

Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 5th April 2007 at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall, Meldreth

Apologies for absence:

Mrs J. Rayment, Head Teacher, Meldreth Primary School
Mr D. McCraith (Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Council [C.C.C.])

Those present:

All Councillors
The District Councillor
7 members of the public

Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting held Thursday 6th April 2006, were signed as a true record. Proposed Dr Webb, seconded Mr Pilkington.

REPORTS from the following:

CHAIRMAN

Once again flooding has been an issue in the village with a lot of problems in the usual areas - Chiswick End being badly hit, including different areas of the High Street. The residents of Chiswick End have formed a committee in order to do something about the problem. Both the Highways Department and Anglian Water have been involved in order to try to resolve the problem. Investigations are ongoing with various tests taken to establish where the water should go.

The skateboard had to be removed as a result of wear and vandalism. A quote had been received for repairs but further damage had occurred before anything could be done to save it. The decision was taken by the Parish Council to remove it on the grounds of safety.

The Council had the sad loss of one of its members, Mrs Mary Course, who had been a longstanding member of the Council. Mary had been Chairman to the Council, a Parish Councillor and a District Councillor for many years. A suitable memorial, in her honour, for services to the village and local community is under consideration.

The present Clerk, Mrs Pauline Penfold, is going to retire at the end of April. Mrs Judy Damant will be the new Clerk to Meldreth and is currently working alongside Mrs Penfold.

The Litter Collector, Mr Foggo resigned and his replacement is Mr Mick Taylor.

Meetings have been held and a consultation document about gypsies and travellers has taken place. Mr Searles attended the meeting on behalf of the Council. This is an ongoing issue at the moment.

Speeding in the village is once again an issue. Whitecroft Road and the High Street have been affected also North End. The Police have been of little help with North End. They have even made a comment to the effect that it is dangerous for their officers to carry out speed checks at a certain point, which is affected. The idea of members of the community being trained to carry out speed checks has also been looked at but for various reasons, this was thought not to be a good idea. However, ways of slowing traffic are still being looked at.

The new Parish Office is almost up and running within the new Community Room at the Sheltered Housing Scheme in Elin Way.

At the moment negotiations are going on for a new footpath between the Meads footpath and Melbourn Recreation Ground. Mr Chamberlain and the landowner are carrying out this work. Mr Chamberlain and other volunteers continue to maintain the footpaths around the village.

P.P.I.T.: this is being wound up with much work accomplished but still more ongoing issues.

I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their work and commitment and also the Clerk for a job well done.

Alan Land
Chairman

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Parish Councillors and members of the public are in possession of the receipts and payments report. Additional copies are available by contacting the Clerk. A balance of £31,091.74 is to be carried forward at 31st March 2007.

Street lighting is now the responsibility of Parish Councils. Repairs to play equipment and replacement of refuse bins due to vandalism have cost the Parish Council a considerable sum.

We are still waiting for exact costings for the new Parish Office. The Parish Council will be renting office space from S.C.D.C., within the Sheltered Housing Communal Room. As referred to in the Report of the Chairman, Mrs Damant and Mrs Penfold are in the process of moving to the office.

The following organisations received financial assistance: Melbourn Library, Royston and District Community Transport, Meldreth & Melbourn Self Help Group, the Mobile Warden Scheme, The Royal British Legion, Meldreth Tennis Club, Meldreth Village Hall Trust, the Croquet Club, Melwood and The River Mel Restoration Group.

Pauline Penfold
Financial Officer, Meldreth Parish Council

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Affordable houses: The Whaddon Road and Elin Way schemes are both in progress, with Whaddon Road ahead of schedule and the first homes soon to be ready for occupancy. The Section 106 agreement stipulates that these homes should go to Meldreth people first, and I have been trying to help make sure that this happens. Some people who are waiting on the Housing Register and local to Meldreth are in very difficult circumstances, so new homes will be welcome. However, the process of allocations shows that single young men are stuck at the bottom of the ladder, with very limited prospects for housing, and it is difficult to see a real change to this situation.

Water: We had some severe flooding last summer, which caused serious damage to a few homes and threatened many others, highlighting the fact that problems in our drainage network exist and must be rectified. It has been great to work together with residents and council officers, especially Mike Cooper of the County Council who has persisted with us. I think most of us are confident that we are making progress in reducing the flood risk to Chiswick End, and will continue to do so. With the District watercourses forming part of the network in this patch, I have had a foothold to get involved. However, problems along the High Street, especially between the shop and the school, have not seen the same headway and urgently need addressing. The worry is with both County and District budgets being cut so severely, maintenance regimes may suffer in the future. Good upkeep of the drainage system will therefore depend greatly on the vigilance of residents. With old and new parish councillors interested in championing this problem, we are well equipped.

