

MINUTES OF THE EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EAST LEAKE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: ELPC Cllrs: Eleanor Robinson (Chair), Mel Roper, Chris Garbett, Susan Davis, Chris Jennison, Donna Griggs, David Davis, Jason Billin, Will Birch, Wendy Thompson, Kevin Shaw.

ALSO PRESENT: The Clerk, Sue Lewis; Assistant Clerk, Ally Moore, James Naish MP, Cllr Lesley Way (RBC), Cllr Stuart Matthews (NCC), PC Kelly Carlile (Nottinghamshire Police) and 25 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Liz Taylor, Mike Sharpe, and Sandra Johnson (ELPC), and Cllr Andy Brown (NCC) – reasons given and accepted.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The Chair, Cllr Eleanor Robinson, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (13TH MAY 2025)

The minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting were approved unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS:

Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council:

Thank you for attending today's annual meeting. The Council has been busy as always and is making progress with several projects.

Grants

We have been able to award many grants to community organisations this year, including:

- Lantern Lane for their Outdoor Play and Learning Project
- Soar Valley Cricket Club for new pitch covers
- East Leake and District History to print their new publication
- East Leake Village Hall for improvement and maintenance works to the building
- Costock Road Pavilion for rooftop solar panels

Amenities

We have added to our Street Art project with a mural on our works depot depicting basket weavers. This reflects the history of East Leake, referencing a main trade in the area.

Once we have full access to the Recreation Ground back from Severn Trent, we will be moving forward with a new pump track at the skate park to encourage a wide range of ages to enjoy the park together. In the meantime, we are looking into creating a dirt track for older children at a different site.

Refurbishment of the public toilets has sadly been delayed due to personal issues of the contractor and difficulty in procuring some materials, but we hope these will be up and running soon.

We are continuing to liaise with Nottinghamshire Highways to obtain permission to move forward with our gateways project. We have also refurbished noticeboards and begun to create new information boards and walking maps to enhance our tourism offering.

Anti-social behaviour

Following concerns of an increase in anti-social behaviour in the village last year, we have enhanced our CCTV equipment on Gotham Road Recreation Ground.

We are replacing the shelter in the Friendship Garden with an 'anti-vandal' model due to frequent damage and continue to work with the local police regarding patterns of anti-social behaviour. We would encourage reporting any incidents of anti-social behaviour or petty crime to the police by calling 111 or using the non-emergency online service if 999 is not appropriate.

Future projects

A working party has been created to review the East Leake Neighbourhood Plan and prepare a new Plan for approval of residents before applying for this to be formally recognised in the planning process. The aim is to shape future growth of the village and minimise inappropriate development. If you are interested in contributing to the working party, please contact the Clerk for more information.

Another working party is investigating the possibility of purchasing the Baptist Church as a community facility. This will only be appropriate if it can be run without ongoing loss to the Council and there is a genuine community need for the venue. Again, if you have any views on this you would like to share, please let us know.

I would again like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors, community volunteers and Parish Council staff for their hard work over the past 12 months. Please get in touch if you have any further ideas about how to improve our village.

Cllr Eleanor Robinson

Report by the Chair of the Planning Committee:

On a larger scale, we are waiting to see how Local Government Reform impacts East Leake. Rushcliffe Borough Council will disappear, and the Planning Authority will become either Nottinghamshire County Council or Nottingham City Council, should we be absorbed into the City.

East Leake will then be subject to the Local Plan and the planning policies of whichever authority is responsible.

A new Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared. A working party, comprising Councillors and interested members of the public, has been formed. Working with an external consultant, various policies affecting East Leake are being examined. The housing policy is currently under scrutiny. By identifying potential sites for small-scale housing development, we can demonstrate that housing demand is being met and reject any large-scale housing developments. Fortunately, there have again been no major development applications brought forward.

I am pleased to report that the revised Conservation Area has been approved. This helps to protect the character of the village. Any proposed development within the Conservation Area must meet strict requirements.

The Parish Council is also looking into a Master Plan for the village centre. This is still at an early stage.

The Planning Committee has considered various individual planning applications. Taking into account any comments made by neighbours, the Planning Committee either supports or objects to each application.

As villagers will be aware, a new sewer is being installed beneath Meadow Park to connect to the new Sewage Treatment Plant on West Leake Road. Negotiations are also ongoing regarding the pumping station off Gotham Road. The new sewer and pumping station will, hopefully, alleviate the problems caused by sewage overflow.

