

The Parish Council will be publishing it’s 2007/2008 annual report in the next edition of the Salford Seven Newsletter which is circulated to every household in the Parish, tonight for the Chairman’s Report at a time with only one more council meeting scheduled, this council’s term of office nears an end, I am going to briefly look back at some of the issues and events of the last four years.

2004 saw a new fully elected council take office. One of its first priorities was to complete the Parish Plan, with the assistance of the Salford Seven Parish Plan Steering Group this was achieved in May 2005 when the plan was formally adopted by Stratford on Avon District Council.

The Parish Council obtained Quality Status in 2004 one of only 5 councils at that time in Warwickshire to achieve this award.

On obtaining Quality Status the council were successful in obtaining a government grant of five thousand pounds to set up the Parish Office and Resource Centre here at the Memorial Hall.

2005 saw the launch of the Salford Seven Newsletter.

There was a Parish Poll over the proposed extension of Marsh Farm Quarry along the river meadows at Bidford.

During that year the council lost one of its members with the sudden death in office of Mrs Maureen Edmunds.

A by-election was held with 4 candidates contesting the vacancy, this was extremely encouraging to see the interest shown in parish matters, Mrs Jane Corbett was elected.

The village came **1st** in the Alcester Area of the **Warwickshire Best Kept Village Competition** and then went on to be placed **2nd overall within the county**.

The village entered the Warwickshire Village of the Year Competition for the first time and took first place going on to represent the county in the Regional & National competition.

A Guide to The Salford Seven was published and distributed to every home in the parish

Every home received an illustrated guide Seven Walks in the Salford Seven, seven walks along public footpaths within the parish the council is indebted to local artist and keen walker Jim Bolstrige for this excellent publication.

In 2006 road safety and the reduction of speed throughout of the parish was at the forefront of the council’s agenda.

Following on achieving a 30mph limit in school road the council continued with its lobbying of Warwickshire County Council for the reduction of the speed limits within the settlements of the Parish.

Evesham/Station Road Salford Priors – a reduction in the limit from 40mph to 30mph. Now looking certain to be implemented early summer of this year.

Abbots Salford – a reduction from the national speed limit of 60mph to 40mph again the scheme has met with approval and should go ahead in the summer.

Rushford - Iron Cross – a reduction from the national speed limit of 60mph to 40mph and the B4088 from the County Boundary a reduction from the national speed limit of 60mph to 50mph

A scheme for a 50mph speed limit has been proposed.

And finally Dunnington - the Parish Council after many years of lobbying of the County Council achieved a reduction of the speed limit through the village from 60mph to 30mph.

In October 2006 the Parish Council completed its refurbishment of the old Youth Club building and handed over the day to day running of the building to a Management Committee.

TOPs dominated the Parish Council Agenda during that year, the council concentrated a significant effort in this project with over £21,000.00 being spent on refurbishing TOPs without the financial support given by the Parish Council, Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwickshire Rural Community Council this building would have been derelict.

In 2007 following three years of negotiation with Warwickshire County Council the Parish Council agreed to lease land off Ridsdale Close a former County Council small holding for amenity and allotment garden use.

A three phase land management plan was adopted by the Parish Council. 12 local residents initially came forward and expressed an interest in renting a plot.

Phase one would see the creation of sixteen allotment gardens. - Completed summer 2007

Phase Two would see the amenity land established and the site secured, ongoing nearing completion.

Phase Three would see a mains water supply installed - completed ahead of schedule spring 2008.

This project so far has cost over £6000.

Over a number of years the Council has continued to seek improvements to the storm and foul water drainage along the Evesham/Station Road now some twenty four months since initial on site meetings we are still waiting for the County Council to finalise its findings, in the meantime residents continue to face the threat of flooding to their property from the highway & foul water sewage systems along this road.

During these last four years one event has had the overwhelming support of the majority of parishioners Skip weekend, those four days in April we place skips at various locations in the Parish, this year skip week will be Friday 18th April to Monday 21st April however each year the cost to provide the skips multiplies with landfill charges escalating.

2007 saw the resignation of the council's clerk Mr. Eric Mitchell and the appointment of his successor Mr. Michael Philpot and late in the year the resignation of Councillor Mrs Jane Corbett. The vacancy of Councillor was advertised no one came forward, the council having only six months of its term of office left decided to leave the position vacant.

In January 2008 The council commissioned a Housing Needs Survey conducted independently by Warwickshire Community Council & Warwickshire Rural Housing. We expect their findings in the next few weeks.

An award of £5000 was received from Awards for All to improve the council's WEB Site and improve the office computer equipment.

Finances:

In

2005/2006 this Council set a precept of £40,000.00

2006/2007 £41,000.00

2007/2008 £42,500.00

For 2008/2009 this Council has set a precept of £42,500.00 - No Increase in the Parish rate.

Grants

The council awarded £819.00 last year one of its lowest figures for many years.

Salford Seven Ladies Group	£300.00
Salford Priors Over 60's Club	£200.00
West Warwickshire Scouts	£200.00
Salford Priors Royal British Legion	£100.00
Salford Priors Royal British Legion	£ 19.00

The limit of spending under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for this council in the year ended 31st March 2008 was $1210 \times £5.64 = £6,824.40$.

Planning

In the last year the Council considered and made representations on 31 planning applications and 3 Listed Building Applications.

A new council will take office in May some of the issues that were on the agenda in May 2004 will still be there in May 2008.

The reliability of power supplies, highway drains, potholes, the future of Bidford Fire Station, Alcester Hospital and many more.

As I said earlier we lost Maureen Edmonds, former Councillor Douglas Partridge and clerk of 19 years Edward Clark the council have marked their service to this community with a memorial flower bed (Maureen) , new road signs at Rushford (Douglas) and a grant of £300 towards coach trips for the over sixty's club in memory of Eddie.

Councillor Roger Band has decided not to seek re-election, I place on record my appreciation for the work Roger has done over the last four years.

Finally as chairman I would like to record my appreciation to all members of the parish council, former members and the clerk for their work and commitment over the last four years.

Kim James

16th April 2008