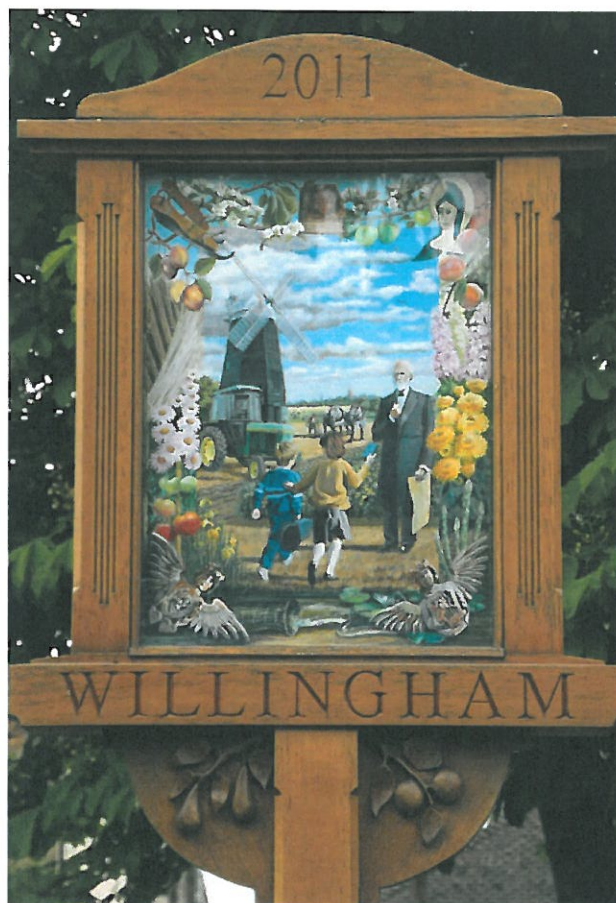
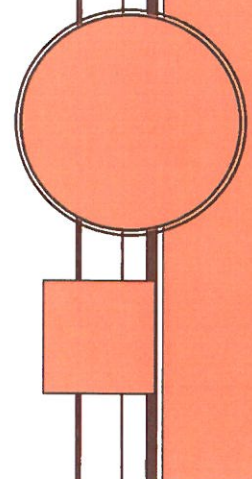


# WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

*2015- 2016*



*1<sup>ST</sup> May 2016*



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have huge respect for those that are able to chair the same business or committee or council for many years. Pat Daniels is an example in our own community of someone who did so, wonderfully well. I belong to the school of thought that it is best to rotate leaders on a regular basis. So whilst it was a privilege and a pleasure to chair the council from March 2007 until December 2010, I was more than happy at that point to call it a day.

Having been called back to the lead role I totally accept that it was on the basis of availability. It will cease as soon as a worthier candidate comes forward. Sadly, there is not a long queue of applicants. On a good day you may get less than one complaint, but normally you have to cheerfully accept the blame for the dog mess on Long Lane, despite not owning a dog, the broken bottles on the recreation ground, the idiots that use the village as a formula one practice circuit and even the lack of a Christmas tree.

I am always amazed how hard our councillors work, unpaid and unrecognised. They give freely of their time to attend numerous meetings in the village and at many other locations to cover district, county and other matters, such as liaison with local companies. The councillors are entitled to reasonable expenses for these journeys but they are rarely claimed. Your councillors are definitely not tainted with the Westminster brush and provide very good value for money. I thank them all for their vital input and urge anyone who believes that they can do better to put their name forward for future election or co-option.

I was asked by a parishioner what exactly the parish council do other than meet once a month for a chat, tea and biscuits. It was a useful question as it reminded me just how much they do do. Without a parish council, or an alternative body, there would be nobody to fund or manage facilities like the recreation ground, the village halls, the playgrounds, the village green, the youth club or the cemetery. There would have been no parish plan and presumably no action group. There would be no local input to planning or representation on district or county committees, no formal lobbying voice, no central support for Willingham News, no piper lifelines and no office, support staff or regular meetings open to all.

