

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2011

WE HAVE HAD ANOTHER BUSY AND EVENTFUL YEAR WHICH IS THE LAST OF THE CURRENT 4 YEAR TERM OF OFFICE, AS ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN MAY.

IN 2010 WE HAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO TWO OF OUR MEMBERS AND OUR HANDYMAN

WE WERE SORRY TO LOSE A LONG SERVING MEMBER - PETE COCKETT - WHO RESIGNED DUE TO HIS OTHER COMMITMENTS. PETER HAS DONE A LOT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND IS STILL CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES AT THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE UNDER MARILYN'S SUPERVISION. JULIA STANIFORTH AGREED TO BE CO-OPTED ONTO THE PARISH COUNCIL TO FILL THIS VACANCY. THANKS TO JULIA.

A SHORT TIME LATER, LYN ALLWOOD, DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, ALSO RESIGNED SHE TOO MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL AND WAS PARTICULARLY ADEPT IN ORGANISING THE SENIOR CITIZENS OUTING.

FORTUNATELY JASON FLETCHER CAME FORWARD TO FILL THE VACANCY AND JOIN THE TEAM – THANK YOU JASON. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE A YOUNGER MEMBER ON BOARD AND IT IS HOPED BOTH NEW MEMBERS ARE ENJOYING THEIR WORK ON THE PARISH COUNCIL.

THEN HARRY, OUR LONG SERVING HANDYMAN, WHO NEVER COMPLAINED AND JUST GOT ON WITH HIS DUTIES FELT THE TIME HAD COME TO HANG UP HIS WHEEL BARROW AND *LITTA PIKKA*. HARRY CARRIED OUT HIS WORK IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER, IN ALL WEATHERS AND WITHOUT ANY COMPLAINT. THANK YOU AGAIN HARRY!

WE ADVERTISED THE VACANCY AND HAD QUITE A FEW REPLIES. TWO MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CARRIED OUT THE INTERVIEWS AND IT WAS DECIDED TO APPOINT MARK PLOWRIGHT. HE IS ENJOYING THE WORK AND IS ALSO DOING A GOOD JOB IN THE VILLAGE.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SY POLICE, PCSO's AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM HAVE ATTENDED OUR MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME. INSPECTOR COWLING HAS ADVISED IT IS HOPED THE BEAT MANAGER, SUBJECT TO OPERATIONS PERMITTING, WILL ATTEND MEETINGS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

WE HAVE TRIED OVER A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO CO-ERCE DMBC INTO ADMINISTERING 20MPH ZONES OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOLS. THE MAYOR ADVISED SUCH ZONES ARE ON A PRIORITY BASIS AND WE SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED HIM TO DEFINE 'PRIORITY'. THE REPLY WAS THAT THE CURRENT SPEED LIMITS ARE CORRECTLY SET. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT THIS DECISION BUT IT MAY WELL TAKE SOME TIME TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL.

LAST SUMMER MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WERE INVITED TO TOUR THE AIRPORT – THERE WAS THE CHANCE TO RIDE DOWN THE RUNWAY IN A MINI-BUS AND VISIT THE CONTROL TOWER. IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING DAY. ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT WISHES TO BE GOOD NEIGHBOURS AND ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, IAN SWAINSTON, REGULARLY ATTENDS MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMUNITY SUB COMMITTEE WHEN ISSUES OF NOISE ETC ARE RAISED.

WE HAVE HAD A SURVEY CARRIED OUT OF ALL THE TREES AND COPSES ON RIVERSIDE PARK AND WORK ON PHASE 4 HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED, TO THE REAR OF SANDHILL RISE AND ALONG RIVER WAY ACCESS. LATER IN THE ENSUING MEETING, WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE NEXT PHASE, POSSIBLY FROM THE CAR PARK DOWN TO THE RIVER, WHICH INCLUDES BUSHES WHERE IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE THE PLAY EQUIPMENT INSTALLED.

ALSO AT THE ENTRANCE TO RIVERSIDE PARK, FROM RIVER WAY, IT WAS AGREED TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENTS FOR ACCESS WHICH WILL BE MAINTENANCE FREE – THIS WAS IN THE SUM OF £1662.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, SADLY SOME DOG OWNERS ALLOW THEIR PETS TO FOUL THE PITCH AND OTHERS DO NOT SEEM TO CARE THAT THEIR DOGS 'DEPOSIT' ON PAVEMENTS THROUGH THE PARISH. WITH REGARD TO THE FOOTBALL AREA, ONE OF OUR MEMBERS – JASON - KINDLY PRODUCED APPROPRIATE NOTICES BUT THESE WERE TAKEN DOWN BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. RECENTLY DMBC WAS CONTACTED TO PROSECUTE ONE OWNER BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THIS COULD NOT BE PURSUED DUE TO 'TIME OUT'. THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS WHO ARE VERY RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS.