We welcome comments from members of the public on any planning matters that concern them. On several occasions this year, members of the public have attended Planning Committee meetings to put their case in person. Thank you for these contributions.

Lastly, a big thank you to the members of the Planning Committee for their sensible deliberations throughout the year and for all their hard work on behalf of the village.

Cllr Chris Garbett

What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan is a complex document which requires a lot of work by some councillors and volunteers from East Leake. The Parish Council has engaged the services of an expert to guide us and advise us through the process.

The current plan runs to 2028 and therefore needs updating as the village has changed considerably over the last 10 years. It is a very important document as it allows the community to shape the development of our community.

The local plan for Rushcliffe states that no further housing sites should be allocated around East Leake in the next plan period, but this could be overridden in certain circumstances. Having a new Neighbourhood Plan means the village has more say in what is built and where; and if it plans for a small number of houses this could protect the village from another tranche of housing development in the future.

Shortly we will be asking for the views of the village to find out what residents feel is still needed in the way of new housing. Is it flats, homes to rent or accommodation for older people or something else? Where should they go? We are very interested in your views

If you are interested in further information, please look at the Neighbourhood Plan web page.

Cllr Liz Taylor (Vice-Chair of Planning Committee)

Report by the Chair of the Personnel & Finance Committee:

Over the past five years, despite more than £500,000 being spent on major capital projects, your Council has managed to reduce the Council Tax for a Band D property from £98.22 in 2021/22 to £92.96 in the current year.

We must confess, however, that this has, in part, been possible due to the steady increase in the parish tax base as more and more new housing developments have come on stream.

All the planned major developments are now complete and, for the coming year, 2026/27, we have been able to reduce the Parish Council share of your council tax from £92.96 to £88.48.

Looking to the future, however, the Parish Council would like to acquire the old Baptist Church in the village as a community asset and, whilst we shall be applying for grant assistance, this will inevitably involve some contribution from us and may result in an increase in council tax.

Cllr Kevin Shaw

Report by the Chair of the Amenities Committee:

This has been a relatively quiet year for the Amenities Committee. Several projects were initiated but later delayed, either due to Severn Trent works at the Gotham Road Recreation Ground or because start dates slipped beyond expectations. Despite this, a number of improvements and initiatives have been successfully delivered throughout the year.

At the Gotham Road Recreation Ground, works associated with Severn Trent have postponed some planned developments, but several enhancements have still been completed. The CCTV system has been upgraded and extended, helping to identify instances of unwanted activity. Following the creation of the picnic area, additional bins were installed to improve the amenity for residents and visitors. Vehicular access to the Recreation Ground has also been improved through the installation of tracking and restoration of the grassed area.

A quotation was obtained for the proposed extension to the skatepark, although no further progress is expected before 2027. Approval was also granted for the refurbishment of the public toilets; however, the project has experienced delays due to a later-than-anticipated start date and subsequent unforeseen issues.

The village's street art collection has continued to grow with the addition of a new artwork on the doors of the council workshop. The piece depicts a scene from a historic basket-weaving factory and reflects an important aspect of the village's heritage.

The annual Community Tree Scheme has once again contributed to the enhancement of the village environment, with further trees planted in the Grebe and Lantern Fields. Another project arising from residents' suggestions is the development of a dirt track facility. Following delays in identifying a suitable location, work is now expected to begin later this year on land behind the Costock Road car park.

An important development during the year has been the introduction of volunteer Flood Wardens and accompanying signage, measures which we hope will rarely need to be called upon. Work also continues on the creation of tourism notice boards and updated footpath maps to improve information for residents and visitors alike.

Alongside these larger projects, many essential activities continue behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the village. These include inspections and repairs to play equipment, maintenance of the public toilets - including Sunday opening undertaken voluntarily by councillors - and the upkeep and improvement of the village's green spaces, among numerous other routine tasks.

I would like to thank the members of the Amenities Committee for their continued hard work and commitment throughout the year, as well as the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, whose contributions are invaluable to the successful delivery of our projects.

As always, Amenities Committee meetings remain open to the public. Residents are very welcome to attend meetings where matters of interest are being discussed, or to contact either myself or the Clerks with any ideas, comments, or concerns they may wish to raise.

Cllr David Davis

REPORTS FROM RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Rushcliffe Borough Council:

This has been a busy year with a huge number of changes we have had to keep up with. The biggest challenge, still to reach a conclusion, is Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), has occupied much of the time of Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC). RBC has submitted a response to the proposals, and we expect to hear the outcome of the Government's decision in July. This will mean that RBC will cease to exist on 1st April 2028 and new unitary councils are formed.