A few other things that we have been doing this year include:

- Lobbying UK Power Network (UKPN), a small but quite important task. The village has been plagued for years by a flaky power supply with outages on a monthly basis. The parish council has been keeping a log of these and challenged UKPN on the service they provide. They admitted shortcomings in maintenance and infrastructure which to be fair they have done something to address. Despite the bad weather in the first quarter of this year the supply has been much more robust. We will continue monitoring.
- Looking at boundary issues. For some years it has been apparent that the old parish boundaries are out of date. The worst example is between Willingham and Over. Not all parishioners may be aware of this but as soon as you cross Hayden Way you are in Over. The businesses and residents in the vicinity of Highgate Farm believe this is wrong and so do we. Over are very opposed to any change. We will keep pressing the issue.



- Attempting to protect Willingham as a Minor Rural Centre. The village was defined as such after lobbying by WPC. This status, in theory, puts a limit on the scale and size of new developments, but the District Council seems unwilling to support this. There are several large new developments seeking approval. WPC is currently opposing them.
- Pressing on highway matters. Most folk would have given up long ago but WPC keeps lobbying highways on a raft of issues. Whilst a bypass is the obvious answer to most of the problems it is very unlikely to happen with the current spending constraints until a large enough number of our residents are mown down by heavy goods vehicles in the High Street. Meanwhile WPC will keep chipping away at improvements to traffic calming, speed limits and brain dead parking.
- Liaising with CCC. Sadly, our County Council do not seem to be the brightest stars in the universe. I could point to the layby on the A14 that is unusable, the Bar Hill traffic lights that had to be removed and the slip road to nowhere. But, to be fair they have been pushed into huge cost savings, some of which are deserved and some probably not. Street lighting has been one proposed cost saving solution, and WPC has liaised with county to improve the pattern of lights to be left on in Willingham all night. WPC also keeps a close eye on proposals affecting the future of the Library.

These are just a few examples of issues that the council work on. Of course, none of them would be possible without the support of the small number of staff we employ. Enormous thanks are due to our Clerk, Mandy, who earns her keep every single day and works far beyond the call of duty. We are enormously grateful to her for her hard work and her constantly positive and cheerful attitude. We are equally grateful to our long serving and long suffering Responsible Financial Officer, Sarah, who, over many years, has kept us solvent and compliant with a plethora of new legislation. And of course to Mark, who throughout the year and in all weathers helps to keep our village tidy. I send my personal thanks to a great team.

Finally, I need to talk about money. Reserves have been significantly reduced over the last few years from major projects such as the new playground equipment, the youth club and some exceptional legal costs. New big ticket items are still very much on the agenda when funds permit including the QE11 Field Phase 2 and the Meadow Road woodland. And, if we can finally find a site that complies with the regulations then a new cemetery is also a priority. Space in the existing site is running out fast, so please stay healthy whilst we keep looking.

The precept bid for 2016/2017 at £115,000 is an increase of less than one percent from 2015/2016. It represents an average cost for each household in the village of one pound and twenty pence per week.

Phil King  
Chairman

# LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

## CEMETERY

Following complaints of grass cuttings being left on grave memorial stones, the council appointed a new contractor for 2015 to look after the cemetery, under a revised contract, which included mowing and collecting of cuttings at the western end of the cemetery.

However, although this work was carried out successfully around the new graves in this area, there were still a lot of complaints regarding the length of grass in the south west half, where the older graves are located.

This led the council to again reconsider the contract, and towards the end of the year the council requested new tenders, and in December 2015, appointed Fergusons to take on the work for the coming year.

The new contractors undertook to cut the grass before the start of the growing season, to establish a tidy start to the new season. Since then, we have had a number of favourable comments from visitors saying how pleased they are with the current look of the area.



Historic England have advised the council that the War Memorial has been given grade II status as of 5th April 2016.

We continue to actively look for suitable land for a new cemetery, as our space for new graves continues to diminish year on year.

Steve Mellows  
Lead Councillor - Cemetery

## GREEN AND BOUNDARIES

### Volunteer Tree Warden

The Council have appointed a volunteer Tree Warden this year to help them with future projects and to advise on any ongoing tree issues the parish may have. The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative founded by the [Tree Council](#) (the UK's lead charity for trees), and co-ordinated locally by South Cambs District Council. The scheme was founded to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. Tree Wardens are volunteers who gather information about local trees, encourage practical projects and get involved with local tree matters.



