

Woodhurst Parish Council Chairman`s Report 2010

During the year I had the pleasure of taking over as chair of Woodhurst Parish Council, having been a councillor for several years.

Woodhurst Parish Council is an essential part of the structure of local democracy and we have a vital role in acting on behalf of the local community we represent. We are here to respond to the needs of Woodhurst residents and to deliver services and make representations when required. This Council has been working hard to exercise its duties thoroughly and effectively and continues to liaise with local government at County and District level.

This past year we have for example:

- Given views on Planning Applications and long term strategic developments including Healthcare, Public Transport and Policing
- Monitored and ensured the upkeep of footpaths and administered P3 grants
- Monitored the condition of our roads and alerted the Highways Authority of essential maintenance
- Monitored the maintenance of verges and green space and reported incidents of fly-tipping
- Worked in partnership with the police and Countryside Watch to monitor crime incidents and road safety issues
- Liaised with RAF Wyton to raise concerns about low flying and noise pollution
- Administered our duties as Trustees of the Townlands Charity

Expectations and responsibilities of parish councils have risen so we have had to develop and change accordingly, albeit modestly. We utilise IT to communicate quicker and more effectively and the Woodhurst website is a great asset to the village. It would certainly not be the success it is without the hard work and dedication of Andy Notman. The Parish Plan will also be an essential part of an overall strategy in achieving Quality status for the Council, so I look forward to its publication in the near future.

The Parish Council applied for a grant under the Small Scale Environmental Improvement Scheme for possible improvements to the lighting in Church Lane. Subject to the approval of a suitable scheme and backing of parish funds, we have secured a substantial grant.

Liz Pendered our new Parish clerk manages the administration of the Council ensuring that any legal responsibilities are met and that public funds are properly

accounted for. Liz is settling in to her new role and will soon benefit from CPALC training courses scheduled for later on this year. Liz has taken over from Mrs Alison Brace who left after a year in the post. We bid Alison thanks for her assistance and best wishes for the future.

I also look forward to the success of Woodhurst in Bloom continuing in its new guise as Natural Woodhurst and hope it gets the support it deserves from within the parish.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and valued contributions throughout the year and look forward to an interesting and challenging year ahead.

Alistair Marr – Chairman
19th April 2010