

Committee Reports - Annual Town Meeting 27th April 2010

Amenities and Civic Centre – Cllr L Hallett

The Committee has met 6 times during the year and has continued to focus on the maintenance of the Civic Centre. Various external repairs and redecoration have been carried out and the front of the building has been re-landscaped following removal of the air monitoring unit. Replacement of the rear Council Chamber wall with a folding wall and relocation of two cupboards will increase the floor space and improve flexibility of the facilities. The bingo evenings hosted by Councillors are increasing in popularity and quarterly quiz evenings were now being held. The Council is again planning a Christmas evening for town residents on 3rd December and general bookings are increasing which has resulted in a higher than budgeted income. A demand management system for recording and monitoring enquiries made to the Civic Centre has been developed to help ensure best use of resources.

The Council's play spaces have achieved a successful independent inspection with no high-risk items being identified. The Committee has overseen the re-letting of the grounds maintenance contract for the Council's park and play spaces, and the management of the contract has been brought in-house, achieving a further saving of £6,000. Following discussions with local park users, two new picnic benches have been sited adjacent to the main field in Chatsworth Park.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their continued support during my third year as Chair of the Committee and also thank the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their assistance.

Cllr L Hallett, Chair

Planning and Highways – Cllr J Livings

With little development land available in Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean, there have been few planning applications over the past 12 months. Most applications have been from home owners extending or altering their current properties, and alot of this work can now be carried out under 'permitted development' without the need of registering a planning application. Where this is the case, it is only necessary to observe 'building regulations' which requires Lewes District Council Building Inspectors to approve the works and materials.

Planning applications for the past 12 months totalled 41, of which 3 were for tree works and were referred to the Lewes District Council Tree Officer for his advice and recommendations. Twenty four applications were approved, 8 refused and 2 withdrawn. The remainder are still under consideration by Lewes District Planning Officers.

Cllr Livings, Chair

Telscombe Village Club – Cllr J Livings

I am pleased to report another successful year for the Village Club, despite the village Christmas party being cancelled due to the depth of snow and what was considered dangerous road conditions. The village summer dance was a great success with live music performed by a superb rock band. Ticket sales had realised £356 and the raffle raised another £50, with a profit of over £150. Bookings for hire of the club remain steady and it is hoped to promote use of the hall in conjunction with more wedding bookings at the Village Church.

A new larger Oak notice board has been purchased and sited near the entrance to the Club, quotes are being obtained for a bulk head light situated at the entrance gate and also extra double electric sockets in the hall.

The next public event to be held in the Village club will be on 1st/2nd May to coincide with the farm open day and the summer dance will be held on the evening of Saturday 3rd July with tickets costing just £7.50 for adults and £5 for children.

I would like to thank all the Committee members who support the Village community events, especially Alan Baker, the booking secretary and treasurer, who does much of the organising.

Cllr J Livings, Chair

Policy and Resources – Cllr J Page

The Committee has worked to keep expenditure down, but still deliver a good level of service. The year-end final analysis is not complete so figures may change slightly from what I am about to advise. Salaries are 8% less than budget and most Councillors have not taken their allowance. Interest is down by approximately £5,500 due to the low interest rate, but overall the Policy & Resources committee is 11% under budget. Grounds maintenance is £19,000 under budget, and grass cutting savings have been made. The Civic Centre income is up approximately 30%, and with additional income and savings, savings of approximately £60,000 against the budget have been made. There has been a zero increase in the precept for the following year, compared with an average increase over the term so far of 6.5%, with an average for other Councils being 17.2%.

Cllr J Page, Chair