### Meadow Road

Since my last report on the Meadow Road site, it has been cleared of all hard standings. Willingham Action Group have planted many trees to the rear of the site and thanks go to their volunteers for all the hard work put in. **Unfortunately, several trees have been lost due to either not growing or being destroyed by horses that have been put on the site without permission (this is what is known as fly grazing). New legislation passed will hopefully allow land owners to remove horses more easily in the future.**



There is still work to do on the site and at the time of writing the Council are looking at various options including continuing to plant further trees and replacing/adding to the hedging and fencing to the perimeter and front of the site.

### The Green



I have been working with our newly appointed Tree Warden and assessing the future care of the trees on the Green. Unfortunately, it would appear there are some trees alongside the footpath that are either dying or coming to the end of their life. The horse chestnuts will also be looked at and addressed if needed.

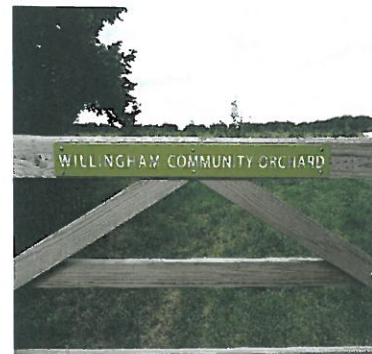
The Council are hoping to upgrade the Christmas lighting on the Green this year and are currently looking at the options available ready for Christmas 2016

### Community orchard

I'm happy to report that the orchard is now progressing well and the trees are establishing themselves.

There is still much to do here this year including some maintenance to the trees and hedgerows adjacent to the orchard which is scheduled for later in the year.

WAG are planning on introducing a beehive to the rear of the orchard during the next twelve months and this will be managed by nominated experienced bee keepers. Hopefully this will prove to be a successful and beneficial addition to the orchard.



Jim Watson  
Lead Councillor - Green & Boundaries

## LEISURE AND AMENITIES

### Recreation Ground



Unlike recent years the recreation ground has not been subject to flooding, work by the Environment Agency to maintain the Lode appears to be beneficial to the draining of the rec during wet spells. We still occasionally get areas next to the bowls club that struggle to drain water away so will monitor this and look to seek ways of improving the drainage if necessary.

We still plan regular maintenance work to the recreation ground including reseeding, fertilising and weed killing, Willingham has an excellent open space for all the public to enjoy.

The main users of the recreation ground are Willingham Wolves, Willingham Cricket Club and the Hockey Club, I doubt there is a weekend that goes by where you will not find an activity that is not ongoing. Unfortunately, Willingham no longer has a men's football team something which hopefully will change in the near future. Willingham Cricket Club are always looking for new members so if anyone is interested in participating in any of the sports check the Willingham News for contact details.

### Pavilion

The Sports Pavilion is mainly used by the cricket and football clubs, it has 4 changing rooms and 2



referee's rooms complete with shower facilities. Maintaining the sports pavilion is reasonably low cost, mainly replacing roof tiles. The pavilion does have a meeting room that can be used by anyone, more details can be obtained by the Clerk.

Outside the main door of the pavilion is located the Defibrillator which to date has yet to be used, this serves as a vital piece of life saving equipment for anyone.

### QE11 Field

So most notably we officially opened Phase 1 of the redevelopment of the QE11 field on July 12<sup>th</sup> following months of hard work by the action party led by WAG in conjunction with the Parish Council.



This exciting new playground is enjoyed by so many young and old and offers a great space for the whole family to spend time together.



Phase 2 of the redevelopment hopefully will see some traction this year, watch out for further news!

2 notable events this summer are It's a Knockout which was successfully run by WAG in 2014 and makes a return to help raise funds for Phase 2 of the QE11 redevelopment plus other projects; this event is being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Also Fen Gallop 2016 is being held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016, the inaugural event attracted 350 participants over 2 events, this year it's likely to be even bigger!

Best of luck to the organisers of both events and I'm sure the whole Willingham community will be supporting them.

Jamie Smith  
Lead Councillor - Leisure & Amenities

## **HALLS**

The past year has involved considerable activity, chiefly related to the Ploughman Hall. Several items of expenditure were required which had not been foreseen.

