

TANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson's End of Year Report – March 2015

As chairperson, I would like to welcome Adrian Smith as our newly co-opted parish councillor, and to thank all councillors who attend meetings on a regular basis and help in the decision-making process of the Parish Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would also like to thank Chris Knightley for keeping an up-to-date website for us. Minutes and copies of Hotwire notices sent on behalf of the Parish Council are available online. We continue to ensure the Parish Council is as transparent as possible, with agendas and minutes also being posted on the Parish Council notice boards.

Yet again we have had a busy year.

The generous donation from Tansley Development Association (TDA) finally enabled us to purchase benches for the Fete Field. The benches have been in situ for some time now, and we are informed by residents that they have made a big difference to the facility. We continue to set aside £1,000 per annum to help with maintenance of the Fete Field. The access roads to the field and the garage forecourt have been in a poor state of repair for a long time, and a decision has been taken to resurface these areas. Work will commence at the end of the football season.

A defibrillator has been purchased for the village. The unit, housed in a protective case, will be situated at The Gate Inn and mounted on an external wall to ensure easy access. The equipment cost over £1,400. Thank you to The Gate, which donated £410 from a fundraising event, and to the Methodists, whose Soup & Sweet contributed £100 to this worthwhile community facility.

The Parish Council has replaced the convex mirror opposite the entrance to Gold Hill. Thank you to the owners of Oak Lodge for allowing the mirror to remain sited on their land.

As in previous years, the Parish Council took part in Derbyshire County Council's Snow Warden Scheme. In exchange for volunteering to keep stretches of pavement clear of snow, the parish receives an additional supply of road salt. A big thank you to the residents who continue to help with this scheme.

As part of an initiative by Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC), parish councils were asked to suggest which locations within their villages should be dog exclusion zones and which should be dog-on-the-lead areas. The only dog-free zone in Tansley will be the enclosed play area on the Village Green. Dog-on-the-lead areas will be the Village Green, the churchyard, the burial ground, the area outside Tansley Primary School and the footpath between the school and the Village Green.

Many residents have been asking about "part night street lighting". Derbyshire County Council tells us this scheme is now shelved. All areas where lighting has been turned off will remain unchanged. We are informed that all remaining lights will stay on and gradually be replaced by more efficient LED lights. So, all lights will remain on in Tansley.

The Parish Council has had some difficult decisions to take related to planning. The Village Plan of 2012 gave us a clear indication of the wishes of the majority of village – most residents were opposed to any development on green field sites and did not want the settlement framework moving. In our decision-making we have tried to adhere to these wishes; however, planning applications on green field sites have been granted at appeal.

Because the district council incorrectly assessed the number of new homes needed for the plan area, some planning applications appear to be being passed by default. DDDC's proposed distribution of new housing throughout the plan area was seriously flawed: our local authority made no provision for new dwellings throughout the whole plan area, choosing only the market towns and a few villages as preferred places for development. In failing to have a Local Plan in place in a timely manner, the district council has been negligent in its duty to all residents and has wasted huge sums of public money on consultations which would appear to have been based upon inaccurate projected housing numbers.

Residents have told us that they like the floral decorations in the village, and so the Parish Council will continue to purchase hanging baskets and fill the planters. Many thanks to residents from Thatchers Lane, Holly Lane, Steve our postman and Cllr Andy Botham for sponsoring hanging baskets. It has been suggested by Cllr Greenhough that the Parish Council should reinstate Tansley in Bloom; it would be nice to know your views on this subject.

We are fortunate to have so many clubs and groups who meet in our village. I think we would all like to thank residents who help to keep this community a good place to live by giving their time for others.

Thank you.

Vicki Raynes
Chairperson, Tansley Parish Council