Tree work: the District Council does far less tree work than it once did, as a result of capping, and I'm sorry to have to disappoint so many residents hoping to have tree servicing carried out by the Council.

Mettle Hill: Meldreth has two Travelling Showmen's sites and one Romany site, and a number of children from these sites attend local primary schools. I look forward to seeing them going on to Melbourn Village College in the not too distant future. Rumours about the re-opening of the closed County Council Traveller site in Kneesworth Road are often a source of worry, but there are no such plans as far as I am aware. The District Council recognises that Mettle Hill is fully and successfully settled, and that the village is already a generous provider of authorised sites for the broad community of Travellers. Therefore it is not looking at all to Meldreth in the process of identifying new sites, or re-opening closed sites, for the future.

Elin Way Communal Room site: Meldreth can claim some notoriety in the fact that South Cambs District Council recently refused retrospective planning permission, and then took steps toward enforcement, for one of its own buildings. This of course is the garage block on the site of the new Communal Room in Elin Way. The other more positive notoriety Meldreth can claim is that it is pioneering the smart new parish office in the Sheltered Housing Communal Room, a lovely new building that seems to be turning into a hub for all sorts of village life, and that is great to see.

Tough times: The District Council continues to face tough times and this filters down, of course, to us as residents. Two years ago was the prospect of a 100% rate rise, last year it was the savage cuts following capping, and this year it is the Audit Commission's damning report on most areas of the council's performance. We have a very dedicated chief executive and staff, and a new leader, Cllr Ray Manning, who has integrity, courage and the readiness to work hard for residents, and I hope he will get all the support he needs. He also has a special link to Meldreth, as one of a very few apple farmers left in the district. He tells me that the Elbourns and the Mannings go way back, and I take that as a good omen for the future.

Susan van de Ven
District Councillor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Since last year the County Council has had to cope with many more government initiatives, which, although very often much needed, did not always come with the money to fund them, so the county remains the fastest growing county in the country in terms of population, but with below average funding from government – this has forced the council to make further cuts in some services and increase council tax by the legal maximum of 5%.

Meldreth has been particularly badly hit by flooding, in the last few months, and highways arranged to have the gulleys cleared more often and investigations carried out, to find out if other ways can be found to reduce the volume of water, in Chiswick End in particular and help alleviate the problems.

There has been increasing concern regarding traffic speeding in Whitecroft Road and North End. Highways need evidence to put in, what are sometimes costly, effective measures and although the police were unable to assist in measuring speeding traffic, the equipment needed should be available for parish councillors to use in the future. Representations have also been made to highways regarding the traffic congestion and parking problems in the High Street.

This year the government-sponsored concessionary fare scheme has been transformed, from being just within the district to being throughout the whole county and also including bordering towns like Royston. This was as a result of the County Council bringing the City and four District Councils in the county together with Stagecoach the operator, and also providing the extra money needed to make sure it would be successful.

This year the County Council won an award for being the most efficient recycling County in the country, presently recycling 49% of our waste. Now the County have taken steps to improve even more in the future. A state of the art waste management centre will now be built at Waterbeach, dealing with all the county's waste and it will be capable of recycling up to 62%, including all metals, plastic bottles and compostable material and it will also be producing refuse derived fuel were possible.

The Guided bus scheme is also now starting life, with a government grant of nearly 100 million pounds and with any extra cost being met by contributions from the developers. This is going to be the largest guided bus system in the world and will, it is hoped, make a big difference to the traffic in Cambridge.

The County Council is involved with many different things, and I hope we are giving the residents of Meldreth a satisfactory service. I look forward to another year working with your parish council making sure that this is the reality in Meldreth.

David McCraith
County Councillor

MELDRETH PRIMARY SCHOOL

A very good year at school with an encouraging rise in pupil numbers and the opening of the new school extension.

Pupils

I am very pleased to report that, due to an increasing role, the school has been able to re-instate the third infant class, bringing us to six classes overall. Children are now taught in discrete year groups for Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6. The only year group to be taught in different classes is Y4. Last summer we looked carefully at how the children in KS2 had attained in maths and made the decision to move the most able mathematicians into an older age-group for maths lessons. This has proved very successful, extending and challenging the children who require more demanding work. We are also able to teach Science to separate year groups.