The key areas of current and future activity with respect to the Ploughman and Public Halls are summarised below:

### The Ploughman Hall:

1. Following a flood in the gentlemen's toilets there was considerable damage to the Parish Office. The Office subsequently required extensive refurbishment. Whilst much of the cost was covered by insurance there was still considerable work involved in seeking estimates for the range of remedial work required.
2. The quality of the current Hall furniture was reviewed with a view to replacing those items no longer fit for purpose. Those items that were replaced were re-cycled to other village organisations. The main hall floor was sanded and re-sealed.
3. The Hall pumping station required repair and replacement of parts. This necessary work had not been budgeted for.
4. Following the handover to the Willingham Youth Trust in October 2014 of the converted area of the Ploughman Hall some minor remedial work has been necessary, primarily the replacement of an external emergency exit door.
5. Work complementing the internal conversion work was separately commissioned. This involved the upgrading of security lighting adjacent to the entrance to the youth facility and the re-siting of security cameras to include surveillance of the QEII Field play equipment. It was also necessary to replace the CCTV hard drive. The expense of the latter item had not been budgeted for.
6. Hire of the Hall remains robust, with approximately three quarters of the income being generated by regular bookings. A review of the hiring rates concluded that there should be no change to current rates at this time. It was, however, decided to introduce a new reduced rate for regular hirers of the hall during the middle of the day, when the hall is currently little used.
7. In the coming year it is planned to re-decorate the external areas of the Hall and the entrance foyer. The current signage for the Hall will be reviewed and enhancement considered. This latter work has been held over from last year.





### The Public Hall:

1. The minor internal work which was completed last year has been complemented by the re-routing of part of the external guttering. The air quality in the Hall is now improved.
2. During the year there has been some disruption to Public Hall users and pedestrians caused by car parking practice at Westminster Homecare. After several written and oral representations, the situation now appears to have been resolved satisfactorily.
3. Tenders have been sought for the decoration of the Hall's remaining external window frames. The quotations have involved expenditure considered to be in excess of that appropriate at this time and this work will be held over.



Ray Croucher  
*Lead Councillor - Halls*

## PLANNING

The Planning Committee met 17 times during the year and considered 43 planning applications.

These were for: 4 developments, 1 conservatory, 14 extensions, 4 single dwellings, 2 changes of use, 3 signage and advertising, 1 annex, and sundry amendments, chimneys and reserved matters.

The committee made no recommendation for 11 applications, recommended 24 for approval and 9 for refusal: of these 9, 3 were subsequently approved by the District Council.

We are still suffering the fallout from the judgement that South Cambs' Local Plan did not have sufficient housing identified to provide a five year supply. This means local plan provisions, such as village envelopes, green belt and particularly Willingham's designation as a "Minor Rural Centre" – with a limit on new developments – are all suspended. The process for fixing this still has over a year to run, so we will be without protection for some time yet.

Hence, the recent applications for 64 houses off Haden Way and 26 at 1b Over Road. The large development of 72 houses at Rockmill End was already in the SCDC plan, although it was only for 50 houses originally.

Derek Law  
Chairman – Planning Committee

# COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPORTS

## COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The last 12 months have been a continuous round of chasing potholes with other highway issues and numerous other requests from the council, clerk and residents.

The Northstowe traffic lights are now on a sensor that gives priority to users of the B1050. I have personally checked this at various times of the day and night!

I really am very appreciative of the large amount of personal correspondence I receive from our residents with requests for help on a number of issues, such as surface water flooding, location of temporary traffic lights, problems with school placements for their children to name but a few. I find this individual case work very rewarding, especially when common sense prevails, and working with parents manage to find a place at the correct school for their children. One particular difficult case concerned separated parents with a child requiring special educational needs; I am pleased to say that this is now going through mediation and the special educational package will involve both parents.

On my previous report I mentioned working to help low income families to take advantage of the free child care for two year olds. This free care has now been extended to 3 and 4 year olds and I'm pleased to report that we now have many more families within the three parishes I represent taking advantage of this extra help.

Another issue that I was asked to help with was the mobile library service. This came about by two very elderly ladies from Over, who wrote to me explaining that they had heard the weekly visit from the library van was due to be cut to make savings. These two ladies have limited mobility and for them, and I am sure many others, this weekly visit is a lifeline which they depend on, and the removal of this service would have a drastic effect upon their lives.

