

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2016- 2017



3rd May 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman's Report.

In agreeing to accept the nomination to serve as Parish Council Chairman in May 2016 I hoped to be able to build on the exemplary stewardship provided by previous Council leaders. I also looked forward to working with the Council's hard working and collaborative administrative team. Those hopes have been realised during another busy year for the Council. A key factor in this has been the positive contributions made by all members of the Council and, in particular, its Lead Councillors – I urge you to read their individual reports describing their recent activity.

Some headline examples of the achievements of the Parish Council's in the past 12 months include:

1. Providing a Christmas tree on the Green after a gap of a few years. The opportunity was also taken to upgrade the lighting. The village's response was very positive!
2. Completing the second phase of the QE II Playground. It is a great personal pleasure to see the intensive use now made of these facilities. A District Council Community Chest award has also enabled the pedestrian entrance to the field to be upgraded, allowing better access for all users.
3. Liaising with staff and governors at Willingham Primary School in their development of a successful application to the County Council's Local Highways Improvement Scheme. The purpose of the application is to improve road safety for all highway users in the immediate area around the school.

These achievements have shared a common feature of collaboration with other members of Willingham's community. The Christmas tree was sponsored by one of our local stores whilst Willingham Action Group (WAG) has fundraised to support the development and completion of the QE II Field. WAG members have also contributed their time and expertise to the development of the village's Community Orchard.

These headline items are underpinned by a wide range of everyday activity. This includes replacing ridge tiles on the Pavilion roof, liaising with County and District Council officers on issues such as planning applications and road maintenance, keeping the cemetery's grass cut and ensuring that contractors are paid on time. This activity is managed by the Parish Clerk (Mandy Powell) supported by our Responsible Financial Officer (Sarah Rutherford). A key discipline for the Council is ensuring regulatory compliance of risk in all our key areas of responsibilities and this is part of the role of our newly appointed Administrative Assistant (Annika Osborne). Mark Mumford continues to provide sterling support in keeping the village tidy. All the administrative staff work part-time.

There remain ongoing issues. The negative impacts of Northstowe and upgrading the A14 are bringing additional traffic congestion into Willingham whilst the slow progress made by the Planning Inspectorate in examining and approving the Local Plan has made the village an easy target for speculative proposals for large scale housing developments. Whilst the Parish Council would normally advise the Local Planning Authority (South Cambridgeshire District Council) to reject these proposals it is also mindful of the need for additional affordable housing within the village. The extension of the 30 mph speed limit on Station Road

and the Community Governance Boundary Review with Over both await satisfactory completion. The search - so far unsuccessful - for a new cemetery site continues.

The Council increased its precept by just under 1% for 2017-2018 to £117,300. In doing so it is protecting and developing its current activities, starting to rebuild the financial reserves and also meeting new statutory requirements such as paying workplace pension contributions for our eligible employees.

The efficient services provided by your Parish Council are rated highly by both District and County Councils. Cuts to the services these two local authorities provide –such as libraries and footpath maintenance - increasingly mean that an expectation is created that they should be met by the Parish Council even though the finance to do this is not available! Willingham's volunteer Parish Councillors and the Council's administrative team will continue to contribute, individually and collectively, to making the village a better place for everyone to live within the resources available.

Ray Croucher
Chairman

LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CEMETERY



Our current grass cutting contractor Fergusons have given us good service for the second year, and we continue to have favorable comments from visitors and residents, saying how pleased they are with the current look of the cemetery.

In our continued search for suitable land for a new cemetery, as our space for new graves continues to diminish year on year, we had found a piece of land off the High Street that was found to be ideal following a successful test dig. However, during our initial negotiations with the owner, he sadly passed away.

We will continue to actively pursue our search for suitable land for a new cemetery during the coming year.

We have been trying to get the pile of soil removed from the north cemetery wall, following failed requests to get undertakers to remove it as stated in the guidelines. We have requested a contractor to do this work, and expect it to be removed in the next few weeks.

The council has recently commissioned a survey of all the trees on council land, and we will shortly be reviewing the recommendations for the trees in the cemetery.

