

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Sadberge Parish Council Chair's Report to the Sadberge Parish Meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2005

Key issues during the past year for the council continue to include traffic, planning applications, care and protection of the village green and the proposed improvements to Durham Tees Valley Airport.

1. Vandalism

- 1.1 A year ago we were very concerned regarding an upsurge in unacceptable behaviour by some young people in and/or visiting the village, in particular following discos. At a public meeting held in partnership with Sadberge Village Hall Association and chaired by Cllr Brian Jones, it was agreed to put the provision of the discos on hold for some time, to assess the situation. There has been a significant drop in such behaviour, which remains the current situation.

2. Traffic Issues

- 2.1 We still await the outcome of traffic surveys, carried out to detect speed violations, on behalf of the Highways Agency. At a meeting called by a local action group, it was suggested changes in speed restrictions on entry into the village be implemented, in order to address the situation; these have been taken on board in part only.
- 2.2 The ever-increasing usage of cars and the subsequent parking problems remain a difficulty in the village; various specific issues have been addressed by the council on safety or environmental grounds.

3. Village Green and Improvements

- 3.1 As there have been a number of queries, which have required confirmation of village land ownership and status, the clerk has now obtained a definitive map of the village green.
- 3.2 We have had two visits by the Environmental Officer from Darlington Borough Council. He was able to clarify arrangements for keeping the village clean - the introduction of zonal cleansing by the Borough Council has improved matters.
- 3.3 He was also able to authorise replacement of three cherry trees on the green and explained the erection of hard wood posts on the edge of the grass at the triangle of green, at the top of Chapel Row, in order to prevent erosion of the verge by vehicles.
- 3.4 Wooden posts have also been erected on the edge of the green opposite the post office to protect the verges, and bollards to protect pavements at the corner of Middleton Road and Darlington Road.
- 3.5 Discussions have been on-going regarding an appropriate barrier – fence, posts or stones, to prevent illegal parking or vehicular access to the village greens, and the council is seeking the opinions of residents at this meeting.
- 3.6 New benches have been installed at Beacon Hill and Stockton Road.
- 3.7 New equipment has been installed in the play area, although the drainage problem has not been sorted, despite efforts by the Parish Council to advise on the matter.
- 3.8 There is now regular posting of minutes and agendas of the council meetings on the website, thus improving communication of the council's dealings.

4. Planning

- 4.1 Various planning applications have been granted, including that of a dwelling on land opposite the Three Tuns at the bottom of Laurel Terrace, which has been a source of concern to residents.
- 4.2 The appeal against refusal for planning for the siting of a residential caravan on Middleton Road was rejected, following a public enquiry.

5. Durham Tees Valley Airport

- 5.1 In the spring, the council welcomed Richard Whitehouse who gave a detailed presentation outlining the expansion of the newly named Durham Tees Valley Airport. The council concluded that whilst the improvements it would mean for the economic development of the area, and increased employment, it remained concerned regarding the increase in traffic which it would bring.
- 5.2 The council has since welcomed the news from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that building on the Long Newton flyover will begin next spring. It is hoped this will ease the problem.

6. New Appointment

- 6.1 In December, Alastair Mackenzie was appointed Clerk to the Council and as its Responsible Financial Officer, following the resignation of Alan Parks. The council wished Alan and Susan well in their new life in Turkey and were pleased to welcome Alastair.

7. Appreciation

- 7.1 The Chair wishes to thank Alastair Mackenzie for his thoroughness in dealing with council business and his efficiency in carrying out his duties both as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
- 7.2 She also wishes to record her thanks to Cllr Brian Jones who continues to provide an excellent link with the Borough Council, facilitating communication.
- 7.3 Finally, the chair also wishes to thank councillors for their support and their willing contribution to the teamwork of the council.

Millie Scaife
Chair of Sadberge Parish Council