I have also worked with vulnerable adults and the elderly to assist with placements and to help with benefit applications. I am also a Trustee of the Over Day Centre, which does fantastic work with the elderly of all our surrounding villages. They too have had to change how they work and finance themselves and we have had many meetings with the County Council to ensure that this valuable local asset is not lost

One of the more difficult cases this year has been the illegal tethering of horses. These horses are a danger to both local riders and walkers, especially when they become free of their tether. Mrs Ramsden has been the leading resident in this and regularly updates me on the movement of horses. I held various meetings with County Officers which included George Hay the Enforcement Officer. The law states that the owners have to be contacted and asked to move them; this in its self can be quite dangerous with the possibility of intimidation and violence. Therefore, the police need to be part of the overall team. This has caused some problems so I involved the Police and Crime Commissioner in my correspondence. I am happy to report that the Police are now firmly on side, and the County Council



have made available limited funds to remove any persistent and inappropriately tethered horses. This is on the understanding that all possible enquires into the ownership of the horses have been made by the Police and the District Traveller Team. The County Council also intend to signpost their intentions so there is no misunderstanding within the community. We also now have Inspector Jane Drury, the Safer Neighbourhood Manager working with us to create a protocol for the fly grazing issue. I hope this issue will now be more manageable.

The 30mph speed limit extension has been another long running saga! The Police are being more difficult than expected, and the County Council Highways Dept. has had staffing issues. Both of these have caused what I would call an unacceptable delay. However, I am determined to push this forward as I consider the Police objections to be weak. A case may have to be made to the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee for a final decision.

With the passing of the Adult and Social Care Act, the County Council along with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) have created 16 new neighbourhood teams across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to act as local hubs for community health services for older people and adults with long term conditions. These teams are made up of community and mental health nurses and therapists. Social care staff in Older People's Services are being aligned to the neighbourhood teams to improve working relationships with CPFT colleagues. Work has also begun on a number of work streams to foster collaboration on integrated solutions to prevent, delay and reduce ongoing need for health and social care. These include:

- Shared points of access for professionals and service users
- Arranging joint reviews and creating one plan for older people with complex needs
- Developing pathways from CPFT's new JET service (Joint Emergency Team) to other intermediate tier services
- Sustaining an integrated Occupational Therapy Service
- Promoting co-location for CPFT and CCC staff

#### Council Budget 2016/17

After many weeks of discussions and a mammoth 12 hour full council meeting, the County Council budget was passed.

There were several options on the table, three groups wanted to raise the County Council contribution to the Council Tax by as much as 4% per year for the next 3-4 years, one group wanted a raise of 0% for one year, and one for a raise of only 1.99%. The council was presented with a full and balanced budget based on an increased tax of only 1.99%.

The 4% raise failed to get through as did the 0%. Then the group who wanted 0% went in with the others for a raise of 4%! But after some heated discussions this rainbow coalition failed.

At the end of a very long day, the tax was raised by just 2%. This 2% raise will be ring-fenced for adult health and social care which the County Council now has extra responsibility for.

#### Within this budget:

- We will save the School Crossing Patrol lollipop people
- We will keep the streetlights on until 2.00am
- We will maintain the vital community transport grant.

- We will retain the mobile library service
- We will maintain the road maintenance funding
- We will continue the Fenland Learning Centres

I believe that this was a good result, as many of our residents are low paid and cannot afford any excessive tax rises.

The council has continued to lobby government and explain to them that increasing taxation locally to offset an unfair national funding formula cannot be justified. That lobbying paid off, and Cambridgeshire will receive additional transitional grant funding from government of £3.20 million in 2016/17 and £3.17 million in 2017/18. Also, the unfair funding issue will be reassessed by Central Government in a new review on the local funding formula.

It is essential that the County Council continues to change how it operates even more than it has done over the past few years. The shared Chief Executive and shared services with other Local Authorities are saving many millions of pounds. This has to be taken much further to enable a slimmed down, transformed, highly efficient council, to provide the highest level of services to our residents at the lowest possible cost.

Peter Hudson  
Cambridgeshire County Councillor

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 2015**

### **Northstowe**

Continuing to make the headlines, Northstowe has been keeping us all busy over the last 12 months. Not so long after planning consent was granted to Gallagher Estates for Phase 1 of the development, we received the planning application from the Homes and Communities Agency for Phase 2, along with the Southern Access Road. This second application was for a total of 3,500 homes (on top of the 1,500 already granted under Phase 1), located largely on the former barracks area in Longstanton. You'll recall Phase 1 was located on the old Longstanton Golf Course.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June Northstowe Phase 2 was granted outline consent subject to agreeing of the section 106 agreement, and the necessary conditions to make the application acceptable in planning terms. Alongside this, approval was also granted for the Southern Access Road, linking Northstowe to the B1050, between Longstanton and Bar Hill.

