

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th April 2010

My report covers the period May 2009 -April 2010

Your Council is made up of representatives from three Wards - the villages of Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall.

Edlesborough has 5 Councillors: Cllr John Wilkinson, Chair of the General Purpose Committee & also responsible for planning throughout the Parish; Cllr Marilyn Pryce-Jones deputy Chair GPC; Cllrs David Brown & Alan Williams both GPC members & Cllr Julie Ratherham.

Northall has 2 Cllrs Kevin Cabbage, Vice-Chair of your Council and a GPC member; he is also responsible for keeping the Web site up to date and oversees the accounts. Mark Wilson is Northall's second representative.

Dagnall also has 2 Cllrs; newly appointed Mark Taylor who replaces Tim Jones. Tim resigned due to work commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service to the Parish & also welcome Mark to his new role. I also represent Dagnall and I'm also a GPC member.

Your Council would not be complete without our industrious Clerk, Lin Sargeant. Lin not only deals with the everyday workings of your Council, she is also the Responsible Financial Officer; she attends the GPC, recording minutes and it seems is always available to answer Parishioners' concerns or point them in the right direction.

County Cllr Avril Davies and District Cllr Terry Jones continue to support and keep your Council fully informed on all issues of interest or concern. To the entire Parish, District & County Councillors, not forgetting our Clerk Lin, on behalf of myself and the Parishioners I once again thank you all for your total commitment.

Our popular Web site continues to go from strength to strength
Cllr Cabbage updates our website on a regular basis; this is your first port of call if you wish to know anything about the Parish.

The General Purpose Committee. The GPC makes decisions with regard to many issues, saving valuable time at full council meetings. Areas they cover include allotments, Cemetery, street lighting, Memorial Hall and open spaces. This vital committee consists of the six Cllr's previously mentioned and the Clerk who takes the minutes. All decisions made by this committee are ratified at full council.

Local Area Forum. Cllrs Wilkinson & Williams accompanied by our Clerk, attend these very useful County Council organised meetings on your behalf. This is the one meeting where specific items can be discussed with the relevant Bucks CC officer. This forum also deals with the delegated budget where we can and do apply for funding for relevant projects. We are presently waiting for the results of our latest bids for a build out at Dagnall and bus shelters.

Allotments. I'm pleased to report we only have one allotment available at Cow Lane, half a plot on the Green, but there are still plots available at Northall!

Cemetery. The new cemetery entrance, access road and turning circle has been welcomed and everyone seems in agreement the contractors did an excellent job. The huge mound of soil has been removed; mowing the graves has commenced enhancing the appearance of the whole area, it's finally turning into the proposed lawned Cemetery. The new entrance is off the bridleway on the

strip of land purchased many years ago by the PC specifically for this purpose.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall. The hall continues to be well used by a large range of local clubs, organisations and private individuals. Bookings for the hall and also the pavilion can be made through our helpful facilities & booking manager Beverley Sage. A clean venue is guaranteed thanks to our cleaner Lesley Riley. At the present time we are getting quotes to replace the boilers for a more efficient heating system in the hall.

We continue to support **Dagnall & Northall Village Halls** with a £1,000.00 donation to assist with maintenance & running costs. We also help with their finances by grass cutting and playground maintenance.

Edlesborough Green The green continues to offer first class facilities to the community, and the various clubs that make use of the green offer great opportunities especially to the youth of the parish, for this we support and thank them. We recently have had a problem with dogs out of control; please if in doubt, keep your dogs on a lead under proper control. Due to a very poor response to the proposal of a kick wall to try and protect the pavilion, which is used for that purpose at the moment, this project appears likely to be put on hold. We continue to host the very popular St Mary's Carnival, which raises huge amounts of funding for local groups.

Pavilion Cllr David Brown has spent many hours looking on the best way forward with regard to the development of this essential sports facility. All sports clubs & interested groups have now been contacted with a view to establish a vision project for the future of the pavilion.