Councillor Mellows
Lead Councillor for Cemetery

GREEN AND BOUNDARIES

The Green

The remainder of the avenue of diseased trees beside the footpath have been removed and replaced.

The recent tree report has raised issues with the Silver Birch at the Green Street end of the Green, which is likely to require replacement in the near future. The remainder of the trees fall into either requiring minor works or medium/long term monitoring.

A new power supply was laid into the centre for the Christmas Tree, and new LED lighting purchased. A Christmas tree was kindly funded by the Co operative store.



Meadow Road

We continue to suffer from flytipping in the gateway. This is not specifically targeted at the site but a problem that is village wide, and is particularly prevalent in Meadow Road.

We also continue to suffer from fly grazing on the site. The Council have looked at taking enforcement action but without secure boundaries and the means to maintain them it was considered that such expenditure was unwarranted.

We have agreed to allocate a sum for additional tree planting on the Meadow Road site. This will have to be with species that are particularly unpalatable to equines.

Community Orchard

Replacement furniture has been installed to replace the substandard furniture which was no longer safe.



A car destroyed the main entrance gate on December 25th. This was replaced shortly afterwards.

Major hedge flailing work was carried out in February, and the results were rather better than expected, the hedges are now greening up well. One section of hedge in the north-eastern corner could not be reached due to the beehive compound. This is to be moved to ensure clear access around the perimeter of the site.

Two trees on the western boundary were removed as a result of the tree survey.

We will need to look at clearing and replacing sections of dead hedging next winter.

Councillor A Cook
Lead Councillor for Green and Boundaries

LEISURE AND AMENITIES

RECREATION GROUND



The recreation ground provides a fantastic open space for the village. The contractors we use ensure that the area remains in a great condition for the various sports that are played on it.

Ladies Hockey Club

The hockey club is a non-competitive social group that meet when they can on Saturday mornings. They are always looking for more members so if anyone is interested they should contact Teresa Hutchcraft 01954 260177

Bowls Club

The bowls green has gone through a massive transformation in the past 12 months. This time last year membership was in single figures and the green itself was not being maintained. This meant that people wanting to continue to play bowls had to do so elsewhere like Longstanton or Cottenham. Thankfully after a lot of hard work from volunteers and the Bowls Club investing £2,500 the bowls green is now back into the condition ready for the new season. Membership is almost 30 which is fantastic news and hopefully will help the club to continue for many years to come. If anyone is interested in joining the bowls club they should contact Terry Buckley terry.buckley@virginmedia.com

Willingham Wolves FC

The local football club continues to provide grassroots football to over 150 local children from the ages of 5 to 16. There is still no mens team in the village and this is something hopefully that will return in the coming years. The football club has new officers and are taking the club forward, but in order to do this rely on the many volunteers of parents to help as coaches and assistants who without the club would not be able to operate. The club is in need of more people to help continue to run the club so if you are interested please contact the Secretary Jamie Smith (01954 261141).

On Saturday June 10th Willingham Wolves host their annual Football Festival which will attract over 500 children from around the area to play competitive and non-competitive 5aside

Cricket Club

The Cricket season runs from May to September and this season unfortunately the village will only have one team compared to two which it has had for many seasons. The club hold practice sessions on Wednesday evening at the recreation ground and are always looking out for new players so if you are interested please contact Richard Ambrose (01954 260446). The club is always grateful for supporters to come down on a Saturday afternoon when they are playing at home and also they hold many Quiz Nights during the year to help raise funds to keep the club going, information on Quiz nights are always published in the Willingham News

PAVILION



The Sports Pavilion is mainly used by the cricket and football clubs, it has four changing rooms and two referees' 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

The 2nd Phase of the play equipment was completed this year we now have a fantastic facility within the village

Jamie Smith
Lead Cllr Leisure & Amenities



HALLS

At the start of my tenure as Lead for Halls, Cllr Croucher handed over the responsibility as he took on the role of Parish Council Chairman. I must give thanks for his continued support, in addition to that of the Clerk and the other Parish Councillors, for their continued patience and guidance throughout the year as I have learnt what is required.

As a new Councillor, the responsibility has enhanced my understanding of not only the functions and responsibilities of the Council, the experience has also highlighted how vital the Halls are to the village and all those who use them. I would recommend being a Councillor to anyone interested, whatever their age.

