our Planning Committee. We thank him for all his hard work, and wish him a speedy recovery from his current health problems.

# **Committee Reports**

## **Planning**

A total of 76 planning applications were received this year, an increase of 7 on last year. These include the following – any figures in brackets indicate the figure for last year: 3 for new builds (9), 3 for works to trees (4), 12 for conservatories (8), 5 applications for outline planning consent for new dwellings (including 1 for 8 apartments with associated car parking and landscaping in the Fox and Hounds car park), 3 applications to replace flat roofs with pitched roofs, 1 for a new agricultural building, 1 for the renewal of permission for a portable building (the nursery at the Recreation Centre), 1 for the extension to the sports hall at the Recreation Centre (which was refused) and 1 to build a much needed new storeroom (approved). There have been 4 revisions of previously submitted plans (9). The majority, 37, were for domestic extensions of various kinds.

## **Roads and Footpaths**

The Ward Committee has approved the sum of £4,000 for replacement lighting columns. A Lighting Scheme for Main Street has been prepared and work to replace lighting columns should commence later this year. Regrettably, this funding is only sufficient to replace four columns.

Signage at Moor Lane has been causing confusion to motorists for some time, so we have asked CYC to look at this and make some alterations including a “No Through Road” sign at the beginning of Moor Lane and a sign to direct caravans to Acaster Malbis, thus preventing them from going up Moor Lane as happens at present.

The Parish Council is very keen to keep the village an attractive place in which to live and, to this end, we have been looking at a number of landscaping projects. Only one has so far been completed, at Low Green where we have planted additional trees and shrubbery, but we are also looking at Millers Croft, the footpath around the school boundary and the burial ground. We have been pleased to be involved in the bulb planting project undertaken by Copmanthorpe Scout Group as part of a city wide scheme to commemorate 100 years of scouting.

Speeding traffic in the village continues to be a problem, but we are delighted that the Ward Committee has approved funding for three Vehicle Activated Speed Signs which will be situated at Temple Lane and Manor Heath.

We continue to press for changes at the Colton Lane/Manor Heath junction, to improve safety there. Plans have been drawn up, but at the present time there is insufficient funding.

Similarly, we are trying to bring about improvements to the car park at the shopping centre but, as this is in private ownership, there is a limit to what we can achieve.

## **Finance**

Since the last report additional grants have been paid - £1,000 to St Giles Church towards the new roof, and £4,946 to the Recreation Centre for CCTV for external security. Tree planting and landscaping have been funded with the aid of Section 106 and Ward Committee grants.

The Precept for 2007-08 has been set at £19,000. This amount equates to a charge of £11.43 per Band D property. We have been able to use some of the reserves to keep the amount for this year below that of last year which was £21,075. Included in the Precept are grants to village organisations amounting to £6,200.

## **Garden Competition**

As part of our commitment to making the village more attractive, and encouraging a community spirit, we have been delighted to once again participate in the organisation of the competition to find the best garden in Copmanthorpe. The winner, Mr Trevor Walton, was presented with the Coronation Cup at the Horticultural Show in July and will help with the organisation of this year's competition.

## **Accounts**

The most recent set of audited accounts covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. The Receipts and Payment summary is shown below:

Balance brought forward April 2005	£	31,801.13
Add: Total Receipts		22,251.64
		<hr/>
		54,052.77
Less: Total Payments		20,745.55
		<hr/>
	£	33,07.22
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These cumulative funds are represented by:

Treasurer's Account No. 82159880	£	7,760.30
Less unrepresented cheque		20.00
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	£	7,740.30
Business Money Manager Account No. 82159872		25,566.92
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	£	33,307.22
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## Contact Details

Your Parish Councillors' contact details are as follows:

Councillor Derek Bowen	Chairman	700846
Councillor Brian Bell		704050
Councillor Mike Irwin		707391
Councillor Doug Parker	Finance Chairman	707271
Councillor Steve Stericker	Roads and Footpaths Chairman	703137
Councillor Mrs Marjorie Stones	Vice Chairman	778087
Councillor Mrs Megan Taylor	Planning Chairman	707894
Councillor Mrs Caroline Townsend	Public Transport	704100
Councillor Greg Waite	Police Liaison	704752
Councillor Peter Whitfield	Webpage and Parish Council News	709133
Councillor Mrs Ann Winter	Residents Association, Recreation Centre, Coronation Cup and Parish Council News	702569
Mrs Diane Greenwell	Parish Clerk	702844