Curriculum

After the major revision of the curriculum in 2004-05, we are now working through the second year of the cycle, and for last year, building in as many visits and visitors as we can to enrich the children's experience.

We believe that, at times, it is important to put the normal curriculum aside and plan special days or weeks for the school. We have just had a wonderful week with the theme of 'Healthy Living' and are now making plans for a Maths week in the summer term. The older children have the opportunity to take part in residential trips, with Years 4 and 5 spending three days at the Grafham Water Outdoor Centre and Y6 making their annual trip to Derbyshire in July.

We have recently employed a music teacher, Mrs Lucy Barlow, lead a school choir and teach the recorder to children in Years 4 and 5.

The standard of work produced for Home Challenges continues to amaze us with the creativity and skill of our children and their parents, and we have been delighted when members of the local community have visited the display of finished work. Our class assemblies and school productions are very popular with parents, as is the Christmas Carol Service held at Holy Trinity Church.

Staff

The staff team remained largely unchanged with Mrs Andrea Sterecki joining us to teach Y2, in a job-share with Mrs Emma Lippiatt until Christmas and then with Mrs Dawn Moffat. The Teaching Assistant team was joined by Mrs Dee Irvine and Mrs Diana Ramsay. The stability of all the staff teams and their hard work and dedication to the children with whom they work is acknowledged to be a major strength of the school.

Governors

The Chair is Mrs Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp and Vice Chair, Mrs Dee Williams. The full Governing Body meets at least once a term with the two sub-committees meeting more frequently. The Governing Body is well supported by the newly-appointed Clerk, Mrs Jackie Wyse. This year we have been pleased to welcome one new parent governor: Dr Simon Dwerryhouse.

Parent Teacher Association.

The PTA continues to be very active in raising money to support school projects and arranging social events for the school community. Having refurbished the school library they are now fundraising for the development of the school grounds.

The Christmas Fair and Summer Fun Day were both very well organised and extremely successful events. We have also enjoyed discos, a family barbeque, a fashion show and family bingo.

Premises

The major change to the school building has been the new extension that opened in January 2007. Building work began in August 2006 and because of the very wet period at the end of the summer, proceeded very slowly until October. However, the extension is now finished, providing a spacious and well-lit library, new toilet areas for older Juniors, a staff room and staff toilets. We now have an additional classroom that can be used as a teaching base and working area for staff. The planning for Phase 2 of building improvement will begin soon.

Mrs Janet Rayment
Headteacher

MELDRETH CROQUET CLUB

The Club has a croquet lawn in the ground behind the British Queen in Meldreth and we had persistent problems with rabbits living in the surrounding rough ground digging holes in the lawn, which we try to keep well mown and level, as required for our game. The funding which we have received from the Parish Council has enabled us to place an electric fence around the lawn and to buy two batteries to keep it running (two so that one can be on charge whilst the other is in use). This certainly helped in the period up to the end of play last year, although the rabbits occasionally got in, the overall damage was greatly reduced. As you will no doubt be aware croquet is a summer game and our season ended in October last: at the moment we are starting to plan our new season and to prepare the lawn for play and the signs are the lawn is in a reasonable state coming out of the winter period when we let it rest and tend it less. A detailed report can be obtained from our Lawn Officer if required.

The Club is not a large one: we have about 15 members but some of them are only occasional players. Our regular club times are Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings and sometimes Wednesday evening meetings have only just enough people for a couple of games. Sunday mornings are more popular and better attended.

Peter Jackson
Secretary

MELDRETH FOOTBALL CLUB

Meldreth United has been running for 9 years and this has been the best season so far. We are 3rd in the Sunday League 4B and we hope we will go up. We have been in three cups reaching quarterfinals in all of them.

We would like to thank Tobin Roofing for the new kit this season and for sponsoring the man of the match.

Plans for the new Pavilion have been prepared and we would like to thank Alan Hazelwood, Architect for his work. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support.

Joan Fallon
Secretary

MELDRETH MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

Our Meldreth and District Mobile Warden Scheme has been helping the local community for some ten years now. Without the generous grant and support from Meldreth Parish Council and other bodies, it would not be possible for our voluntary scheme to continue operating in the community. As you know, the Mobile Warden makes daily visits or contacts by telephone, to elderly people living on their own. We have recently been able to increase from 5 to 8 the number of members on the scheme. The Committee is of course made up of volunteers. Thanks to financial help received, our dedicated Warden can receive a small remuneration for her conscientious work. We hope we may look forward to the help of Meldreth Parish Council in future years. With our thanks and best wishes.