The Ploughman Hall

The Ploughman Hall has seen a significant increase in usage. In part this is due to the Willingham Youth Trust running the Youth Centre in the upstairs part of the Hall but notably due to booking increases from



organisations and groups as well as private functions. It is clear that the previous décor improvements have made the hall more presentable and appealing, whilst the cleaners continue to keep the Hall in a good state. Windows are more secure and there have been fewer incidences of vandalism.

The Clerk works tirelessly to liaise with all Hall users and ensure that a custodian is available to unlock/secure the hall for less regular bookings and private functions. This was usually a Councillor volunteer. It was recently agreed that a custodian should be appointed although a few

Councillors remain key holders to assist in times of absence.

Lighting issues in the Hall have impacted the users of the hall and the Council appreciate the patience of all those who have had to cope with the dysfunctional main lights. The long term solution would be replacement with more economic lighting with less maintenance, which is being investigated further.

The front doors were replaced at the end of the summer 2016 and have had to unfortunately over winter without their final décor. When the weather improves in the coming months this will be resolved.

The rates of hire are maintained to ensure that the upkeep of the hall can continue and it is hoped that the village and other hirers will still use the facilities within as much as possible.

The Public Hall

This historic landmark in the centre of the village has continued to be leased to the 1st Willingham Scout Group who are the sole users of the Hall since the village amateur dramatics group ceased to use the facility. This is a vital resource to the Scout Group and well used. It has been pleasing to learn that the building has been enjoyed by so many generations of parishioners.

The building is known to be relatively old and as such suffers like all older buildings from time to time, which results in remedial works to be necessary. There are single glazed windows throughout and there is no permanent heating inside the building.

Over the years the Council have debated the condition of the building and carefully considered how to manage the maintenance issues associated with it given the budgetary constraints faced. The approach has been to deal with the issues as they arise. This year has been no exception.



A new fire alarm system had been installed previously and the old fire alarm system was finally deactivated and no longer sounds in error. Much to the relief of all!

The Council agreed to urgently replace the main electricity circuit breaker with a more modern unit after a persistent problem where the electrics were regularly tripping- seemingly after heavy rain. A notable improvement.

Previously the Council have had to instruct contractors to reduce the effect of the longstanding water ingress and that has hounded the building. This year it was agreed that a survey should be carried out after the above situation with the electrics and continuation of some water ingress to be apparent elsewhere.

At present the Council do not have the budget to spend large amounts of money on rectifying all the issues associated with this building. Currently there is not a strategic long term plan in place to rectify the issues, or indeed to modernise the building, however the Council need to consider the findings of the recent survey to determine whether funding streams can be pursued to help determine what the longer term outlook is for this important and iconic village landmark.

The Emergency Plan for the village requires that the Council store provisions that may be required to help in the event of an emergency situation affecting the whole village such as a flood. After agreement that the Public Hall was the most suitable site to securely store items, the Public Hall Users Committee and the Council determined a location in the hall that could serve this function.

The administrative team are duly thanked for all the efforts made throughout this year in achieving the above and for all the help provided to keep the Halls running smoothly.

I look forward to seeing the Halls continue to be used as much as possible for the wide variety of activities they currently permit.

Cllr R Tassell
Lead Councillor for Halls

PLANNING

The Planning Committee met 15 times during the year and considered 53 planning applications, 10 more than the previous year.

These were for: 1 major development, 5 small developments, 16 extensions, 9 single dwellings, 3 changes of use, 2 conversions, and sundry amendments, chimneys and reserved matters.

The committee made no recommendation for 13 applications, recommended 25 for approval and 12 for refusal. Of these 12, 1 was withdrawn and 4 were subsequently approved by the District Council but the rest – including the strenuously objected Belsar Farm development and the 72 houses at Rockmill End - are still “out for consultation”.

The inquiry into South Cambs’ Local Plan meanders on, and is not expected to be completed before the end of 2017. 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 still suspended.