Open Spaces We continue to report rubbish dumping to Aylesbury Vale DC who quickly remove the offending articles. The freighter service is still provided twice a year enabling you to dispose of unwanted large items. We also continue to support the green sack scheme for disposable garden rubbish. These can be purchased from Sue Parker or me.

Although we have increased the number of dog bins throughout the Parish some inconsiderate dog walkers are still not clearing up after their dogs. Please be considerate to others & clean up, or now the light nights are returning you could end up with a £1,000.00 fine. For your information the cost of emptying the dog bins costs £3,750.00 per annum to operate so please make use of this facility.

For the first time in 2009 Edlesborough entered the best kept village contest. Unfortunately, Dagnall & Northall did not fit the criteria, ie. they had no churchyard so couldn't enter, but I'm pleased to report Edlesborough received the runner ups award, a fantastic result in our first year. We have entered again this year so lets keep the village free from litter & dog faeces.

A matter of concern at the moment is the Local Development Framework - Core Strategy which decides how many houses will be allocated to Edlesborough. At the moment, it's between 20 & 80 but both Cllrs Wilkinson & Williams are attending consultations on your behalf. No decision has been made at this time.

Road Repairs We continue to monitor the condition of our roads & pavements and report any holes or problems to highways on call. Conditions have been very difficult this year due to the severity of the winter. We are aware there are still lots of repairs to be done especially on minor roads.

Traffic Calming The speed limit review for our area 13 has at last commenced. You can view all the proposed speed limits, maps and relative information online via haveyoursay. You can also register your support or objections to the proposals in writing, online or by e-mail, before the 14th May for addresses contact the Clerk or visit our Website.

Cllr Alan Williams continues to input data & monitor developments on the Freight Strategy. Cllrs Wilkinson & Williams also monitor the Local Transport Plan (LTP3). Volunteers from the EDaN

group continue to man Speedwatch and collect data on speeding, the analysis is forwarded to the Police and other relevant parties. .

Police Matters Our PCSO's Jackie Dobson & Chris Baker continue to bring a Police presence to our villages, supported by our Community Police Officer Jared Levens. An Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) check was recently carried out in Edlesborough on the A4146. 700 vehicles passed through the checkpoint, many vehicles were stopped for irregularities. Speed checks are also regularly carried out throughout the Parish.

If you have any worries or concerns please feel free to stop and talk to the officers as they patrol the streets or give them a ring on the 08458505505 if you wish them to come and see you with regard to a specific problem. I am pleased to report Anti Social behaviour seems to be on the decrease. We are all well aware of the problems the cars with their loud music in the Memorial Hall car park late at night cause, and we are working with the Police to solve this problem. Thank you Jared, Chris & Jackie for your continuing support for our community.

The highlight of the past year for me was standing on the A4146 at Church End on a November morning alongside the local Scout movement to my left, various organisations from Eaton Bray, as well as our own Parish to my right, and a large congregation all able to pay their respects to the fallen in the 2 World Wars in complete safety and silence - a very memorable & moving moment indeed. This all came about by the tenacity of one parishioner, ably assisted by our clerk Lin, to obtain the Legal Road Closure notices, the barriers required and the volunteers who erected them, manned them and then cleared them away also the Police attendance, so a huge thank you to Mrs Lorna Cabbage who co-ordinated the whole operation which went like clockwork.

EDaN continues to go from strength to strength with all its groups working diligently to achieve their aims. I am pleased to report The Parish Plan recently won a well deserved award. If you have any ideas for improving facilities in the Parish or have concerns and are not yet a member of an EDaN group, then why not join them, you really can make a difference. Regular updates on what the various EDaN groups are doing with regard to events they are holding or any ongoing projects can be found in the Focus magazine or on our website. I'm sure everyone admires the majestic display of daffodils on show throughout the Parish at the moment, another EDaN venture.

Cllr Alan Williams is the driving force behind the enthusiastic team of volunteers who work alongside your Council. We are indebted to you Alan and your groups for you are definitely bringing the community spirit back into our Parish and for that I thank you.

This concludes my report.

Anne Thompson
Chairman

Edlesborough Parish Council

15th April 2010