

FOREST TOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

I'm glad to say that the meetings have been well attended again this year by the Community with an average attendance of 30 people. Support has also been good from Mansfield District Councillors and Notts County Councillors but attendance has been disappointing from the Police with only 4 meetings being attended. The PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens have attended approximately half of the meetings, but usually managed to send a report if not able to attend in person. As previously the cut backs on funding have affected Forest Town, often having to share resources with Mansfield Woodhouse.

Priorities for policing are discussed and new priorities set. 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 litter and dog fouling have been among the priorities. Generally the crime figures show a decrease in crime in our area, but there are always issues to be raised with the Police representatives. Also the problems with off-road bikers were targeted in March to May and some success was achieved in containing that nuisance but again funding is needed to continue this ongoing battle.

An Action Day was held in June which involved a litter pick in the area and letter drops on the Avenues to explain what it was all about. This was supported by staff from the Coop, FTCC, volunteers from the Arena and residents of Forest Town, along with Councillors, the Neighbourhood Wardens, PCSOs and MDC Environment team. The day was considered to be a huge success. Thanks to Simon and the Arena staff for hosting the event.

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 4 Estate Walkabouts this year with Lorraine Spalding from MDC and also representatives from the PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens. This helps to pinpoint any problems such as litter, overgrown trees & hedges, broken fences, lighting which are then taken straight back to the council and dealt with where possible.

Additional Christmas lights were purchased this year, mainly with the generous donations from all our Councillors, for which I thank you all. The switch-on was changed to a different format this year and was held at The Arena. A short Carol Service was led by Philip Stead and Linda Williams and entertainment was provided by Mansfield Male Voice Choir. A new tree in the Arena grounds was decked with new lights and the switch on was performed by Cllr Martin Wright. Refreshments were then available in the Concert Room at the Arena with mince pies donated by Forest Town Coop.

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.

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.

OTHER REPORTS 2016

Youth Report: The Youth Club is still operational and well attended and has sufficient funding until August 2016.

Tenants & Residents Ass. Report:

Milly Alonso (MDC) thanked FTCC for support over the past year.