Councillor D Law
Chair of Planning

COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPORTS

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The past twelve months have been extremely busy. Chasing the inevitable highway problems from potholes, excessive mud on the road, continued flooding on the Longstanton By-Pass, monitoring and moving travellers from the Park and Ride, stopping ludicrous traffic diversions to name but a few. Successfully lobbying hard to save the Mobile Library Service after several requests from residents of both Over and Longstanton. In addition to this, supporting and working with the Parish Council and District Council Colleagues, particularly in planning issues and the contravening of planning conditions as in the incorrect routes taken by HGV traffic from the Northstowe site as well as other issues and being an active member of both the Health and Audit and Accounts Committees of the County Council.

Again, I have received a large amount of personal correspondence from our residents with requests for help on a number of issues that affect their everyday lives. Over the past twelve months I have received 148 requests from residents for help on such diverse issues as school placements, home to school transport, special educational needs requirements, parent and school difficulties, social care for the elderly and vulnerable adults, corporate parenting as in children in care and general council benefit entitlements. 141 of these cases were resolved to the complete satisfaction of our residents, the remainder were either

not possible for various reasons or the information given was found to be untrue. I find this individual case work very satisfying and rewarding, especially when common sense prevails.

I have continued my work in finding and helping our low income families to take advantage of the new extended free child care, From September 2017 working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare and early learning – a doubling of the current universal entitlement. In order to access the additional hours, parents will need to complete an online check, and will receive a code to redeem with a childcare provider. The new website for parents and providers is www.childcaresupport.tax.service.gov.uk/8

Whilst HM Revenue and Customs have already written to some families to raise their awareness of the forthcoming increase, systems are being developed to support providers with this new process and are expected to be available from June 2017.

As with many government initiatives, very few, if any, were aware of this entitlement or indeed the changes, now I'm very happy to report that many of our young families from the three parishes I represent are taking advantage of this much needed help.

The Health Committee, which takes up the majority of my time, holds the County Councils Public Health budget, one of its responsibilities is the commissioning of the 0-19 years Healthy Child Programme which consists of Health Visiting (0-5yrs), Family Nurse Partnership (intensive home visiting programme for teenage parents) and School Nursing (5-19yrs). The universal-progressive service is delivered at 4 levels: Community, Universal (all children receive a universal offer), Universal Plus (additional help for those who need it provided by a single agency), Universal Partnership Plus (intensive support for children with complex needs with multi-agency involvement). The aims of the Healthy Child Programme are to: help parents develop and sustain a strong bond with children, encourage care that keeps children healthy and safe, protect children from serious disease (through screening and immunisation), identify health issues early, reduce childhood obesity and support children to achieve their educational potential.

Council Budget 2017/18

After a very noisy and vigorous debate, the Council finally managed to pass a budget.

There were several options on the table, with some groups wanting to raise the County Council contribution to the Council Tax by as much as 5% per year for the next 3-4 years (2% Council tax, 3% adult social care)

At the end of a very long day, the Council Tax was raised by 0% with a 2% raise to be ring-fenced for Adult Health and Social Care which the County Council now has responsibility for. The Council was presented with a full and balanced budget based on the 2 and 0% increases. 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 for Adult Social Care from government of £8.3 million in 2017/18, £6.5 million in 2018/19 and £3.3 million in 2019/20.

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 - backroom money put into front line services....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.

County Councillor Peter Hudson

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 2015

The District Council continues to regard Parish Councils as very important to the success of the area, and holds regular update meetings with Parish Councils throughout the year. Last year extra seminars were arranged to explain and discuss devolution proposals, as well as sessions covering planning, housing, refuse collection and the City Deal.

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1. Peer review of the Council's performance
2. Devolution
3. Planning, new communities and big infrastructure developments
4. Housing
5. Financial Performance including Community Chest grants
6. Environmental services
7. Smarter Cambridge – City Deal innovations
8. Task and Finish Groups on key areas

1. Independent peer review of South Cambs Council: The District Council asked for a “peer review” to assess its performance in November 2016. This was carried out by an independent team from other District Councils and they gave a very positive assessment, concluding: “SCDC has been on a strong journey of improvement since 2007 and has established itself as a well-respected and strong performing organisation, with good ties to its communities, partners and government. It has clear strategic direction set out in its corporate plan, has identified its future needs and is seen as a great place to work. Relations with officers and members are strong and effective.”