Pierrette Borgonon
Secretary

MELBOURN & MELDRETH SELF HELP GROUP

The Melbourn & Meldreth Self Help group has been in operation now for more than twenty-five years. In that time we have seen many changes but the basic format remains the same.

About 32 elderly residents of Melbourn and Meldreth meet each Thursday for lunch and a chat with old friends. We currently meet at Vicarage Close Community Centre and for those who are unable to get there we have a small group of volunteer drivers who collected them and take them home free of charge.

We have an excellent cook, Mary Daynes, who week by week provides very good and much appreciated meals. We have a group of helpers who assist in the kitchen and with the serving and clearing up afterwards. For those people living in close proximity who are unable to get to the centre a meal is taken to them.

At Easter and Christmas we try to create a festive atmosphere. This year our members received a free lunch, Easter Egg and iced bun to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday. At Easter and Christmas members received a free lunch and a visit from Father Christmas.

A charge of £2.50 is made for lunch and our members hold a 20p raffle. Mainstays of the continuing success of the Club are the generous grants from both Melbourn and Meldreth Parish Councils. All income is used to rent the Community Centre, pay for Public Liability Insurance, pay the cook a fixed rate of £68.00 a week, pay for the free lunches and any extra little luxuries that we can afford.

Without the willing and dedicated help of our volunteers, all of whom are getting older, we could not operate. We desperately need more drivers and helpers.

Currently we have no waiting list for membership.
Many thanks for your assistance.

Neil Wilson
Treasurer

MELDRETH TENNIS CLUB

Membership

Membership is about the same as last year. We have advertised the Club on the local village board and the shop as well as Meldreth Manor School. The public use of the courts has increased over the year so village people are using the courts. Fees are £37.50 per year for adults, students/juniors £17.50, family membership £80 and Associate/non playing members £5 per year.

Matches

The Club entered one team in the 2006 Cambridgeshire Business House League playing in Division 2. They did really well this year and will be promoted to Division 1 for 2007. We also entered a mixed team and they also did very well this year.

Social/Fund Raising

Over the year we have had some very successful fund raising events and tournaments. The weather was not kind for the outdoor events, which included croquet, a pool party and a barbeque. All events were well attended by members and their guests.

Maintenance

Money raised at our Tournaments and social events is put to good use, i.e. cutting of the conifer hedging. This year we have had a considerable amount of vandalism, from the outside nets being cut, to the inside tennis net also being cut in quite a few places so that a new tennis net needed to be bought. Last summer there was a lot of glass from broken bottles found on the courts, which have to be swept up, and disposed of, before we can start playing tennis safely.

The Police have been informed of all these cases of vandalism and they have been down to check out what has been going on. We look forward to less of this aggravation.

New Seat and Side Netting

We wish to thank the Parish Council for their considerable contribution to the new seat (now erected) and side netting that was replaced earlier in 2006.

Sue Davies
Secretary

MELWOOD CONSERVATION REPORT

The year saw us working to the Management Plan and doing all the seasonal stuff required to manage woodland which perhaps to the untrained eye, might seem to manage itself.....

But we needed 8 work parties (that's around 10 days work) just to keep abreast of the work to be done to help regeneration and maintain the rides for people. Coppicing hawthorn, controlling invasive species such as hedge parsley and control of ash and sycamore seedlings are tasks, which need continual attention every year.

We were again most grateful for the support of the Woodland Trust's Jonathan Plowe who twice visited giving us valuable steer and advice on current and long term management.

Remembering that the group is learning its management skills as we go along, Jonathan reminded us that we needed around a 20% canopy and plenty of open space so that more light is allowed to enter the wood for healthier ground cover and to avoid crowing. So in late autumn, on his second visit, he kindly identified the stands to be gradually removed. He did stress that we should think 'long term' and not try and do too much removal at once.

However, a follow-up work party produced the first fellings and wood and brush to be able to contribute in the restoration of the river by the River Mel Restoration Group.

We continue to monitor our plug planting but it became clear that this was not as successful as we hoped and we will be adopting a much more cautious approach for any future planting.

