



## DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015-16

The year 2015-16 has seen the pulling together of community voices resulting in exciting and concrete developments in the village.

#### DUFFIELD ACTION PLAN

The 10 year-old plan for the village has been updated following considerable consultations with villagers and organisations. From a wide variety of possibilities the plan identified future actions on the topics of traffic and parking, public toilets, teenage activities, older people involvements and community information.



#### WEB SITE

The Council has launched a new web site, [www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk), promoting it as a one point of call for residents and directing them to the relevant authority on each topic and publishing the latest information from the Council and village activities. Further communications are continually updated on Twitter and Facebook.



#### EYES MEADOW PROJECT

A Public Works Loan was approved for £110,000 over 10 years, which allowed the refurbishment of the changing rooms on Eyes Meadow. The facility now caters for all ages and genders, and all abilities. Two of the four changing rooms have a removable wall creating a large classroom facility. The new Eyes Meadow Changing Rooms were reopened in November 2015.

A new noticeboard has been erected at the entrance to Eyes Meadow with space for the organisations that use the Meadow to present their activities.

The historic commemorative "Stiles plaque" has been refurbished and moved to a more prominent position at the entrance to Eyes Meadow.

Special car park meshing was purchased and laid on some of the grassed areas at Eyes Meadow to provide more robust standing for cars while retaining the natural grass image of the meadow.

#### DUFFIELD CEMETERY

The cemetery continues to be well maintained and well used. All the unsteady headstones previously staked have been laid flat.

#### DUFFIELD CASTLE

The Council has supported and cooperated with DerwentWise and the National Trust on their three-year programme to improve the Castle area and encourage more visitors.



## **CEMETERY MEETING ROOM**

A Certificate of Lawful Use was obtained and the room has been redecorated to allow the room to be used more frequently by the Council and other organisations.

## **HISTORIC ASSETS**

The historic milestones have been repainted. The historic gas lamp at Flaxholme has been adopted by the Council and will be repainted in 2016. The War Memorial has been cleaned and refurbished with assistance from a grant from the War Memorial Trust. The red telephone box on Hazelwood Road has been adopted by the Council, with a view to moving it to Ecclesbourne Valley Railway station.



## **LITTERBINS**

More litterbins have been located in the village and on Eyes Meadow. The Council has now taken the responsibility for the emptying of some of these bins, at a significant cost saving to the Parish.

## **FINANCE**

The Council opened an account with Unity Trust allowing for the majority of financial transactions to be undertaken electronically and securely.

## **FLOOD WARDEN**

A volunteer Flood Warden has been appointed whose duties include regular checks on the River Ecclesbourne. He is working effectively with the Environment Agency to avoid flood risks.

## **THE EYES HAVE IT: MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Council supported a very successful new music festival on Eyes Meadow. The festival will be repeated in July 2016.

## **THE DCA CARNIVAL**

The Council continues to support the hugely successful Duffield Community Association carnival. Last summer's was fabulous with record attendance.



## **ANNUAL BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY**

The Council organised the bonfire and firework display on Friday 6 November 2015. We enjoyed another very successful evening with record numbers of families attending.

## **THANKS.....**

To everyone in Duffield who continues to support the objectives of the Council. Particular thanks go to the Council staff:

**Liz Page** – Parish Clerk – for her continued enthusiasm and energy above and beyond her formal duties; combined with guidance and direction on the Council's legal and statutory duties.

**Chris Carter** – Assistant Clerk – for his dedication and efficient control of our financial situation

**Jackie Clements** – now a permanent appointment and vital for our improved communications, web and social media.

**Chris Read** – Cemetery Superintendent – for the maintenance of a village asset that we are all proud of.

**Michael Forkin** – Village Warden – greatly unsung asset who ensures that our village continues to look its best.

**Councillors** – for ensuring that the right decisions are made and implemented.