Details of the review and the recommendations made by the review team are on the Council website.

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=10291>

The District Council took an active part in the discussions with government on devolution, and sought and secured £100m from government to accelerate the building of affordable homes on existing sites across the county but with a emphasis on this area, to improve the prospects of families in South Cambs who otherwise would not be able to afford to pay market prices to live in the area.

The Council has recruited a new chief executive who brings significant customer service experience from the public and private sector.

2. Devolution and what it means for South Cambs and its residents. All District Councils in Cambridgeshire, as well as the County Council and Peterborough City Council, have signed up for the most generous devolution deal in the country.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will set up a combined authority, enabling the Councils to work together ever more efficiently. The leaders of the Councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership are meeting regularly so that they will be ready to work with their new mayor who will be elected, on the same day as the county Council elections this May. The role has already attracted a lot of interest!

A new £20m annual fund over the next 30 years (£600m in total) will support economic growth, infrastructure and jobs. Road improvements will include things like dualling the A10. Rail investment will unblock Ely North Junction, provide new rolling stock, and strengthen the case for a new station at Addenbrooke's.

Cambridge City Council will get a specific £70m housing grant. Another £100m for "affordable housing", homes for rent and part-ownership provided by the Council and housing associations, will be targeted in South Cambridgeshire. We think we can make close to 2,000 of these houses available over the coming five years. These are not extra houses to those in the Local Plan, but we will be bringing them forward earlier than otherwise and within reach of more people.

Local control of the skills and apprenticeship budget will offer opportunities for our young people. The next stages in the handover of powers from Whitehall to town hall will extend to community safety (including police and fire services) and integrating local health and social care.

3. Planning, infrastructure and new developments. 2016 saw several milestones passed at Northstowe: widening the B1050, excavating balancing ponds to reduce flood risk to Longstanton, opening the first primary school, constructing the first houses; and ending with completion of the legal agreement for phase 2. Over 2,000 houses will be offered at prices and/or rents below market rates.

The application for development of up to 1300 houses at "Wing" got resolution to grant from the Fringes JDCC towards the end of April 2016, and permission was issued November 2016.

Cambourne West (which lies mostly in Caxton parish) received resolution to grant for 2,350 houses from our Planning Committee in January.

The A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme started – expected to finish 2020.

The County Council, City, South Cambs, East Cambs, and private sector interests north and south of the A14 junction have commissioned a study from transport consultants examining options for a major upgrade of the A10, as well as the contribution that other modes of travel can make to easing congestion.

Cambridge finds itself the centre of attention from all four cardinal points of the compass. From the south we have the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium, which has set itself the goal of joining the ranks of the top five global knowledge-intensive business clusters. From the east, a newly formed Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor seems keen to further the agri-tech and clean-tech interests we have in common. To the north, Peterborough is enlisting our support for the establishment of a university there. And the National Infrastructure Commission is very keen to facilitate links with the other place and points in

between. East-West Rail is working out how to bring back a rail link between Bedford and Cambridge, and the next stage of the Oxford to Cambridge expressway is the dualling of the A428 from the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet, scheduled to start in spring 2020.

Planning performance: Over the last nine months, decisions have been issued on 94% of major applications and 87% of non-major applications within 13 and eight weeks respectively – putting South Cambridgeshire District Council amongst the top performers in the country. This follows determined efforts to improve performance.

The Council is actively promoting self-builds, and has held seminars to help people who want to achieve their own build. The Council has also promoted the development of Neighbourhood Plans to enable villages to put forward their own views on where development would be suitable and where it would not, for their own locality.

The Local Plan continues to be evaluated by the Inspector, and is now in its third year. Although the district Council recognises that the inspector needs to test every element of the plan for its soundness, nevertheless this is a very long time for a local plan to be considered. The Council believes that its policy of building large communities such as Waterbeach and Northstowe helps to protect the Green Belt, which otherwise would see Cambridge simply extend and envelope more of South Cambridgeshire's separate and distinct pattern of villages. The Local Plan should be concluded by the end of 2017.

4. Housing: The Council currently owns, manages and maintains a stock of 5,500 homes. This year the Council was shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Housing award after industry judges were impressed by the authority's innovative approach in delivering efficient services and outstanding homes.