A month later the section 106 and conditions were agreed, and provided for a total of £73 million of funding for community facilities, and a level of 20% affordable housing. It remains to be seen if this level of affordable housing can be delivered, given the governments emerging policy on 'Starter Homes' and we are working very hard to look at innovative ways we might be able to deliver this.

Another key achievement was the inclusion of £450K of capital funding for upgrades to the cycle routes from Northstowe to Girton.

Building on Phase 1 is progressing, and the school is beginning to take shape. Bloor Homes have also been appointed to be the first housebuilder on the site, and we could even see the first occupation next year



### Local plan

South Cambs Local Development Framework was originally adopted in 2007 and was intended to cover the period up to 2016. So, we are now working hard to produce a new Local Plan.

Part of this process involves the new plan undergoing an Examination In Public, which is carried out by a Planning Inspector. This examination was progressing well until March 2015, when the Inspector conducting our examination called for additional work to be done to ensure we have taken into account house prices and affordability when assessing the number of new homes needed.

An extraordinary council meeting was called on 4<sup>th</sup> June where the inspector's letter to the council, outlining the work we needed to do was agreed.

This work has now been completed, and a further extraordinary meeting in March was called, where the council approved the modifications to the plan, and authorised a further period of consultation on the changes. This has delayed the process by at least a year, and in the meantime, as some of our existing policies are now considered out of date, it has resulted in a number of large, unplanned, applications.

The Inspector has issued a revised timetable for the examination process and we hope to be able to resume the examination on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### Finance

As ever, the council's finances are very tight, with further reductions in government grant to deal with this year. When I became a councillor, we were in receipt of around £7.8 million of government grant per annum, but each year it has been cut and cut to the point where by 2018 it will have reduced to zero.

The Government, alongside the reduction of the benefits cap, and changes to the welfare state system, announced that we will be required to reduce council house rents by 1% per annum each year for the next 4 years. Clearly this is going to impact our Housing finances so we are now having to review our new council house build program. Of course it is really good news for our tenants, some of whom will be seeing significant reductions in their benefits, and so an equal reduction in the rent that they have to pay will be welcomed.

Following on from the Summer Budget, the government announced our settlement in December 2015. This is where we know how much funding we will have for our General Fund activities (i.e. everything other than housing). As expected our grant from government is due to be cut, but at an ever increasing rate, until revenue support grant is entirely phased out, and further cuts will be levied on the amount of business rates we are able to retain.

Fortunately, the council has been predicting this for a number of years now, and has put measures in place to try to save money as well as increase it's income. Around £5.5 million has been saved over the last 5 years, and the budget for 2015/16 shows there is a further £930,000 yet to go.

One major contributor to our income is now Ermine Street Housing, which is a housing company we set up to provide market rented housing in the area. By 2017 we expect Ermine Street Housing to be bringing in around £600,000 per annum to the council which will be a welcome boost to our finances.

Overall our reduction in funding equated to around £15 per band D Home. To meet this reduction in funding the council agreed to increase council tax by £5 per band D home, with the remaining £10

shortfall being made up of a combination of increasing our income, and making further efficiency savings.

#### Shared Services

One of our efficiency drives is to enter into a number of 'shared service' arrangements. A good example is our Waste and Recycling service, which is now being shared with Cambridge City Council. This has resulted in £600,000 of savings so far, and we are aiming to make a further £150,000 of savings over the next 2 or 3 years.

Other services already being shared are the Home Improvement Agency, Payroll, Building Control, Legal Services, and shortly ICT. These are being shared with a combination of Cambridge City Council and Hunts District Council.

Finance and Planning are 2 further areas we are hoping to share, and we have appointed a new shared Head of Finance, as well as a new shared Planning Director.

#### Planning

Parish councils will now be able to request applications should go to committee, and these requests will be considered by the Chair of Planning and the Head of Development Management. These applications will go to planning committee if the Parish Council has given material planning reasons that cannot be addressed by condition. This means Parish councils will no longer be solely reliant on the local District Councillor requesting that the application is determined by the planning committee, and they now have the option of putting forward their own case.

The Planning Committee itself will also have an increased workload now, as the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (NJDCC) has now been stood down. Now these applications have been dealt with, the remaining 'reserved matters' applications are much more suited to being determined by the normal Planning Committee, which is how we will proceed for the foreseeable future.