WE ARE AWARE OF THE CONGESTION OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOLS AT PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES. THIS IS A SITUATION AFFECTING MOST SCHOOLS AND PCSO's AND CSW's HAVE VISITED AND THE SITUATION IS BEING MONITORED.

WE HAVE ALSO CONTACTED DMBC REGARDING PARKING OF VEHICLES OUTSIDE THE SHOPS ON ELLERS LANE. SOME MOTORISTS CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE YELLOW LINES AND WE HAVE AGAIN ASKED FOR THE TRAFFIC WARDEN TO VISIT AND HAND OUT TICKETS WHERE APPROPRIATE. EVEN WHEN THE ADJACENT CAR PARK IS EMPTY, SOME PEOPLE JUST WILL NOT WALK.

THE OLD RED TELEPHONE BOX SITS RESPLENDENT OUTSIDE THE SHOPS ON ELLERS LANE AND WE ACCEPTED A QUOTATION RECENTLY FOR IT TO BE PAINTED ON THE OUTSIDE. REPAIRS TO THE FLOOR HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

THIS WINTER HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY BAD AND WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DMBC REGARDING CLEARING OF ROADS AND PAVEMENTS. DMBC SEEMS TO HAVE TRIED ITS BEST WITHIN THE BOROUGH AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM DID CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SAY IF ANY PERSONS COULDN'T ACCESS DOCTORS OR CHEMISTS, THAT A 4X4 WAS AT THEIR DISPOSAL. A VERY GOOD INITIATIVE.

IN JANUARY MEMBERS ATTENDED A MEETING AT THE PARISH CENTRE WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SYPTE AND FIRST BUSES, FOLLOWING CONCERNS FROM RESIDENTS THAT BUSES WERE NOT LEAVING DONCASTER ON TIME, ARRIVING LATE ETC. THE MEETING DID PROVE HELPFUL AND WE WERE ASSURED THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES. IT WAS STATED THAT, WITH ICE/SNOW, SAFETY IS A PRIORITY AND, IN SUCH EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES, BUSES WILL NOT RUN. IT WAS AGREED THAT A FURTHER MEETING MAY BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR.

DURING THE YEAR WE GAVE DONATIONS TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (ALSO COVERING A WREATH) WE DONATED £900 TO THE SHOW COMMITTEE (THEY DO A STERLING JOB) AND £500 TO DRI TOWARDS REFURBISHMENT OF A ROOM FOR RELATIVES OF PATIENTS WHO ARE ILL. £750 TO VULCAN YOUTH CLUB TOWARDS ITS COSTLY INSURANCE PREMIUM. RECENTLY THE CHILDREN OF AUCKLEY AND HAYFIELD LANE PRIMARY SCHOOLS CREATED POSTERS RELATING TO THE DOG FOULING NUISANCE. TWO MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ACTED AS JUDGES AND WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES TO THE WINNERS. WE GAVE £30 TO EACH SCHOOL FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PRIZES.

PARISH COUNCILS USED TO RECEIVE A 'DOUBLE RATING GRANT' REIMBURSEMENT FROM DMBC. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT, DUE TO CUTS WHICH THE AUTHORITY HAS TO MAKE, WE WILL NO LONGER BE RECEIVING THIS REIMBURSEMENT. THE SUM RECLAIMED WAS c£900 AND COVERED THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING, ETC.

WE HAVE NOT INCREASED OUR PRECEPT FOR 2011/12 SO THIS REMAINS AT £28K. SOME OF THE PRECEPT GOES TOWARDS PAYING OUR HANDYMAN AND THE CLERK, AND MAINTAINING OUR VARIOUS SITES AND EQUIPMENT.

OVER THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE COMMENTED ON APPROXIMATELY 40 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE NO ROLE OTHER THAN TO MAKE COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS. DECISIONS LIE SOLELY WITH DMBC. WE DO HAVE CONCERNS REGARDING DMBC'S CORE STRATEGY INsofar AS NO GREEN BELT LAND IS DESIGNATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE BOROUGH. WE HAVE FORWARDED OUR CONCERNS TO DMBC AND TO CPRE ON THIS ISSUE.

WE CONTACTED DMBC WITH REGARD TO THE AMOUNT OF MUD, SOIL ON THE HIGHWAY OUTSIDE A QUARRY IN THE PARISH AND THE OWNER HAS BEEN ADVISED THIS MUST BE CLEARED ON A REGULAR BASIS. IT IS A DANGER WHEN THE ROAD IS WET OR THERE IS ICE ON THE HIGHWAY.

