

The Green Charity

Chairman's Report 2012-2013

The Trustee held 7 formal meetings during the year. Most of its activities are related to the maintenance, appearance and preservation of the Green. The Green has been used for a fair, vintage car displays and of course football and cricket. During the year, Cllrs Fletcher and Glover resigned from their role as Trustee. Cllr Van de Weyer was elected as Chairman of the Trustee.

Parking of vehicles on the Village Green remains a continuing problem and the Trustee has investigated reinforcing media to prevent damage where parking is essential. Installation costs continue to increase. It is only by written concession from the Charity that parking can be permitted on the Village Green.

Building work to houses around the Green often requires contractors' vehicles, skips and materials to be placed on the Village Green; a small charge per day will continue to be made with damage repair to the surface of the Green and the roadway at the cost of the resident.

Major repair works on many of the Permitted Way roadways was carried out as part of a rolling schedule and will continue as required. The repair work in the year under review amounted to £17,888.74. This work was funded by the Permitted Way Licence scheme, together with donations for the use of the Green. The Green Charity thanks John Cobb & Sons Ltd for the high standard of their work for us. The repair programme included laying a new surface to the parking area for patrons of the Village Stores.

Maintenance of the trees planted on the Green has become costly, and is of great concern to the Trustee. Tree maintenance is very expensive. In addition several chestnut, ash and oak trees are being carefully monitored for disease.

As from 1st September 2011, the newly-elected Trustee has issued Permitted Way Licences for either one year 2011-12, renewable annually, or for four years 2011-2015, with payment by cheque. The majority of funds are paid by lump sum.

Following the deregistration and sale of land to CEMEX in 2011, the Trustee is pleased to record that 39 affordable houses were built, for people with a link to our village. Although the title has been registered to The Green Charity, management of the central area of the new development at Heselton Way will be handed over to the Green Charity in due course, pending completion of work to the surface.

During the year, Brian Northop resigned as Curator of the Green as he had moved away from the village. The Green Charity is greatly indebted to Brian for his support and enthusiasm over the years. David Whybrow kindly agreed to take on this role.

The Green Charity devoted a great deal of time and energy to clarifying the legal status of the access licences granted to residents who need to cross the Green, at the instigation of a resident. The Charity sought conclusive advice from a specialist barrister. This advice confirmed that the current method of regulating access across the Green is correct. The total costs incurred during this year and the previous one were £9,691.82. The barrister is currently drawing up his advice in a form that can be distributed to all residents.

Attached to this report is a copy of the Audited Accounts for the year 2011-2012 and of the Draft Accounts for the year 2012-2013. The Trustee is grateful to Simon Lake for auditing the Accounts. Thanks are also due to Margaret Goding for continuing her able administration of the Charity.