

# **ROSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

### **YEAR ENDING 31/3/2008**

I could hardly describe my year as Chairman as being harmonious, in fact quite the reverse, but I suppose that was to be expected in the prevailing circumstances.

#### **Memorial Hall Improvements**

Significant delays in completing development of the premises has caused considerable concern for the Parish Council, partially as a result of delays in securing appropriate planning permissions, and contractors failing to meet their obligations. However with the assistance of a qualified advisor, the wheels are in motion to speed completion of this valuable asset belonging to the community.

#### **Housing Developments**

Sustainable environmental and economic affordable housing was bound to create the basis for heated debate at parish meetings, at which public attendance and participation stimulated emotions that were difficult to pacify from the chair.

From the Local Development Framework, and the proposed Eco Town, the level of debate was light years ahead of what has taken place at the Mansion House by Doncaster MBC, in spite of the fact that they decide planning issues, and the parish council can only comment.

#### **Chernobyl Appeal**

A number of children suffering from nuclear fallout from the explosion in 1986, which continues to contaminate the area, are being hosted by a number of Rossington families this Summer. Their appeal for financial assistance was supported unanimously by the Parish Council, in a project which will go some way to offsetting their suffering and adding a few more years to their life expectancy.

#### **DMBC / Parish Councils Joint Charter**

Agreement in principle to joint working was agreed subject to certain assurances. Some of the wording in the draft constitution gave rise to concern, which could adversely impact against the interests of Parish Councils and the communities they represent.

## **Holmescarr Funding**

The establishment of Community Partnerships and subsequently Development Trusts, in practice gives self-appointed bodies the opportunity to apply for funds not available to elected Councils. The granting of £187,000 from the European Coalfield Regeneration Fund to Rossington Development Trust, (the Parish Council is unable to access resources from this Regeneration Fund), raises the question why Rossington Development Trust is promoting volunteers to request financial assistance for refurbishment of assets owned by Doncaster MBC and the Rossington Development Trust.

## **Closure of Rossington Hall Special Needs School**

In spite of the high quality of Special Educational provision for children with special needs for over fifty years, the school is being sold on the open market to developers to raise funds for DMBC, with returns expected to be at a knock down price. The sale of public land and properties to the private sector in the long run is at great cost to the public.

## **Xmas Fayre**

The second Xmas Fayre, in spite of the bitterly cold conditions was a successful event, but the cold was such that the Brass Band, supported by Rossington Mlae Voice Choir at the end of the event, ended earlier than planned for. In spite of this, those attending were enthusiastic about making this years Xmas Fayre even better.

## **Parish Council Donations**

The Parish Council makes numerous donations throughout the year to various deserving organisations and individuals, and is pleased to be able to do so, subject of course to meeting the necessary criteria.

In concluding this Annual Report, I would like to express my appreciation to those who have assisted in making my tenure of Chairman possible, in what has been an interesting, if not always enjoyable year.

*Terry Wilde*