

Chairman's Annual Report 2022/23

Presented to the Parish Council Meeting on 10th May 2023

Nearly eight years have passed since we formed the Parish Council; created out of great local concern for the urgent need to protect our environment from unwanted development.

Now, after many months and years of consultations, surveys and a referendum to ascertain parishioners' wishes, AWSPC Neighbourhood Plan and Design Codes has been accepted and integrated into Lancaster City Council's overall Local Plan. Very many thanks must go to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group led by Councillor Parrett and to our own Parish Clerk for his wise technical guidance. This has been a very great achievement for such a small Parish with limited means. I understand that other Parish Councils have been so impressed by our achievement that they have used our process as a template to create their own Neighbourhood Plan.

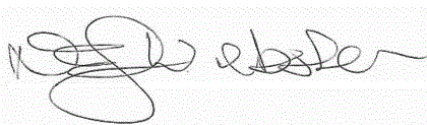
In last year's report, I referred obliquely to issues regarding activity on fields near Stodday where I remarked that, *"A great deal of time and effort has been spent addressing a number of rural planning issues some of which are still ongoing but out of our hands."* Regrettably, the misuse of these fields has continued as the appropriate authorities have been slow to act.

Disappointingly, still no progress towards resolving the canal-side fly-parking! Councillors and I share parishioners' frustrations with this long-standing inconvenience. Inexplicably, neither the County Highways nor the Canal and River Trust are prepared to address our legitimate concerns!

On a more positive note, I am very pleased to write that the semi-derelict picnic site at the junction of Snuff Mill Lane and the River-side walk has now been revitalised. The site surface has been weeded and re-gravelled, two eight-seater tables have been installed plus three benches and a new litter bin. Plaques have been placed on the two picnic tables dedicating them to the late Queen's Jubilee. In addition, the larger bench carries a plaque recording King Charles' Coronation. Feedback tells me that the site is already a great success with walkers and cyclists plus their kids and dogs; even one chap flying a kite! Your Parish Council continues to make a difference in and for the community.

Our thanks must go to Cllr Duncan Hall who resigns this year; his contribution to the Parish Council was much appreciated. The Returning Officer for Lancaster and district has notified the Parish that Councillors Parrett, Walton, Ward and Webster have been re-elected unopposed. Another four years of the usual suspects!

In addition, as there was an unfilled vacancy, Tim Dant, our retiring Ward Councillor, has joined the Parish Council now as a co-opted Parish Councillor.



Nick Webster, Parish Chairman