

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORS

Year: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Introduction Following the Elections in May 2014, the membership of the Council has changed but still continues its commitment to deliver and provide improved facilities and projects in Euxton for all its residents.

Chairman of the Council was, myself Councillor Katrina Reed, together with Vice Chairman Councillor John Bamber, both in our first term of office.

Councillors 2014/15 At the election in May 2014 the Council said goodbye to Brian Leyden, Barrie Robins, Tony Dilworth, Eveline Sutton, Mary Gray, Tommy Gray and Paul Thomas; and they were all presented with a certificate marking their length of service on the Council.

Newly elected Councillors, Marilyn Bamber, Anne Caughey, John Caughey, Mark Parr and Barry Mason were welcomed to the Council together with Mark Jarnell on his return.

One vacancy remained after the election, and in June, Patricia Fellows was co-opted on to the Council.

Keith Wallbank retired in September and Barry Mason in December 2014 and the two seats were filled by co-option in January with Terry Cook and February with Tony Reed.

Council employees include the Clerk to the Council, Debra Platt, who continues to guide the Council through its business and carry out all the tasks it requires to ensure its decisions are met. Council also employs three part-time Village Caretakers who are all conscientious and fully dedicated to their work in Euxton - Ron Bridge, Jack Storton and Stephen McCarthy.

Euxton Web Newsletter moved into its 15th year of production reaching its 60th issue in March 2015. The Euxton Web is full colour eight or 12 page publication which is well recognised and read by many Euxton residents. Further methods of communication to Residents are currently under review, as detailed in the Questionnaire included in the March 2015 Newsletter

The Website is regularly updated and includes valuable and useful local information for residents and visitors to the area.

Village Caretaker Service continues to keep Euxton's streets clean and tidy and the Village Caretakers, as mentioned above, do an excellent job around the village ensuring the play areas are clean and tidy, the streets are clear of litter and swept regularly. The caretakers also work throughout the year to improve areas including additional litter picking at new facilities, and much more.

Awards Euxton improved on its award last year by receiving a Silver Gilt placing at the North West In Bloom Competition. The North West In Bloom Competition is part of the Britain in Bloom National Competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society. Council was also recognised by the Chorley Civic Society and received two awards, one for the Skate Park and one for the creation of the outdoor gym at Greenside.

Projects and Activities included this year was the order for more new play equipment for Balshaw Lane Play area, this time for the Toddler side of the area, which is to be installed after Easter.

A new project was added to improve ponds on Balshaw Lane, which are in the grounds of Balshaw Lane Primary School. External funding opportunities will be sought for the project to go alongside the budget the Council has allocated.

Other, more long term projects were progressed further, the Bowling and Boules project was taken forward by a new Committee with a Project Manager and is working through the details of delivering this major project for the village.

Events attended Christmas carol singing was a success, and this year residents were able to sing outside under the tree as the weather held back. The numbers turning out for the singing were therefore much improved, and was accompanied by the Chorley Silver Band.

Council Budget for 2014/2015 was set in the previous year. The Precept figure received was £104,814, and this gave residents a reduction on their parish council tax, as it has reduced for the 5 years previous.

Summary. The Council is again looking forward to both maintaining the work completed by the previous Council, and continuing the improvement of Euxton for all its residents in the forthcoming year.

On behalf of the residents of Euxton, I would like thank all the Councillors of Euxton Parish Council for volunteering their time and efforts.

Councillor Katrina Reed
Chairman 2014/2015
April 2015

Financial Report

The Council maintains its accounts in line with regulations and undergoes each year both an internal audit, carried out by a qualified, independently appointed auditor, and an external audit, by an appointed audit company.

At the end of the Council's financial year, 31 March 2015, it carried forward balances which were allocated to ongoing and future projects requiring funds to get them started, pay for the project, or to be used for match funding. In particular funds for the Bowling and Boules project were carried forward.

The budget going forward for the financial year to 31 March 2016 is below.

Budget for 2015/2016

Budget Codes	Description	Carry Fwd/ Allocated Funds from 2014/15	Budget request 2015/16
01	Employees		
01	Employees		51500
02	Housekeeping		
02-1	Employee Mileage		1600
02-2	General Office - stationery, copy, post, IT, tele		1400
02-3	Publicity - newsletter, annual report etc		3000
02-4	Insurance		2500
02-5	Subscriptions		250
02-6	Audit		1000
02-7	Legal Fees/Planning Investigations		2500
03	Council		
03-1	Training/Conference Fees		350
03-2	Elections and Parish Poll Fund	5000	0
03-3	General Reserve	22803	0
04	Grants/S137		
04-1	Grants		3000
04-2	Christmas Celebrations		1000
05	Special Events/Projects		
05-1	Euxton Gala		700
05-2	Balshaw Lane Pond	4500	2500
05-3	Neighbourhood Plan	2000	0
05-4	Quality Status renewal	200	50
05-5	Website		2000
05-6	Comms and social media methods		250
05-7	Increase public involvement work		250
05-8	Finance software		2050
05-9	Heritage Fund		212
06	Amenity/Utility		
06-1	Utilities		1100
06-2	Gardens/Planting/Competitions		3250
06-3	Street Sweeping		
06-4	War Memorial	2500	0
06-5	Millennium Green - grass cuts, maint	1000	2000
06-6	All Purposes Committee	4000	0
06-7	Greenside Pitch Maintenance		3000
06-8	Play Equipment Replace Scheme	11774	13350
06-9	Amenity/Open Space RRM		13500
07	Earmarked Reserve/Carry Forward Money		
07-1	Land Fund/Amenity	18684	0
07-2	Street Sweeping Machine Fund	3500	500
07-3	Greenside FF Drainage Project		0
07-4	Bowling/Boules Project	60000	2500
08	Other		
08-1	Healthy Streets	1129	0
08-2	Ransnap Brook	279	0
08-3	BT Wayleave/Available	788	0
		138157	115312
	Less cash in hand		7496
	Precept request @£27 per average band D property		107816