AT RIVERSIDE PARK WE ARE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A PLAY EQUIPMENT COMPANY TO INSTALL PLAY EQUIPMENT ON AN AREA NEAR TO THE CAR PARK. THIS WILL COVER AGES FROM 3-11. DMBC HOLDS AN AMOUNT OF MONEY – CALLED SECTION 106 - NOW CURRENTLY IN THE REGION OF £46.5K REMAINING FROM THE DURSLEY COURT DEVELOPMENT. SOME OF THIS MONEY WAS SPENT AT SPEY DRIVE PLAY AREA AND IT WAS AGREED THE BULK WOULD BE USED TO REPLACE THE FACILITY AT RIVERSIDE PARK. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS PLEDGED £22.5K AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE KEPT THE PRECEPT AT ITS CURRENT LEVEL AND NOT REDUCED SAME. THERE WAS AN OPEN DAY ON THE FIELD SOME TIME AGO TO GAUGE WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD LIKE AND WE ARE STRIVING TOWARDS INSTALLATION LATER THIS YEAR. WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE IN THAT A RESIDENT OF AUCKLEY – ANTHONY SNOWDEN, ARCHITECT - HAS AGREED TO DRAW UP THE PLANS AT A REDUCED RATE AS WE NEED TO OBTAIN CONSENT FROM DMBC. A BIG THANK YOU TO ANTHONY.

TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR WE WERE APPROACHED BY DMBC STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO ASK IF REPRESENTATIVES COULD ATTEND ONE OF OUR MEETINGS. WE WERE PLEASED WITH THIS INITIATIVE AND WELCOMED THE MEMBERS TO OUR MEETING. THANKFULLY THEY WENT AWAY

QUITE HAPPY WITH HOW WE DECLARE INTERESTS AT OUR MEETINGS AND HOW OUR MEETINGS ARE CONDUCTED.

WE KNOW THAT RESIDENTS WERE CONCERNED WHEN THE AUTHORITY DECIDED TO REMOVE THE BUS SHELTER AT MAIN STREET. CONSEQUENTLY THE OWNER OF THE ADJOINING PROPERTY HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL, AND THUS WE HAVE RECENTLY AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR ITS REPLACEMENT TO A LOCAL BUILDER – MR GAFFNEY – WHO IS TO BUILD A NEW SHELTER IN STONE IN THE COMING WEEKS (COST IN THE REGION OF £6K). WE THINK THIS KIND OF STRUCTURE, SIMILAR TO THE ONE OUTSIDE THE LITTLE MANOR HOUSE, WILL BE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING AND SHOULD BE MORE OR LESS VANDAL PROOF. DMBC AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE PTE HAVE GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL AND WE THANK THEM AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE ADJACENT LANDOWNER, FOR HIS VALUED ASSISTANCE.

AT AN EARLIER MEETING THIS YEAR WE ASKED IF REPRESENTATIVES OF STWA COULD BE PRESENT, FOLLOWING CONCERNS FROM RESIDENTS IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE PUMPING STATION ON COMMON LANE. THE BUILDING WAS CLEARLY IN A POOR STATE OF REPAIR AND NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROOF. ALSO TANKERS HAD TO PARK OUTSIDE DURING THE DAY AS THE ENTRANCE WAS TOO NARROW FOR THE VEHICLES TO ACCESS. THIS WAS CONSIDERED A SAFETY ISSUE IN TERMS OF CHILDREN WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL. STWA CONCEDED THIS WAS A PROBLEM AND ADVISED THAT SCHOOL TIMES WOULD BE AVOIDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ATTEND MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES:- THE AIRPORT, DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE, PC JCC, CHARITY TRUST, PARISH CENTRE COMMITTEE, AND MEETINGS OF THE HAYFIELD CENTRE COMMITTEE WHICH IS LOOKING INTO COMMUNITY FACILITIES ON LAND BELONGING TO PEEL AIRPORTS OFF HAYFIELD LANE. ALSO WE ATTEND SEMINARS ARRANGED BY OUR YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION, MEETINGS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND WITH OTHER PARISHES.

I AM SURE RESIDENTS WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD AGAIN THIS YEAR TO ANOTHER AUCKLEY SHOW AND CHRISTMAS MARKET. A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL INVOLVED ON THESE COMMITTEES FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO WHAT HAVE BECOME WONDERFUL COMMUNITY EVENTS. THANKS ALSO TO RESIDENTS WHO HAVE PROVIDED AND PLANTED THE TUBS ON THE GRASSED TRIANGLE AT EASTFIELD LANE, AND TO THE GARDEN & ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION FOR KINDLY PLANTING OUT THE TUBS ON THE GREEN.