In the meantime, we carry on as usual.

We have attended meetings on Governance Scrutiny (finance and audit), Fairham Growth Board, Growth and Development Scrutiny, Communities Scrutiny, Trent Valley Drainage Board, Barton in Fabis/Fairham Parish reorganisation, Planning Committees, meetings with Severn Trent to update on their projects in the village and LGR. We also take part in a variety of training sessions.

This year, we have responded to consultations on:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and various other consultations about changes to the planning system
- Government consultation on 'Reducing the prevalence of private estate management arrangements.' We encouraged residents of managed estates to respond to the concurrent consultation 'Enhanced protections for homeowners on freehold estates'
- Local Government Reorganisation focusing on our objection to Rushcliffe BC being split, roughly along the A46
- Local Development Order that refers to the future use of the decommissioned power station and is currently being altered to allow a change of use for the southern site.
- Various planning applications affecting the life of residents in East and West Leake.

We offered an alternative budget at the March Council Meeting. Although this was defeated by vote, our submission to offer council tax relief to households with a resident with a terminal illness was accepted by the leading party and included in this year's budget.

We have been meeting with key people regarding the youth club and tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). We thank the people involved in the youth club for providing safe places for our young people to have fun and for their work in helping some of these young people to understand the consequences of poor behaviour. When residents see incidences of ASB, it is important that they use correct reporting methods rather than just take to Facebook. Only by having reported incidents will we get the action needed. No reports mean that nothing is happening requiring intervention.

We continue to lobby for a new Health Centre and are grateful to the work done by James Naish MP to support this. The push for this from residents, councillors and health staff has been going on for over 20 years. A long time but we will not give up. Our growing community needs good quality health provision available locally. In October we submitted a representation to the Treasury in advance of the Autumn Budget to request funding for the East Leake Health Centre.

We are now in the No-Mow May period of the year, and you will see that some of the grassy areas are being left to grow to encourage wildlife. We appreciate that this is sometimes

controversial, but the aim is to provide habitat for native wild plants to feed the important insects that pollinate plants and are a support to all ecosystems.

We have been supporting initiatives by the Parish council;

- The provision of a bike track as requested by students of LEA when the MP visited
- The potential purchase of the Baptist Church including a meeting with Traders Group to find out how they can see it being used. A recent law has been passed which may help with process of purchasing community assets.
- The Neighbourhood Plan revision

Our community support fund this year has helped the Rugby Club buy new lights, the East Leake history Society to print books about the history of the Rushcliffe Estate (available from the library for £10), Lantern Lane School to help with OPAL play and East Leake Guides. The allowances for the current year are now available. Please contact us if you would like to apply for funding for a local project.

On a very cold January afternoon we had a walk round East Leake with the RBC Chief Executive, Adam Hill, to discuss the need for improvements to the centre. We have seen that a large amount of funding has gone to other key settlements in Rushcliffe and were making the point that we too could do with some funding. And we managed to get this added in to Rushcliffe's budget. There has been a meeting between RBC, ELPC and ourselves concerning a Village Centre Masterplan and work is ongoing to produce this in the next few months.

Last August we, along with the Parish Clerk, County Councillors and our MP, attended the update meeting at the Sewage Treatment works. This was just an update on progress, an explanation of some of the holdups etc. Commissioning of the site was starting the week we met the new tanks/beds were brought online fully and the old ones were run down. We are grateful to residents in West Leake who have worked with STW to ensure this work has been done with sensitivity to residents.

The residents of Meadowcroft and Gardinia estates met with James Naish MP on July 18th to hear about his actions on the issues with the management company. As a result of this meeting, the residents met again on August 13th with the aim of forming a residents' association to give them more power to collectively challenge decisions and charges made by the management company. Over 100 residents have joined so far. As one third of East Leake residents live under these conditions, the issue is growing in importance.

Last July, two of us attended the Houses of Parliament to give evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee in Westminster. This was as a result of our earlier response to a CMA consultation concerning fees on managed estates.

We continue to support individual residents with queries such as planning. We hold a monthly surgery in the library, the first Saturday of the month, and we often attend the Community Hub in the Village Hall.

Back to LGR for moment. Our term of office is due to finish this time next year. Originally most people thought that we would be asked to remain in post for the final eleven months of the Borough Council. However, since the challenge to this in the High Court, by a political party, there will be elections next May. This is your chance to stand for election and make a difference to your local community. Information on how to do this is available from the RBC website and you are welcome to speak with any of us.