Vandalism and litter appear, sadly, to require permanent attention as part of woodland management and the volunteers continue to operate a monthly Watch Rota to keep it under control.

Again last year we managed 2 public events: another successful Bird Walk in the wood, courtesy of the R.S.P.B. Fowlmere Reserve Warden, Doug Radford, attracted nearly 30 people on a late Spring Saturday. With Doug's help about 15 bird species were identified using the wood that day!

Graham Borgonon
Secretary

THE RIVER MEL RESTORATION GROUP

Following the formation of the group in December 2005, the committee and members worked hard to prepare, in close collaboration with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Environment Agency, for the first phase of works on the River Mel. After the submission of reports by the River Restoration Centre and Kingston University, plans were drawn up and sent for approval by the Environment Agency (E.A.) who gave us the consents required on 17th August 2006. Our first work group started work in the river on 2nd September 2006.

Phase one of the works consists of a section between the railway bridge over the Mel and the wooden revetments down stream of Melwood. This work is progressing well due to the enthusiasm of our membership and our collaboration with outside agencies. Consequently a marked improvement in the river and its wildlife is already apparent. This has been confirmed by a recent fisheries survey carried out by the E.A., which has reported a large increase in fish stocks since a similar survey last year.

In September 2006 we hosted a meeting of The Cam Valley Forum at the Village Hall followed by a guided walk along the river to view work in progress. This was well received and gained us members from outside the village plus the offer of a grant towards materials from Cam Valley Forum, which was generously matched by S.C.D.C.

In December 2006 we installed a coir roll at the base of the wooden revetments and immediately the chalk riverbed started to reappear as silt was flushed into the new works.

In January 2007 members installed a gravel riffle, funded by the Wild Trout Trust, downstream of the old mill race below Flambards bridge, with the assistance of Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer for S.C.D.C. and Ruth Hawksley of the Wildlife Trust. The riffle will provide a spawning ground for trout in the river. Members of the 1st Melbourn guides joined to help make faggot bundles, which have been used in constructing the 'soft' revetments.

In March 2007 a team of volunteers from the Cambridge Building Society came and helped us with the planting of new native hedgerow to encourage birdlife on the bankside.

All works have been carried out voluntarily by our members but we also acknowledge the very generous support given to us in the way of advice and funding for materials from Meldreth Parish Council; the Environment Agency; South Cambridgeshire District Council; the Wild Trout Trust; the Waterways Trust; the Cambridge Building Society and the Cam Valley Forum.

Our thanks also go to the Melwood Conservation Group for supplies of wood from their clearance work parties.

Our Annual General Meeting is at 8.00 p.m. on the 23rd April in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Steve Hawkins
Chairman

TREE WARDEN

I have great pleasure in submitting what must be at least my 15th report as your protector of trees for this Parish.

I have seen over a hundred trees planted and many of the early ones in Fenny Lane and Melwood are now providing an attractive feature in the landscape while those in Malton Lane and Kneesworth Road are gradually making headway in windswept situations and breaking up a bare environment.

Besides doing what I can to increase the tree coverage in the village I am always on the lookout for older trees which for a long period have had little loving care. Surrounded by thicket and dead or dying trees, with enormous roots of ivy allowed to climb up the main trunk and spread along the branches these trees have all growth smothered and gradually die. You have only to look at the wood belonging to the brewery across the river from the British Queen and countless trees from the railway along the footpath to the Brewery wood to see what I mean. May I ask local owners and members of the public wherever it is feasible to save some of these trees and allow them further healthy life by cutting the ivy roots at the bottom of the tree. This week I received the Spring Edition of the Woodland Trust's magazine with photographs of attractive woodlands up and down the country under the Trust's care and in one of these did I see trees smothered in ivy but rather great expanses of carefully managed trees. I know that some naturalists defend the covering of trees in ivy – presumably as bird cover – my job is to promote and prolong life in all too sparse coverage.

In Melwood, which I am proud to have rescued some twenty years ago from the heavily weed infested area which allowed little healthy growth or access, an attractive site is now benefiting from the work of a group of likewise committed locals. Necessary clearing has allowed a good increase of plant life – snowdrops, primroses, violets and daffodils as well as hazel and ash. The Local Officer for the Woodland Trust came and gave valuable advice in the autumn as to which trees should be felled to allow more light and help the further healthy growth of the remaining wood and this has been done. He suggested any further planting should include scarce species such as oak, hornbeam and beech, which does surprisingly well here. The meadow area of the site will hopefully come to life over the next month. It is a difficult task but with luck in the end will blossom as the neighbouring wood has done.

