

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2015

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 Warden and some Mansfield District Councillors, but attendance has been disappointing from the Notts County Councillors. To offset that though we have had a couple of private meetings with Alan Bell to discuss specific Forest Town issues such as overgrown trees, lighting issues, flooding and the condition of some roads.

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. Unfortunately we have seen a change in personnel again and a drop in police covering our area. 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. Also the problems with off-road bikers has been highlighted and some success has been achieved in containing that nuisance.

We have regular updates from the Tenants and Residents Group which is now linked to the Community Exchange, Forest Town Nature Conservation Group, Forest Town Heritage Group and the Planning Group. Thanks to all the people involved in those groups.

We have had several Estate Walkabouts this year with Lorraine Spalding from MDC. This helps to pinpoint any problems such as litter, overgrown trees & hedges, broken fences, lighting which are then taken straight back to the council.

Guest speakers who attended during the year included Mark Saxton a qualified youth worker who wanted to start a local radio station for Forest Town, Councillor Steve Garner who brought along the British Legion mosaic poppy and June Stendall who gave a talk on the voluntary Speed Awareness Campaign.

The Parkour Training Zone on Queensway Park was officially opened in April, but unfortunately it was decided to dissolve the Youth Steering Group due to the lack of resources and support. At the moment the Youth Club is open 1 evening per week. A donation was made for their Christmas party. The Christmas Lights switch-on was performed this year by Gareth Owen and a Carol Service was held at both St Albans and the Methodist Chapel 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.

The monthly Village Markets continue to be successful, raising funds for various projects. Special thanks to Phyllis and Jim and their helpers for continuing to organise these monthly markets which go from strength to strength.

A very successful Christmas party was organised in December for the elderly residents and supporters of Forest Town who attend Kingsway Lunch Clubs, Stuart Avenue and Laurel Avenue Centres, the Arena, the Methodist Chapel and St Albans. Thanks to all who donated prizes for the raffle, all the helpers and particularly all the Councillors who were so generous with their funds. Another area where we have tried to help the Community is by making donations which were used to help clear and tidy the grounds at Kingsway Hall and also to the Arena for ground maintenance.

All in all, I think this has been a very successful year and I would like to thank you all for attending, the Councillors who give their support so readily and my fellow Committee members for their hard work during the year and hope that we can continue this success in the future.