Cllrs Lesley Way, Jason Billin, and Carys Thomas

REPORT FROM JAMES NAISH, MP FOR RUSHCLIFFE

James Naish MP addressed the meeting.

1. East Leake's Health Centre

The MP explained:

- The government has announced plans to fund 250 new health centres in England (Autumn budget 2025). This is theoretically good news
- East Leake will be submitted at the end of this month as part of the Nottinghamshire process
- Approximately 24 submissions are likely to be made across the county

East Leake is considered a top priority location by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board, though challenges remain due to population thresholds used in national criteria (new neighbourhood health centres are expected to operate 6 days per week, 12 hours a day and serve around 50,000 patients).

Two parallel approaches are being explored:

1. A completely new health centre via the above process
2. Significant refurbishment of existing facilities if the above isn't successful

The MP stressed:

- Competition for funding for brand new health centres will be intense
- East Leake remains a priority issue locally, irrespective of the national outcome
- Lobbying work continues with the Integrated Care Board and government ministers

2. Village Centre / Health Centre Area Planning

If a new health centre is confirmed, this could be a catalyst for wider changes in the centre of the village including:

- Public realm improvements
- Environmental enhancements

The MP confirmed that he is engaged with East Leake's County and Borough Councillors about wider redevelopment opportunities associated with any future health centre investment and the likely relocation of Gotham Road pumping station. He will continue to be part of these discussions.

3. Estate Management Charges

The MP acknowledged widespread concerns nationally about new estate service charges ("fleecehold" arrangements) and updated attendees about ongoing work in Parliament to reform the system. In the meantime, he is working closely with resident groups in parts of East Leake to deal with uncooperative / unresponsive management companies.

4. Flooding and Drainage

The MP confirmed that he and Borough Cllr Jason Billin are in regular communication about Kingston Brook where vegetation clearance has taken place. They are also in dialogue with Nottinghamshire County Council about a potential natural flood management solution upstream to reduce run-off which negatively impacts East Leake.

Ongoing engagement is also taking place with Severn Trent about its investment into local sewage infrastructure at East Leake, Wysall and Willoughby-on-the-Wolds.

5. British Gypsum

The MP updated attendees on support being provided to British Gypsum in parliament on key issues impacting its East Leake site. Key issues regularly being discussed with government ministers include materials costs, energy costs and its operational footprint across the UK.

6. Roads and Bridges

Updates were provided on:

- Bridge works in the area, both of which are expected to finish in July
- Significant highways investment across Nottinghamshire via the government, the East Midlands Mayor Claire Ward and Nottinghamshire County Council which have worked collaboratively on this important matter
- The restoration of surface dressing across the county which was stopped in 2017/18 as a cost-saving measure. The new administration at County Hall has agreed to reinstate this extra preventative measure which is welcomed

The MP confirmed that Nottinghamshire is expected to spend one of the largest amounts nationally on highways maintenance over the next 12 months.

7. Special Educational Needs (SEND)

The MP provided a brief update on SEND policy nationally, following a roundtable discussion which took place in East Leake at the Academy last year.

8. Local Government Reorganisation

Finally, the MP confirmed that he has submitted his views on this matter with Rushcliffe Borough's other MP, Robert Jenrick, as part of the consultation which concluded in early 2026. Councils are responsible for submissions and building the relevant arguments, but MPs are able to present their views to ministers and James Naish said he would be doing this in the next few days. He has forwarded the views of East Leake's Councillors directly to ministers, so concerns about rural East Leake potentially being separated from east Rushcliffe (also rural) have been made multiple times. No final decision has yet been made but the outcome should be known before the summer holidays begin.

The MP stressed the importance of ensuring future structures remain viable and sustainable, and reiterated that this is the basis on which ministers will be making decisions.

UPDATE FROM CLLR STUART MATTHEWS, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Cllr Stuart Matthews (NCC) addressed the meeting.

Cllr Matthews thanked parish councillors and volunteers for their work.

Roads Funding

Cllr Matthews reported:

- Approximately £99.6 million allocated for roads investment
- Additional funding linked to major schemes including the A614

The council is:

- Expanding highways teams
- Introducing new pothole repair equipment
- Increasing surface dressing programmes

The representative acknowledged public frustration regarding potholes and road conditions.

Reporting Issues

Residents were encouraged to continue using reporting apps and systems, though concerns were acknowledged regarding inconsistent updates and closure notices.