Margaret Hunter
Tree Warden

MELDRETH VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Following the Trust's Annual General Meeting in 2006, the management team handed over its responsibilities to a new one, namely:

Chairperson:	Rachel Brown
Vice-Chairmen:	David Coton and Faraz Kermani
Treasurer:	David Smith
Secretary:	Maggie Smith

Our grateful thanks to the past team for their dedicated hard work over a considerable number of years.

The Village Hall continues to play a major role in the life of the local community. During term time, the Pre-School group occupies the hall until 3.00 p.m. three weekdays and until 12.30 p.m. on the remaining two. Regular club activities are held Monday to Thursday evenings. Whilst the Good Companions no longer meet at the Hall and the Scottish Dancing group has folded, a Brownie pack and Table Tennis group have started up. At weekends, the Hall continues to be used for family celebrations. Unfortunately two 18-year-old parties have caused considerable concern to the Trustees and neighbouring households. Unruly behaviour, foul language and unacceptable noise levels have resulted in the trustees increasing the deposit to £150 and to review its terms of hire for these parties in the future.

Financially the M.V.H.T. is secure but in the near future it anticipates substantial expenditure for new flooring and redecoration. The Trust thanks the Parish Council for its most generous grant this year. This has been used for essential maintenance and the installation of an external light illuminating the path to the car park from Elin Way.

The M.V.H.T. continues to benefit from assistance from the Meldreth Village Association. Last autumn it kindly donated a replacement clock for the outside of the hall and provided a Christmas tree beside the front door. Regrettably this was seriously vandalised and had to be dismantled early.

Regular safety checks on the Hall have now been instituted and the Fire Services has recently reviewed the premises. A qualified contractor has also completed an inspection of all electrical installations and free-standing appliances.

The Trust is indebted to its Administrator, Sherida Inman and its Housekeeper Mary Wedge for their dedication to providing for the smooth running of the Hall.

Maggie Smith
Secretary

PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (P.P.I.T.)

The P.P.I.T. wound up its business at the end of March this year and has submitted a Final Report to the Parish Council. This report deals with Achieved issues, those still outstanding and tries to put all the documentation covering its achieved tasks in one document.

Some outstanding issues will take a lot more work over some time; a classic example is a new pavilion, which will only happen if enough of the residents want it and are prepared to work for it. The Parish Council will continue to work on other issues - none of which have silver bullets to resolve instantly.

The Parish Plan was published in June 2005 and the Parish Plan Implementation Team with 6 members was formed to carry out the plan. The Team consisted of 3 councillors and 3 village residents.

So, for 16 months this small team has laboured on the 35 actions identified from the questionnaire which villagers were invited to complete.

The big challenge for the team is to try and meet at least some of the aspirations of Meldreth residents and it would be a miracle indeed had we been able to achieve that.

Many of the things villagers wanted were issues pretty common to all rural communities in our area. Issues around traffic, crime and anti-social behaviour, public transport and the environment affect us all and all these were raised by residents in one form or another.

Some actions however, were particular to the village; communications, a better pavilion and a user-friendly pub were among these.

The P.P.I.T. has tried to tackle all these and our progress has been regularly reported to the Parish Council and promulgated through consultations last year and via the council's website.

A lot of effort has gone into lobbying local authorities, public service providers and commercial concerns to improve their services or their impact on our village environment. Some of this is still going on and not all outcomes are yet clear.

So what, you may ask, has the whole plan process achieved?

- Through the Plan Report issued in 2005 local authorities and public service providers know what the village wants,
- The Report gives a succinct picture of the village needs and issues which residents have themselves set out,

- The village is 'on the map' as a result of the Plan and residents and the Parish Council have a reference point when they need to prioritise and compete for ever limited resources,
- But perhaps the most significant aspect has been how the plan process has stimulated more involvement and networking by villagers to help improve matters. There are good examples of this: river restoration, Parish Paths Partnership, Pavement Wardens, and volunteer drivers to mention a few examples.

Our full report will be on the website in a few days and available for download.

The PPIT team has worked hard over the 16 months of its life and I would like to give personal thanks to my co-team members and to all those who served throughout the Plan and Implementation Processes – a period of nearly four years – for the hard work and dedication they have put into the achievements made on behalf of the village.

Graham Borgonon

Comments from members of the public

There were no comments.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.