#### Boundary Review

Due to the growth of some of our wards (particularly Histon and Impington), we have broken one of the rules relating to the number of electors per councillor, and this has prompted the boundary Commission to undertake a full review of all the wards in our district.

At the same time, we were required to look at the number of councillors we have. The council has agreed to reduce the number of councillors down to 45, which means 2 Cllrs instead of the present 3 for Willingham and Over

Of course as soon as Northstowe begins to grow, it will undoubtedly trigger another boundary review. The Council have also agreed to 4 yearly elections instead of the present system.

#### Community chest

The hugely successful Community chest scheme has now been replenished with over £50,000 of funding, for 2016/17 and is open for applications again. Awards are given on a first come first served basis, and when the budget is spent, then that's it until next year.



#### The Greater Cambridge City Deal

The Greater Cambridge City Deal was originally signed in 2014 and was designed to create an infrastructure investment fund of up to £500m of public funding and £500m private investment which is to be used to accelerate delivery of 33,480 planned homes, enable delivery of 1,000 extra new homes on rural exception sites, deliver around 400 new Apprenticeships for young people, create 45,000 new jobs, and create a governance arrangement for joint decision making between South Cambs District Council, the County Council, and Cambridge City Council.

On 28 January 2015, the City Deal Executive Board agreed the prioritised City Deal Programme for 2015-2020. The decision of the Executive Board is based upon the deliverability of the schemes within the 5 year timeframe and the economic growth benefits they bring to the area.

Work is progressing slowly, and we hope to see some actual deliverables (The Chisholm Trail for example) during 2016/17.

#### Devolution

The government have been promoting the idea of devolution for some time now, but it is only just recently that things have been gathering pace, and proposals are starting to see the light of day.

So initial proposals were worked up for a combined Authority based on the County of Cambridgeshire together with the Unitary authority of Peterboro. However, while negotiations were progressing, albeit very slowly, the government indicated that this would be too small an area, and made it clear that the only deal that would be credible was one comprising Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. And that the combined authority of these counties, and their respective district council's would be under the umbrella of an elected mayor.

The initial deal leaves a lot to yet to be negotiated and ironed out, and South Cambs have signed up to commit us to debating the offer at a special Full council meeting scheduled for the end of June.

I hope this report gives you a flavour of the work the District Council has been undertaking over the last 12 months, and I would like to pay particular tribute to the help and support we have received from the Parish Councils over the last 12 months, and the hard work and help given by the respective Parish Clerks.

Ray Manning  
District Councillor

## ACCOUNTS 2015-2016

### INCOME

Precept		£114,000.00	
Green & Boundaries		£148.00	
Leisure & Amenities	Note 1	£71,118.00	
Halls		£9,133.00	
Cemetery		£2,796.00	
Establishments	Note 2	£0.00	
Section 106		£4,050.00	
Interest Received		£92.00	
			<u>£201,337.00</u>

### EXPENDITURE

Green & Boundaries		£1,709.00	
Leisure & Amenities		£124,485.00	
Halls		£24,265.00	
Cemetery		£5,758.00	
Establishments		£25,257.00	
Salaries		£33,501.00	
Insurance		£5,224.00	
<u>Section 137</u>			
Piper Lifeline		£3,018.00	
Donations		£6,768.00	
			<u>£229,985.00</u>
			<u>-£28,648.00</u>

### INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

#### Note 1

£33,547 transferred from Section 106 monies into L & A, not included in the income figure

#### Note 2

£10,000 transferred from New cemetery monies to cover the legal costs, not included in the income figure

*(Full Accounts are available from the Parish Office and on the website)*



## GRANTS AWARDED DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Grants have been awarded to the following groups during the last 12 months:

Willingham Action Group £226.84  
 Cambridgeshire Hearing Help £268  
 Willingham Youth Trust £2,500  
 Over Day Centre £1,500

The Council continue to provide free use of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for the Youth Teams in the village as well as reduced charges for community and education groups using the Ploughman Hall. Local Groups also benefit from the reduced cost of using the Public Hall which is currently leased to the User Committee and at present is mainly used by the Scout Group.

In addition to the above, the Parish Council also pay for the provision of twelve piper-lifeline monitors from the District Council for residents who need them.

## THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Vacancy		

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District Councillor: Ray Manning

County Councillor: Peter Hudson