Local Government Reorganisation

The representative discussed uncertainty surrounding the future structure of local government in Nottinghamshire and confirmed that elections are currently expected to proceed next year.

Foster Care Appeal

Cllr Matthews made an appeal for more foster carers, highlighting:

- Increasing demand
- The importance of stable homes for vulnerable children
- Support available for foster carers

Residents interested in fostering were encouraged to contact the council.

UPDATE FROM SEVERN TRENT

Representatives from Severn Trent and Fisher German updated residents on:

- Ongoing sewage and pumping station works
- Delays caused by nesting birds
- Planned traffic management arrangements
- Future phases of works

Residents raised concerns regarding:

- Traffic disruption
- Construction impacts
- Possible compensation or mitigation for the village

Contractors confirmed they continue working with the parish council and local representatives.

REPORTS FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND/OR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

PC Kelly Carlile updated the meeting on:

- Burglaries and arrests involving suspects from outside the area
- Anti-social behaviour
- Illegal motorbike and e-scooter use
- CCTV use and enforcement

Residents were encouraged to:

- Report incidents promptly
- Participate in Community Speed Watch
- Continue sharing intelligence with neighbourhood policing teams

The police acknowledged frustrations regarding illegal bikes and explained operational limitations around pursuit policies.

Youth engagement work and youth provision initiatives were also discussed.

QUESTIONS

A member of the public spoke on behalf of a group of independent businesses on the High Street who had noticed a significant decline in footfall over recent months.

She explained that local businesses were exploring the possibility of holding a promotional event to support East Leake High Street and independent traders, potentially including a future “Shop Local” event, and asked whether the Parish Council might be able to provide financial assistance or promotional support.

Cllr Eleanor Robinson explained that the Parish Council already has a working party established to develop the Village Plan, and that the matter is due to be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Robinson stated that she would be happy to invite Laura to attend that meeting and present the proposal to members. She requested that the proposal also be submitted to the Parish Council in writing.

Questions were raised regarding the future of the Baptist Church building.

The parish council confirmed:

- The building had previously been registered as an Asset of Community Value
- Discussions continue regarding possible community uses
- Any future acquisition would require a viable business plan and partnership support

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE

The meeting concluded with thanks to:

- Parish councillors
- Community volunteers
- Local representatives
- Police and infrastructure teams
- Residents attending the meeting
- Further updates are expected at future meetings.

Meeting closed at 20:15

MINUTES OF THE EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EAST LEAKE PARISH OFFICE ON TUESDAY 13TH MAY 2025 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: Eleanor Robinson (Chair), Mel Roper, David Davis, Mike Sharpe, Lynn Forsyth, Jason Billin, Will Birch, Donna Griggs, Chris Garbett, Liz Taylor, and Kevin Shaw.

ALSO PRESENT: The Clerk, Sue Lewis; Assistant Clerk, Ally Moore; Cllr Lesley Way (RBC), PC Kelly Carlile (Nottinghamshire Police) and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Chris Jennison (ELPC), Cllr Carys Thomas (RBC), Matt Barney, Cllr Andy Brown (NCC), and Cllr Stuart Matthews (NCC).

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The Chair, Cllr Eleanor Robinson, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (7TH MAY 2024)

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were approved unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS:

Report by the Chair of the Parish Council:

We are pleased to be continuing to run with a full Council, which allows us to best address the needs of East Leake residents.

Environment:

Following declaring a climate emergency and resolving to bring down our carbon footprint in 2022, we have been making changes such as the introduction of LED lighting at the Parish Office and will be purchasing electric equipment to replace the current fuel-run tools. We are pleased to announce that we have now reduced our carbon footprint by 64% and are working on lowering this further.

We are continuing to liaise closely with Severn Trent and lobby for measures to reduce flooding and avoid continued sewage discharges. We also now have a number of trained volunteer flood wardens to assist in future emergencies.

Thank you to all residents who turned out for this year's successful litter pick. Remember we are happy to lend our high-vis vests and litter pickers out to community groups or individuals throughout the year.

Amenities:

We have furthered our Street Art project, with new floral designs over the bridge on Gotham Road. We are hoping to add a mural which reflects the history of East Leake in the coming months.

Following a request from some young residents, we are looking into the possibility of expanding our skate park. This is a heavily used facility, and we hope additions will allow a wide range of ages to enjoy the park together.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

We share concerns of residents regarding an apparent increase in anti-social behaviour in the village. We are in talks to create a heavier CCTV presence in the village centre, which will ideally prevent future incidents but at least allow police to identify perpetrators quickly. We would remind you of the importance of reporting any incidents of anti-social behaviour or petty

crime to the police. If you do not consider there to be an emergency, this can be done by calling 111 or using the non-emergency online service.

