

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

I'm glad to say that the meetings have been well attended again this year by the Community and also by the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens, Local and District Councillors and other representatives from Mansfield District Council. This gives us a good platform from which to raise any issues from the Community and get answers back from the relevant representatives.

Every few months the priorities for policing are discussed and new priorities set. Generally the crime figures show a decrease in crime in our area, but there are always issues to be raised with the Police representatives. Anti social behaviour has declined but there are still sometimes hot-spots of problems which the police are trying to control with operation Animism. The police have particularly targeted speeding motorists on Clipstone Road East and West, New Mill Lane, Old Mill Lane and Ellesmere Road with some success.

We receive monthly reports from the Tenants & Residents Group, Forest Town Nature Conservation Group and the Planning Subgroup. Unfortunately Jim Pugh who was co-chairman of the Planning Subgroup died in November last year and will be sadly missed for his commitment to this role. We also occasionally have reports from other groups such as Forest Town Heritage Group.

The highlight of the year was the evening of celebrations for The Queens Diamond Jubilee in June. Over 200 people were treated to a free buffet, live music from a local 60s/70s band followed by the lighting of an official beacon and a firework display. Everyone who attended had a cracking time and thanks must go to all who helped out with the event.

The Christmas Lights Committee again managed to raise more funds for extra Christmas lights on the lampposts leading into the village. A lights switch-on ceremony and Carol Service was held at both St Albans and the Methodist Chapel in November followed by a social evening at the Trinity Cafe. My thanks to all involved with that project which brought together a lot of members of the Community.

Last November also saw the first Christmas Fair at Kingsway Hall with stalls selling cakes, cards, jewellery, crafts and vegetables etc. The League of Friends also had 2 stalls raising funds for the local Hospice. Funds were raised for the Christmas Lights by selling tea and coffee. It is hoped that this will become another annual event.

The relationship with our District Councillors and County Councillors continues to flourish and I would like to thank them all for the support they give the Community Council. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and hard work during the year and hope that we can continue this success in the future.