



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Each year the Parish Council holds its Annual General Meeting in May. The AGM is a public meeting allowing you to bring to the attention of the council issues that are important to the life of Swanland and to hold the council to account for the spending of the precept. This meeting provides all residents with an opportunity to raise concerns and to suggest changes to the way in which the council is tackling the problems in the village. Unlike private business, the Parish Council is spending public money and it does this in an open and transparent fashion. If you are not satisfied with what the Council is doing on your behalf, we need to know so that we can respond to these concerns.

I would like to record my thanks for the commitment of the new councillors who have brought a different perspective to the council and unlike many other council's in this area, we have been able to draw from a wider cross section of our community. This can only be healthy for the future of the village and shows that amid all the doom and gloom and pessimism, there are people that are willing to give of their time to work for the benefit of others.



THE POND - You will know that the Swanland Wild Life Group, the SVA and the Parish Council have secured a grant from the Lottery **Awards for All**. This is to be spent on rejuvenating the pond to improve the quality of the water by the planting of more vegetation and the trapping of road run off which causes pollution. We are looking forward to the results of this work and hope that in the future there are less of the algal blooms that disfigure this important part of the village.

Whilst talking about the pond, the annual event for Father Christmas to come across the pond has now become a victim of its own success and is attracting ever larger crowds. Suggestions have been put forward to ensure the safety of visitors and organisers alike and we are hoping to utilise the Village Hall car park as well as the road in front of Christ Church. We would welcome suggestions to develop this idea before next December for what is one of the biggest events in the village calendar. **Geoff Chapman.**

1.



VILLAGE HALL - Many people both from within the village and outside have commented on the quality and high standard of our village hall. The person principally responsible for driving through this project was the previous chairman of the Parish Council Colin Hotham. To recognise this achievement a board has been commissioned and erected in the village hall with the names of all the past chairs of the Parish Council and particularly to recognise the considerable effort and time commitment that was needed by Colin to achieve what is a magnificent village facility. GC



VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Village Design Statement has been put on the Parish Council website as we believe that it gives an accurate reflection of the views of the village. The value of this document and its adoption by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council as supplementary planning policy has been demonstrated by the Inspector for the Appeal at Ashford, North Drive. In turning down the appeal against refusal to allow the building of four blocks of flats on this site, the Inspector states that she has afforded the VDS "considerable weight in her decision". She has reinforced our contention that development within the village is not needed to maintain "existing services and infrastructure" and should be limited in scale and "should seek to conserve and respect the setting of Swanland in the surrounding landscape". We will continue to press these views on the planning committee. GC



CRIME IN THE VILLAGE – Once again the crime rate has been low. Only minor incidents have been reported since the last newsletter. The Parish Council were successful in their request to be given reports of crime local to the village instead of overall information covering several towns and villages in the area. The Parish Council have made a contribution to Neighbourhood Watch in order to purchase signs needed for the village.



ALLOTMENTS - The extra car park at the chalk pit end has been laid and will improve once the hardcore beds in. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to increase the rent and registration fees this year due to increased costs. The waiting list still remains high as more people are trying to become self sufficient. So far there has been no sign of reoccurrence of the weed that has been treated on the two plots lying fallow. Hopefully these plots will become available once we know they are clear.

2.



PARKING - We are still troubled by the on-going problems of parking in the village. There does not seem to be a solution to the increased amount of vehicles parked in the centre of the village. People who come to work in the village need somewhere to park their cars during the day and this seems to cause a considerable amount of congestion. It has been suggested that a **car sharing** scheme could be initiated. If you know of anyone coming your way who could car share, it could be a saving in petrol as well as parking space. For information: www.eastridingcarshare.com



EMERGENCY PLAN - Last year we told you about the preparations being made by the Parish Council to safeguard disabled or housebound residents in the case of an emergency such as a prolonged power cut or the village being unable to receive outside help. In order to provide this support in the event of this happening, we need your involvement. **If you help us, we can help you.**

- Are you housebound and would need assistance?
- Do you have a neighbour who is housebound and would need assistance?
- Can you help by checking on your neighbour?
- Do you have equipment that could be used in the case of emergency?

PLEASE PHONE OR WRITE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, MOBILE NUMBER TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: - Councillor Dumsday 01482 634863, Councillor Richardson 01482 631069

Self help tips: - In a situation of low temperatures and a prolonged power cut, stay in one room with windows and doors closed to conserve heat. Make up soups/ hot drinks in flasks. Wrap up with coats, hats and blankets. Conserve your water. If there is no power the water tower only holds enough for 4-5 hours. YD



PLAYING FIELDS – The Playing Fields Association has sent an application to Awards for All in order to raise money for the laying of a tarmac or concrete approach to the Multi Purpose Ball Court. The netball posts are up and the pitch is marked out ready for use. They are also hoping to replace a seesaw in the near future. Anyone who can help at the **Gala on Sunday 12th July** please contact Owen Ward 01481 633141 Email: owenward@hotmail.com. Just an hour or two would be greatly appreciated.