Some key initiatives that the Council has lead the way on nationally include the setting up of a property company – Ermine Street Housing – that rents homes in the private sector to generate income to support Council services, and setting up the Housing Development Agency with Cambridge City Council to deliver 250 social homes each year. The Council is also one of the top three performing councils in the country for re-letting homes and has exceeded customer satisfaction targets for repairs. A trusted handyperson scheme to help tenants with small jobs around their home has also been set up along with warm homes strategy to tackle fuel poverty and condensation while making people more comfortable in their homes.

This year saw the further introduction of new government policies providing additional challenges for the housing service. The first of the 4 years of mandatory 1% reduction in rents has limited the Council's ambition to deliver new build housing but it still managed to continue the programme in a more modest way with completion and handover of 39 new homes this year.

Recognising the wide range of aspirations and financial circumstances of its residents the Council is working to identify an appropriate range of solutions. These include affordable rental and shared equity homes as well as Government's new Starter Homes and Rent to Buy and innovative products like Rentplus. The Council is a vanguard authority for the Government's Self & Custom Build policy and is starting to apply for planning permission on its first plots. It also maintained its record of managing homelessness with minimal use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Housing White Paper. While there may have been some disappointment with the emphasis in the White Paper on requiring local authorities to get houses built, when landbanking by big housebuilders and controlling the release of houses to keep prices up are seen as contributory factors limiting the number of new houses, two shifts in govt policy were generally well received:

- a set of measures to make it easier for small building firms to get back into the business of building houses, and

- willingness to allow local authorities to build houses again. (The public sector used to build half the houses the country needed.) Councillors and staff have already had meetings with Gavin Barwell, the Housing and Planning Minister, and more are expected as we put together a package of measures best suited to the needs of South Cambridgeshire.

5. Financial performance Business rates - Local businesses are now getting more support from the Council due to an increase in the level of Non-Domestic Rate Relief for those businesses operating in rural areas. Mandatory relief has been increased from 50% to 100% meaning some small enterprises will now not have to pay any rates at all.

Larger businesses are also being helped by the creation of 3 Enterprise Zones in our District. These are in Waterbeach, Cambourne and Northstowe. This policy is designed to attract new businesses to the district by offering rate relief for up to 5 years if they move into one of our new enterprise zones.

Businesses who are liable to pay rates are able to appeal the amount they have to pay, by challenging the Valuation Agencies assessment. When appeals are successful any reduction in income is a direct cost to the Council, and we have had to make provision

Benefits - Residents who are in receipt of benefits are continuing to receive support from the Council in respect of Council Tax payments. The Localised Council Tax Support Scheme continues for another year unchanged, which makes this the fourth year it has been in operation without having to be adjusted. This is a scheme that is fully funded by the Council and receives no grant to support it from Central Government.

Community Chest Grants - The hugely successful Community Chest grants program made a total of 63 awards last year, each providing funding of up to £1,500 for community projects. Another £52,000 (or £1,000 per week) will be given out in the coming year, but as the popularity of the scheme increases, so we've had to reduce the maximum amount that can be granted down from £1,500 per award to £1,000. Hopefully this will help the money last a little longer into the coming year, because at £1,500 a time we usually run out of budget within 6 months.

Performance on collecting rates and Council Tax - Our collections teams have put in another superb year, making sure that we collect as much Business Rates and Council Tax as possible. We are regularly in the top quartile for collecting Council Tax and this year collection rates are around the same level as last year, which were 99.4% for both Council Tax and Business Rates. This ranked us at 2nd best in the country for Council Tax collections, and 22nd best for Business Rates.

6. Environmental services: Bin collection days changed for over 130,000 households across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire in February as a result of new rounds aimed at reducing the travel time of waste

collection vehicles by up to 20,000 miles each year, cutting traffic and emissions, and contributing to a £700k efficiency savings target over three years.

Households were sent a new collection calendar and leaflet detailing how the changes will affect them. Signs were put up at entrances to villages to further increase awareness: information is also available on www.scambbs.gov.uk/bin-changes.

