

## **Thurmaston Parish Council – Annual Report 2012**

### **Report from the Chairman and most recent Audited Accounts:**

The Council has successfully completed its first year of this term, which has been a busy year, where we have welcomed active contributions from several new Councillors.

#### **Quality Status:**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> January the Parish Council were accredited Quality Status, following submission of the portfolio of evidence produced by the Clerks.

Quality Status requires a Council to prove that it is properly managed and responsible by completing a series of ten tests and providing evidence of the Councils competence and best practice throughout all its procedures, and evidence that all policies are up to date.

The Quality Council Scheme is to provide benchmark minimum standard for parish and town councils. There are 229 parishes in Leicestershire and currently just 14 parishes have achieved Quality Status.

The Scheme raises the profile of the council within the community, helps parish and town councils improve their management systems and to communicate effectively. Quality Councils work more closely with principal authorities, and the status will ensure eligibility to wider source of grant funding.

Precept: The Parish Precept was set at £306,580.00 for 2012/2013, representing a minor decrease of 0.2%. Increased income generated from the 3G pitches and function hire including drapes at Elizabeth Park have supported the precept this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the four Committees for all their hard work during the past year.

#### **Memorial Hall and Cemetery Committee**

The Memorial Hall and Cemetery Committee welcomed a new Chairman this year, Councillor Davies and I would like to thank Councillor Davies for his contributions.

The Memorial hall has benefitted from further refurbishments this year, with the creation of a new storage area, removal of internal porch and exterior decoration.

The Police have taken up occupancy of the Memorial Hall Office, the council have provided a base for local officers, this means more time for local officers on the beat with increased visibility and greater accessibility for the public and increased security for the premises and hirers.

This year we sadly saw the closure of the Senior Citizens Library in the Memorial Hall after 31 years. Thanks go to Eunice Willis and her assistant Jan and also to Sheila Revell who was involved with the Library for 28 years. The Library has now re-located to the Old Scholl and we wish the new management every success.

The Hall continues to be well utilised every weekday by several well established groups, covering various activities including dog training classes, Line dancing, Karate and education fitness fun classes for children.

Thurmaston Village Pre-school, continues to run weekdays in term time.

### **The Cemetery:**

The Committee continues to work hard in conjunction with Bellinger Landscape Architects to create a design for the new Cemetery extension. Draft plans have now been approved by the Council and the Clerk is currently working with Bellinger Design on the grant application. The new Cemetery will adjoin the existing Cemetery and create an enhanced facility with improved landscaping and additional facilities. A War Memorial will be included in the new cemetery, providing a focal point and an opportunity for relatives and friends affected by recent wars to visit and pay their respects.

### **Leisure Centres and Parks Committee**

Moving on to the Leisure Centre's and Parks Committee I would like to thank Councillor Hill for his continued contributions as Chairman of Leisure Centre's and Parks Committee.

### **Elizabeth Park Sports Centre:**

The Centre is very busy with both functions a regular sports clubs and activities and community groups including: badminton, childrens dance school, Zumba aerobics, Karate, Tetsudo, bowls and football. Community Group and clubs inc: weight watchers, Gujarati elders group and a mother and toddler group, Play Rangers.

Elizabeth Park Sports Centre has seen a further increase in function hire this year, especially for wedding receptions due to the success of the drapes.

There are only five Saturdays available in 2012, and we have taken 11 wedding bookings for 2013 and two wedding bookings for 2014.

The Centre Staff have successfully organised a program of multi sports days and craft days for local children, for the Easter holidays and for the forthcoming summer holidays. The sessions proved extremely popular last year and booking have already been placed for the summer schemes. Staff involved in the Children's schemes are CRB checked and have undertaken Working with Children Safeguarding training. Some staff have attained Sports coach Level One and others are certified Paediatric First Aiders.

**Elizabeth Park Artificial Turf Pitches:**

The pitches have been a huge success, all weekday evenings are fully booked and we have a waiting list of teams for any regular slots which become available.

The Council has support the Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive Football Partnership Charity by hosting some of their Inclusive (disability) Football events on our 3G pitches this year. The Inclusive Football Events play a vital and valuable opportunity for special needs / disabled students to take part in football and is the only opportunity for many students.

**ASDA Park:**

Thurmaston Magpies Juniors continue to benefit from use of the pitches and changing facilities and Thurmaston Boxing Club are using the pavilion 3 evenings per week. Following the success of a recent grant application, the Council received £2500 grant funding from the Community Forum, which has enabled us to supply ball stop netting for the site, improving the facilities.

**Garden Street Recreation Ground:**

Garden Street Recreation Ground is a popular meeting place for local young people, unfortunately, there are issues with anti-social behavior in the area at the moment, the Council are working with the Police to try to resolve the problems.

**The Health and Safety Committee:**

The Health and Safety Committee reformed this year and welcomed Councillor Raven as the new Chairman, and I would like to thank Councillor Raven for his contributions.

The Council's H&S Policy has been thoroughly reviewed and updated and copies have been re-issued to all members of staff along with risk

assessments relevant to their specific duties. A training analysis is being undertaken with all staff and training will be provided as necessary.

Additionally, a Fire Safety Audit was carried out by the Fire Service and all recommendations have been actioned and will be monitored.

### **The Environmental Committee:**

The Environmental Committee welcomed a new Chairman this year, Councillor Coombe and I would like to thank Councillor Coombe for her contributions.

The Committee has been very busy again this year continuing to address environmental problems such as highway maintenance issues and traffic congestion issues.

The Committee worked in conjunction with Charnwood Borough Council on the Dog Fouling Poster Campaign. Students from Bishop Ellis School took part and produced posters to remind dog owners to clean up after their pets. The winning posters were selected by the Council and prizes were awarded for the winning entries and for the school. The winning posters are displayed on Parish Notice boards and at various locations around the village.

The Parish Council provided two new salt bins for the village last year and the Council's Groundsman have successfully completed Snow Warden training to enable them to work in designated areas during snow conditions. Additionally, a post mounted litter bin will be provided for Barkby Thorpe Lane.

The Council has also agreed to support the Police CCTV street scheme, funding has been provided for two CCTV, one for Melton Road and one for Sandiacre Drive.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Councillor Brown and all the Members of the Council and Clerks for their support over the last year.

**Thurmaston Parish Council  
Annual Accounts**

The following is the statement of accounts for the latest audited accounts of Thurmaston Parish Council plus the previous year, as a comparison.

	31/03/10	31/03/11
Balances brought forward	183,173	209,987
Annual Precept	257,664	282,616
Other Receipts	94,698	239,022
Staff Costs	139,439	171,351
Loan Interest/Capital Repayments	24,027	24,027
Other Payments	162,082	282,303
Balances carried forward	209,987	253,944
Cash & short term investments	228,032	243,692
Total borrowing	165,667	155,302