

ASFORDBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/4

Another year has simply flown by. Looking back, I feel that we have achieved quite a lot but first I must thank all of the Parish Councillors who, once again, have worked well together always with one aim in mind, to do what we feel is in the best interests of the parish. We do not always agree but those differences eventually lead to the right decisions being made. A very big thank you also goes to our parish clerk and our three other employees for their work over the past year.

We were the first parish or town council in Leicestershire and Rutland to be awarded certification as a Quality Approved Council. This is a new initiative by the government to set a quality benchmark for local councils and it is intended mainly to see that the administration of a council is of a high standard. It could enable us to give you more services provided by the Parish Council but paid for by the Borough or County Council but we are not holding our breath as it all depends upon the other authorities wanting to co-operate.

The Valley flood relief scheme is almost ready to be started when all funding is in place. We won't be lulled into complacency with this scheme; even though we have been lucky with rainfall levels in the area, the scheme will happen!

Your Council has also been responsible for the installation of, what is called in the trade, a skateboard grinder and youth shelter which are fine additions to the youths' facilities. These have cost £7,000 and have been paid for with grants, costing you nothing.

We conducted a survey on housing needs, potential development, village envelopes, etc. within the parish and have forwarded a summary of your replies to Melton Borough Council for inclusion in the next Local Plan. If we don't stand our corner, we are likely to be taken advantage of and that is something that we will not allow to happen.

We have also had to contend with three applications for major housing development. Two of these will be starting work soon and they should both improve the area, bringing benefit to the parish. We know that we can never make everyone

happy where development is concerned, but we do try. Another development behind the old carpet shop was a different kettle of fish. We felt that the development was too dense and made so at the expense of pedestrian safety. We also stated the need for a fence the length of the football pitch to prevent conflict between footballers and the residents. This application was eventually rejected by the Borough Development Committee but I'm sure that the developer will be back and we'll be waiting for him. On all of these types of development the developer has to pay the County Council what is called a developer's contribution, which is a considerable sum of money meant in theory to benefit the area in which the development takes place. Unfortunately, Leics. County Council Education Department hijacks the money to spend at King Edward VII Upper School and we feel that this is unfair and have tried unsuccessfully to get it diverted to Captains Close Primary School. This hijacking has never been challenged before but we have made up our minds to challenge it and get at least some of the money spent here in Asfordby.

Our cemetery extension has been priced and the contract awarded but we are waiting for a promised grant from the County Council to materialise. Promises, promises.

The ICT Centre is now a permanent fixture and is a fine facility so, please use it - and it's FREE.

The change in the local bus service was not greeted very favorably by all, particularly (and rightly) by the older generation who live at the top end of the village. For others, four journeys an hour to Melton and Leicester is helpful but has made the village rather crowded with 8 passings of double-deckers per hour.

We are concerned with the number of road traffic accidents at the Half Way House past Asfordby Hill and have asked for a speed restriction down the stretch of road from the Asfordby Hill roundabout to past the Half Way House and for additional street lighting, which we first requested over 2 years ago. Safety will still depend on responsible driving

and, unfortunately, a good proportion of these accidents are in stolen cars. There has been a big increase in crime in the parish, with older residents being targeted. Dog fouling is at its worst ever and is down to irresponsible residents.

I must thank the Youth Club leaders for all the hard work that they put in with our youngsters. Our parish would be a worse place without them. Well done! Whilst I am on the subject of the younger element of the parish, it was good to see the re-formation of the Asfordby Swifts football team. They have (like all junior teams) a dedicated band of adult helpers who, along with their wives, have worked very hard in what in their first season has been a baptism of fire.

Finally, I cannot finish this report without saying a very big thank you to our two Borough Councillors, Mal Sheldon and John Robinson and, although he isn't an Asfordby Borough Councillor, our Parish Council Vice-Chairman, Don Tempest. Don is a Borough Councillor and he has been a great help if the other two haven't been available.

I believe that, once more, we haven't done a bad job over the past year and I can assure you all that over the next 12 months we will continue to do the best that we can for you, the residents of the parish of Asfordby.

*Written by John Bullimore,
Chairman of Asfordby Parish Council.*

**Asfordby Parish Council
Summary of Accounts 2003/2004
BALANCE SHEET**

(Last) Year Ended 31st March 2003		(Current) Year Ended 31st March 2004
£	LONG TERM ASSETS	£
1,858.87	Investments	2,021.43
	CURRENT ASSETS	
11,029.40	Debtors	1,228.37
	Payments in advance	690.75
70.76	VAT recoverable	604.88
26,835.18	Cash in hand	27,474.15
39,794.21	TOTAL ASSETS	32,019.58
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
1,102.46	Creditors	901.43
38,691.75	NET ASSETS	31,118.15
	Represented by:	
12,841.75	General Fund Balance	10,411.74
	Reserves	
7,000.00	Capital	7,000.00
18,850.00	Earmarked	13,706.41
38,691.75		31,118.15

Actual total income for the year was £82,314.60 and expenditure was £80,978.95.