

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORS

Year: 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Introduction The Council's work this year has been very busy as it continued to deliver on more projects in Euxton, striving to provide more facilities and amenities for its residents.

Chairman of the Council was myself again for a fifth term, Cllr John Matson, along with Vice Chairman Cllr Katrina Reed.

Councillors 2013/14 During the year there were no Councillor changes.

Council employees include the Clerk to the Council, Debra Platt, who continues to guide the Council through its business and carry out all the tasks it requires to ensure its decisions are met. Council also employs three part-time Village Caretakers who are all conscientious and fully dedicated to their work in Euxton - Ron Bridge, Jack Storton and Stephen McCarthy.

Euxton Web Newsletter moved into its 14th year of production to its 56th issue in March 2014. The Euxton Web is full colour eight or 12 page publication which is well recognised by Euxton residents.

The Website is regularly updated and includes valuable and useful local information for residents and visitors to the area.

Village Caretaker Service continues to keep Euxton's streets clean and tidy and the Village Caretakers, as mentioned above, do an excellent job around the village ensuring the play areas are clean and tidy, the streets are clear of litter and swept regularly. The caretakers also take on other projects through the year to improve areas such as upgrading a path at Greenside, re-laying a path to the shelter on Southport Road, additional litter picking at new facilities, and much more.

Awards Euxton received a Silver placing at the North West In Bloom Competition. The North West In Bloom Competition is part of the Britain in Bloom National Competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Projects and Activities included this year the delivery of the Greenside Football Pitch refurbishment and changing room alterations. This was a joint project with Euxton Girls Football Club, and we were grateful for a grant from the Football Foundation of £39,420 towards a £69,420 project.

Council ordered new play equipment for Balshaw Lane Play area, which is to be installed after Easter. Other, more long term projects were also progressed such as the Bowling and Boules project, which will move at pace in this coming year following much ground work.

The All Purposes Committee was busy this year. It revamped and updated the walking map, and distributed it free to all households, and updated the display map boards. It also added two new design combination boards in two new locations. The new boards have both room for notices and the village map, showing the public rights of ways, and were installed on Southport Road and in Buckshaw Village.

The Council also this year assisted a local organisation with some of its projects. The Euxton Healthy Streets Group asked the Council for assistance with the Ransnap woodland footpath project, enabling the group to attract over £18K of funding to the village to renovate the woodland walk through Ransnap Woods from Bank Lane to Runshaw Lane. Also a second project to give away compost and seeds, which the Council helped the group by allowing use of land at Greenside for the event.

Christmas carol singing was a great success, albeit decanted to inside the Community Centre because of the rain. The numbers turning out for the singing were great, despite the weather. The singing was accompanied by the Chorley Silver Band, who sounded wonderful.

Council Budget for 2013/2014 was set in the previous year and the Precept figure received was £102,880, which was a drop from the previous year of £104,270 but this gave residents a reduction on their parish council tax by approximately 1.4% on the previous year, equating to a total of a 20% fall since 2009.

Summary There will be Parish Council elections in May 2014. The Council is looking forward to working hard for Euxton residents in the forthcoming year, maybe with a number of Councillors new to Council.

On behalf of the residents of Euxton, I would like thank all the Councillors of Euxton Parish Council for volunteering their time and efforts.

John Matson, Chairman 2013/2014
May 2014

Financial Report

The Council maintains its accounts in line with regulations and undergoes each year both an internal audit, carried out by a qualified, independently appointed auditor, and an external audit, by an appointed audit company.

At the end of the Council's financial year, 31 March 2014, it carried forward balances which were allocated to ongoing and future projects requiring funds to get them started, pay for the project, or to be used for match funding. In particular funds for the Bowling and Boules project and Greenside Pitches were carried forward.

The budget going forward for the financial year to 31 March 2015 is below.

Budget Codes	Description	Budget Precept 14/15
01	Employees	
01	Employees	51200
02	Housekeeping	
02-1	Employee Mileage	1600
02-2	General Office - stationery, copy, post, IT, tel	1300
02-3	Publicity - newsletter/AnnRep/ Other	3700
02-4	Insurance	2500
02-5	Subscriptions	230
02-6	Audit	1000
03	Council	
03-1	Training/Conference Fees	300
03-2	Elections and Parish Poll Fund	0
03-3	General Reserve	2215
04	Grants/S137	
04-1	Grants	2000
04-2	Christmas Celebrations	1000
05	Special Events/Projects	
05-1	Euxton Gala	650
05-2	Balshaw Lane Pond	4500
05-3	Neighbourhood Plan	2000
05-4	Quality Status renewal	200
06	Amenity/Utility	
06-1	Utilities	1100
06-2	Gardens/Planting/Competitions	3175
06-3	Street Sweeping	500
06-4	War Memorial	2500
06-6	Millennium Green - grass cuts, maint	2200
06-7	All Purposes Committee	4000
06-8	Greenside Pitch Maintenance	3000
06-9	Amenity/Open Space RRM	12500
06-10	Play Equipment replace	10000
07	Earmarked Reserve/Carry Forward Money	
07-2	Street Sweeping Machine Fund	500
		113870
	Less adjustments	9043
	Equating to £27.88 per average band D property	104827