Last year's completion of the additional car park at the Pavilion has reduced anti-social parking on match days. However, we are aware of the ongoing issues with the Cornflower Way car park. While this car park is not within Parish Council's control, we are liaising with interested parties to encourage an amicable solution.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors, community volunteers and Parish Council staff for their hard work over the past 12 months. Please get in touch if you have any further ideas about how to improve our village.

Cllr Eleanor Robinson

Report by the Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee:

As most of you will be aware, the Parish Council have undertaken a number of major projects over the past 5 years, from car park extensions, new skatepark and children's playground and building a totally new car park on Costock Road.

Plus, of course, building the new sports pavilion and totally renovating the two-storey brick building, but the vast majority of the funding for that came via the Football Foundation, strategic Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funding.

In addition, in an endeavor to achieve our objective of being carbon neutral by 2030 we have upgraded all the lighting in the Parish Office and replaced the grounds maintenance tractor with a much more fuel-efficient designated grass cutting machine and small utility vehicle. The next step is to replace all the petrol driven hand tools with cordless electric. There have also been appreciable savings as a direct result of the COVID restrictions forcing us to hold meetings and send out all the paperwork digitally. We all got used to this so whilst we are now back meeting face to face, we are still sending all the paperwork out digitally.

During that 5 year period the Parish Council have invested a total of £441,000 in capital projects but have still managed to reduce the Band D council tax from £98.22p in 2020/21 to £93.79 in 2024/25, although I must come clean and confess that this has been possible by the number of Band D properties (the Parish Tax Base) having increased from 3180 to 3406, and will continue to increase as current building developments are completed.

Turning to 2025/26, we have capital projects in the planning stage, to renovate the public toilets and improve the CCTV coverage in the village center and have set aside some £84,000 for this expenditure. We have, however, still managed to reduce the Band D rate to £92.96p, only down some 83p, but at least it is still going in the right direction.

Cllr Kevin Shaw

Report by the Chair of the Planning Committee:

This has, thankfully, been a fairly quiet year for planning applications in the village with no major development applications coming forward. However, we will see how the Government changes to the planning process impact on East Leake in the future.

The Planning Committee considers each individual planning application and either approves or objects with valid reasons, always taking into account any comments made by neighbours.

The Conservation Area in the central area of the village has been extended slightly and is currently waiting for final approval from the Conservation Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council. There have been a number of applications within the last 12 months in the

Conservation Area and these are given special consideration as they affect the overall appearance, character and ambience of the village centre. Although we advise on these applications the final say is with Rushcliffe Borough Council and their decision does not always concur with ours.

For your information there is still no start date for work commencement of the small Solar Farm approved on Sharpley Hill off Lantern Lane. Building is still underway on Rempstone Road but has now been completed on Kestrel Fields.

Extensive building work is still going on at the Severn Trent Sewerage Plant on West Leake Road. This will increase the capacity of the plant and has been long overdue. It should be completed in summer this year. Currently there is no date for the improvements to the Pumping Station in the village centre.

A number of applications have come through to the Planning Committee in recent months for house insulation and we are always happy to approve these.

On another note, we are always happy for local residents to make comments either directly to the PC or on the portal on individual applications. We will continue to fight for our village and will strenuously object to any further large-scale applications likely to come our way in the future.

Lastly a big thank you to the members of the Planning Committee for their sensible contributions over the year and for their shared wealth of knowledge.

Cllr Liz Taylor

Report by the Chair of the Amenities Committee:

Once again it has been a busy year, and I am delighted to be able to report back on lots of projects that the Amenities Committee have been involved with.

- We were very proud to be able to place a 'Little Free Library' next to the natural playground in the Oldershaw Trust field. This library was suggested by the family of Ruby who sadly died of cancer at just 2 years old. This library was joined recently by an arbour donated by the family of David and Sue McInerney, and we are delighted to see that both are being regularly and respectfully used by members of the East Leake community of all ages.
- A small project that the committee was keen to carry out was completed during this year, to build a family picnic area on the raised area of the Recreation Ground behind the Bowls Club. We hope that lots of families will make use of this area during the summer months.
- We arranged for the War Memorial to be professionally cleaned this year, and it really made a difference! It is important that work like this is done by a specialist who can clean the stone without damaging it, and I think they did a great job.
- Following the tragic incident in Southport where young children were attacked by a person using a knife, the placement of a Bleed Control Kit available for community use was quickly approved by the council, and the kit is now situated in a box on the front of the Village Hall next to the AED. We also ran 2 free sessions that explained the equipment in the kit and how to use it. Hopefully it will never be needed, but it is there just in case.