The Council monitors a range of services for which licences are granted. Earlier this year the licencing team spotted a fake drivers' badge after a scanned copy was submitted by its Buckinghamshire-based holder for checking. On further investigation the driver had not obtained the badge from the Council and it was proved to be counterfeit. As the Council only ever issues taxi driver licences to individuals after an interview is carried out in person, the matter was immediately referred to Thames Valley Police for investigation. During the operation, several properties were searched and Council licensing officers worked alongside police at a registered taxi office to check driver badges and car licence plates. A second fake South Cambridgeshire badge was seized as evidence, along with revoked plates from another council from outside the area.

7. City Deal funded innovation: Smart Cambridge have built a Cambridge-wide dedicated wi-fi network which will be extended into the District in due course. Currently, they are collecting data from GPS sensors that are already put on buses (so they know where each and every bus is, real time), air quality monitors, how many cars are going down major roads, congestion, how full each car park is, etc. They could eventually bolt on a vast range of sensors, even down to whether an individual on-street car park space is full or empty. Councils could also bolt onto it, and they think it might help elderly social care to put monitors in vulnerable peoples' houses.

In summer 2017 the City Deal will roll out a Travel App, to help people know where the bus are (exactly and in real time). It will also have a "predictor" function in due course. So you could be in Northstowe or Cambourne etc and tap in "I want to drive to Cambridge at 8.30am what is my predicted drive time... and how much less would it be if I left 30 mins earlier or later?". They might induce people to spread their journey times, easing peak-time congestion.

8. Task and Finish groups: Councillors are working on four such ad hoc groups which are aimed at investigating specific areas and making recommendations to Cabinet.

- Isolation in our communities – suggestions to improve support for the most isolated people, especially through community led schemes and ideas.
- Supporting small businesses in our villages - engaging on issues such as planning requirements, broadband connectivity and local knowledge sharing.
- Preparing for a smaller Council from 2018 onwards – the Council will reduce its numbers of councillors after 2018 – understanding what impact this will have on how villages are served and represented by community leaders.
- Neighbourhood Plans and their effectiveness.

Councillor Ray Manning
District Councillor

ACCOUNTS 2016-2017

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT - 31st March 2017

INCOME

Precept	£115,000.00
Green & Boundaries	£151.00
Leisure & Amenities	£6,360.00
Halls	£11,062.00
Cemetery	£2,316.00
Establishments	£0.00
Section 106	£36,123.00
Interest Received	£424.00
	<u>£171,436.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

Green & Boundaries	£1,476.00
Leisure & Amenities	£46,649.00
Halls	£22,593.00
Cemetery	£7,257.00
Establishments	£26,268.00
Salaries	£34,970.00
Insurance	£5,475.00
Section 137	
Piper Lifeline	£2,882.00
Donations	£3,850.00
	<u>£151,420.00</u>

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u><u>£20,016.00</u></u>
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(Full accounts are available from the Parish Office and on the Council website)

GRANTS AWARDED 2016 – 2017

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

Willingham Library – Reading Challenge £500
 Willingham News - £1,838.83
 Over Day Centre £1,750
 Scouts – fireworks - £500
 Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue - £300
 Relate £200

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 fourteen piper-lifeline monitors from the District Council for residents who need them.

THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

NAME		CONTACT
John Anderson		cllr.anderson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Andrew Cook	Lead Councillor – Green & Boundaries	cllr.cook@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ray Croucher	Parish Council Chairman	cllr.croucher@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Neil Harris		cllr.harris@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
John Harding		cllr.harding@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Linda King	Lead Councillor – Leisure & Amenities	cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Phil King	Parish Council Vice Chairman	cllr.pking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Derek Law	Chair of Planning	cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ray Manning		cllr.manning@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Brenda Mansfield		cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Stephen Mellows	Lead Councillor - Cemetery	cllr.mellows@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Rhys Tassell	Lead Councillor - Halls	cllr.tassell@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jim Watson		cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you would like further information please contact the Clerk (details below)

Clerk: Mrs Mandy Powell, Parish Council Office, Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham CB24 5LP
 Tel: 01954 261027 email: clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

District Councillor: Ray Manning
 County Councillor: Tim Wotherspoon