NOW TO THE GATING ORDER ON COMMON LANE. THIS WAS FIRST PUT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL BECAUSE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OCCURRING INCLUDING FLY TIPPING. SUBSEQUENTLY WE WERE ADVISED BY DMBC THAT A GATING ORDER WOULD HAVE TO BE IN PLACE, UNDER THE HIGHWAYS ACT, TO PREVENT UNAUTHORISED VEHICULAR ACCESS BUT WOULD ALLOW PEDESTRIANS AND HORSE RIDERS TO ACCESS THE LANE. THE THREE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ADVISED THEY WOULD FUND THE COST OF THE GATES – ONE AT AUCKLEY END AND ONE AT BLAXTON SIDE – VIA THE FLEXIBLE BUDGET WARD ALLOCATION. AFTER A VISIT TO A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE N/HOOD TEAM AND A LOCAL FARMER, THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREED TO MEET THE COST OF A PLANNING APPLICATION. THIS APPLICATION WAS PASSED AND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED. HOWEVER, WE WERE MOST CONCERNED TO HEAR RECENTLY FROM DMBC LEGAL SECTION THAT UNDER THE ACT NO-ONE OTHER THAN THOSE FOR LAWFUL USE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO WALK DOWN THE LANE. IT WAS NEVER ANYONE'S INTENTION TO

PREVENT ACCESS TO RESIDENTS. AFTER ALL THE LANE (COMMON) HAS BEEN USED FOR DECADES BY WALKERS AND ALSO THERE IS A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY LEADING FROM THE BEND ON THE BLAXTON SIDE TO THE RIVER, NOT TO MENTION A BRIDGE WHICH WAS ERECTED OVER THE RIVER SOME YEARS AGO SO THAT PEOPLE COULD WALK FROM BRANTON OVER THE BRIDGE INTO COMMON LANE. AS SOON AS WE WERE ADVISED OF THIS SITUATION WE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED A SPECIALIST IN THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION, WHO HAD HELPED US SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY WITH AN ISSUE RESULTING IN A PUBLIC ENQUIRY. HE SUGGESTED OTHER ACTS WHICH DMBC COULD USE TO FACILITATE WALKERS AND HORSE RIDERS BUT, ON ADVISING DMBC ON THESE FACTS, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE SUGGESTIONS WERE UNSUITABLE IN THIS INSTANCE. THUS WE HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION AT OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, WHETHER TO LET THE MATTER DROP OR FORMALLY OBJECT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A PUBLIC ENQUIRY. MEMBERS WILL DEBATE THIS ISSUE SHORTLY, AND OF COURSE RESIDENTS' VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO US AND NO DOUBT THOSE WHICH YOU WISH TO RAISE LATER, WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. NO-ONE WISHES TO PREVENT ANY RESIDENTS FROM USING THE LANE.

A FEW MORE THANK YOUs – TO OUR PCSOs, CSWs, ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM, OFFICERS FROM DMBC, WHO HAVE HELPED US VERY ABLY WITH GETTING THE NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT OFF THE GROUND. TO OUR BEAT MANAGER AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE IN THIS AREA - OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PRO-ACTIVE DURING A RECENT SPEIGHT OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR. THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR WARD COUNCILLORS FOR ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS AND TAKING FORWARD ISSUES RAISED.

I THINK OURS IS ONE OF THE MOST PROFESSIONAL PARISH COUNCILS IN THE AREA. WE WORK AS A TEAM AND ALL MEMBERS DO WHATEVER THEY CAN FOR THE PARISH AND GIVE THEIR TIME FREELY, WITHOUT PAYMENT AND WITH OTHER PRESSURES ON THEIR TIME. MEMBERS MAKE VALUED CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN DISCUSSING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND WHEN DEBATING AND MAKING DECISIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES, EVEN THOUGH IT IS FRUSTRATING AT TIMES BECAUSE THE WHEELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DON'T ALWAYS RUN AS FAST AS WE WOULD LIKE. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM, AND HAVING BEEN INVOLVED WITH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR OVER 30 YEARS, I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT AUCKLEY PC IS A BEACON WHICH SHINES FAR AND ABOVE THE REST.

FINALLY, I CANNOT END THIS REPORT WITHOUT A BIG THANK YOU TO MARJORIE, OUR CLERK, WHO HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A NATIONAL TREASURE. CLERKS GET PAID FOR WORKING CERTAIN HOURS BUT MARJORIE – AS WE ALL KNOW – PUTS IN MANY HOURS OVER AND ABOVE THOSE FOR WHICH SHE IS REMUNERATED. SHE IS VERY PROFESSIONAL AND HARDWORKING, NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR HER AND I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD DO WITHOUT HER.

ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU TO ALL.

JENNIFER WORTHINGTON

CHAIR, AUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2011