- Once again Cllr Liz Taylor arranged the flower displays for the centre of the village, and they looked amazing! This year's flowers will be supplied by the same company, and we are looking forward to seeing them in place soon.
- We replaced the old, stiff roundabout in the small children's park with a new one that runs freely. This roundabout is one of our accessible pieces of equipment and we felt it was important to replace it like for like so that children in wheelchairs are still able to enjoy it.

Lots of other things go on in the background to keep the village running, things like play equipment inspections and repairs, maintenance of the toilets (and opening of the toilets on Sundays which is done by councillors on a voluntary basis), maintenance and improvements to green areas of the village, and lots of other tasks.

I am grateful to the members of the Amenities Committee for their hard work this year, and to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk who do a lot of the work to make our projects work.

Looking forward we have plans for the next few months including:

- CCTV in the village
- Refurbishment of the public toilets
- Building a Pump Track to extend the skate park
- Continuing the street art project

As always, our meetings are open to the public so please feel free to come along and watch if we are discussing something you are interested in or contact myself or the clerks if you have any ideas or comments you would like to discuss.

Cllr Lynn Forsyth

REPORTS FROM RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Lesley Way delivered the following report on behalf of herself, Cllr Carys Thomas, and Cllr Jason Billin of Rushcliffe Borough Council:

We continue to be busy working directly on behalf of residents: conducting monthly surgeries to meet people and talk about their issues, following up casework that comes in via email and other routes, issuing bulletins via our Facebook page, commenting on planning applications, attending parish council meetings to report and gather information and being out and about as much as we can to get to know the issues that concern people here and see what we can do to help.

The early part of the year saw the inquiry into the solar farm application in the West Leake Hills. The residents of both West and East Leake collaborated very well to put forward views, and we spent a rather exhausting week at the inquiry. All to good effect as the appeal was dismissed.

Sewerage and flooding continue to be a hot topic with devastating floods in January causing misery for several families whose homes were flooded out. What with lobbying about this, attending meetings, speaking to the various parties and residents, this is one of the issues that takes up a good deal of our time. A valiant group of residents do sterling work on calling Severn Trent Water (STW) to account and keeping on the pressure for action – it is a pleasure to support them any way we can. STW have at last started the project to upgrade the infrastructure but too little, too late and certainly too slow. The first phase, upgrading the sewage treatment works on West Leake Road nears completion, but this has not been a

smooth process with almost daily complaints about various aspects of the work causing issues for residents, particularly in West Leake. Due to our efforts Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board has now started a programme of clearing Kingston Brook, which should help with the flooding.

We had something of a minor success helping to broker a solution to the problem of the glass bins at the Coop car park floating around in flood water and depositing broken glass everywhere. They are now at least secured so that they do not float (though they remain unavailable when the car park is flooded.)

We continue to be frustrated by lack of progress on a new Health Centre.

A project to upgrade housing association homes on the Rushcliffe Estate has been quite a saga this year. We were called in at the coldest part of the year with residents having their homes upgraded and reclad – basically being taken apart and rebuilt around them - at times open to the elements. We helped secure additional payments for electricity, signposted to foodbanks, negotiated an improved schedule for the work and helped improve the communication between the residents, the developers and the Housing Association as landlords. We were again aided by residents who organised and helped each other and supportive responses from all parties involved and has been a privilege to get to know them and be able to help. The work is nearing completion now, and the site compound on Sharpley Drive will be returned to open space. A group from the Local History Society has been working with residents to document both the architectural and social history of this remarkable estate and the results will be presented to the village soon.

Currently we are working on measures to ensure dog owners and other residents can live together in harmony and to resolve another long running saga to do with the Cornflower Way car park.

As well as these local issues we also take a full part in the wider work of the council, serving on various committees, raising important matters for debate and scrutiny, contributing to debate, policy development and scrutiny of the council's work, punching far above our weight as a group of 3 councillors among 44 with two large political parties. We regularly attend training sessions to increase our knowledge and improve the skills we need to operate effectively as councillors. The council now has a new Chief Executive, Adam Hill, following the resignation of Kath Marriot.

The change of government last July has created quite a bit of activity. We are pleased to be working very closely with our new MP, James Naish, on many issues, and value his engagement, interventions and other contributions. But some of the Government's policy shifts are less welcome. Various changes to national planning policy put our countryside and community at even greater risk from intrusive development and as usual without the required initiatives to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace.

Towards the end of 24-25 the Government plans for Local Government Reorganisation have caused considerable disruption and this will no doubt continue as things unfold. Another destabilising change where it is hard to see what benefits will ensue. A new Mayoral Authority has been created to create an extra layer of government, but the second-tier councils like Rushcliffe are set to disappear – shifting decisions further away from the local level, curiously billed as “devolution”.

We battle on trying to improve the situation for residents in new estates who face unregulated and uncapped management charges for the public open space and other infrastructure on their estates but provided for public benefit. This is slow work, but our MP is up to speed and making representation at the highest levels. Other areas of Rushcliffe are waking up to the

problems and we find more and more that our concern are echoed across the piece. No major breakthroughs yet, but we battle on, once again supported by and supporting a group of residents who volunteer their time to act for others.

Rushcliffe continues to develop planning policy, and we have contributed fully to discussions on the Design Code and Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan among other policies and guidance documents.

As you are now doubt aware, Borough Councillors have access to a community support fund which local groups can apply to, to help with their projects. During the year 24-25 we have supported East Leake Village Hall, the Play Café, Wild Things East Leake, 2nd East Leake Scout Group and Kingstone Vale Gymnastics Club. The remaining part of our funds went to a food bank that regularly delivers to people in East Leake. Application to the fund is now open for 25-25. There are other grants schemes available from Rushcliffe, and we do publicise other opportunities that we hear about on our Facebook page.

REPORTS (IF ANY) FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND/OR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

PC Kelly Carlile announced the temporary disbandment of the Community Speed Watch group following the resignation of the lead coordinator and one other member. With only two members remaining, the group no longer has the capacity to operate effectively. As a result, PC Carlile is appealing for new volunteers to come forward, and the Parish Council will be actively advertising for additional members to help reinstate the initiative.

PC Carlile provided an update on recent crime trends in East Leake and the surrounding villages. She reported that there has been a recent peak in criminal activity, with a noticeable increase in burglaries and a spate of car thefts. However, the incidence of car theft has since decreased. In the smaller neighbouring villages, such as Normanton and Sutton Bonington, there were incidents involving two individuals breaking into properties on foot. These incidents have since been resolved with the arrests of those responsible.

Aside from these issues, the overall level of crime remains largely consistent with previous patterns, with no particularly alarming trends. PC Carlile encouraged residents to consult the Nottinghamshire Police website for detailed crime figures.

Anti-social behaviour remains a concern throughout the village. While groups of young people often gather in areas such as Meadow Park and the Forest School, their presence is generally not an issue in itself. Problems arise when their behaviour becomes disruptive—such as playing loud music, leaving litter or broken glass behind, or causing damage to the area. PC Carlile has engaged with residents whose properties are in proximity to the park, many of whom have no objection to the youths spending time in these spaces, but concerns are raised when their actions become intimidating or impact the environment and quality of life for others.

A new beat manager has now joined the local policing team, working alongside PC Carlile to ensure a consistent police presence in the area.

East Leake Academy was praised for its assistance in identifying individuals involved in incidents captured on CCTV. Certain groups of young people have been identified as more problematic, though they are known to the police and ongoing efforts are being made to engage with them and prevent further issues. PC Carlile has developed a positive rapport with many local youths through this engagement.

PC Carlile expressed her frustration with individuals who post inflammatory comments on Facebook without reaching out directly to the police to contribute to meaningful solutions. She

noted that such online behaviour often exacerbates community tensions rather than alleviating them.

Regarding youth engagement, she reported that the Youth Club, established last year, had to cease operations due to the unavailability of the pavilion. She is actively seeking a new venue and, more critically, staff/volunteers to help run the club. The County Council is only able to provide support through volunteers, as funding for youth services has been withdrawn. PC Carlile emphasised the importance of engaging with students directly to understand what activities and support they would find beneficial.

The Borough Council has been commended for its support, having provided funding for the initial Youth Club. Efforts to re-establish youth provisions in the village are ongoing. PC Carlile also noted that there are currently three policing teams operating across the area.

QUESTIONS

Cllr Donna Griggs enquired about any further updates regarding the progress of the CCTV project. The Clerk advised that the representative who was unable to attend the previous month is now scheduled to attend the Full Council meeting on 27th May.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE

The Chair expressed her thanks for all those who attended the meeting.

Meeting closed at: 19.50