

HEDON TOWN COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT
2008 - 2009**

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Mayor of HEDON TOWN COUNCIL 2008/2009 Cllr Mike Bryan



Hello to residents old and new. This is my final opportunity as Mayor and I would like to give you an insight into my very busy Mayoral year. Firstly I would like to thank my wife Yvonne, the Mayoress for all her support and assistance in my Mayoral year and my deputy Councillor Brenda Goldspink and her consort Tom Goldspink for their support and understanding this year. Also my thanks must go to Allen and Julie Marshall for all their help and support.

Being born in Hedon and being a town councillor for 20 years what an honor it has been to be the 661st Mayor of this historic town.

As well as my role as the Mayor I work with three other committees, planning committee which looks after many issues regarding requests for planning in the area, property committee looks after and maintains Town Council property, Finance and general purpose committee looks after the council's budget and finance working with the chairman of each group, John Dennis, Allen Marshall and Gordon Thurston whom I would like to say have done a fantastic job in my mayoral year. Thanks must go to all the councillors and council staff for all their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

I feel all my efforts, in promoting the town this year have been fully rewarded as I have thoroughly enjoyed this role, looking back I think of my predecessors, the 660 mayors before me and what would they think of our world today - I know how things have changed in my life time.

In 2007 we had the floods in 2008/2009 the Hedon Town Council took a proactive role and employed a specialist to report on dykes, ditches and watercourses in our area, this was then sent to Yorkshire Water, The Environment Agency, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and our MP, we are on their case and await an outcome.

Moving onto 2008/9 on 1st August we had **Yorkshire day** in Hedon we had various visitors from all over Yorkshire, we even had the television cameras on Market Hill we had various charity stalls and a musical band playing later on and a very successful hog roast. We then lit our beacon and finished off with a bang, a firework display. Hedon Town Council received lots of letters and verbal compliments saying what a wonderful day it was.

My various visits to the schools, **Hedon Nursery School** what an fantastic group and the children did some excellent pictures for Yorkshire Day, **Inmans Primary School** despite the devastation of the floods the resilience of the pupils and teachers is very strong, I had a wonderful visit there in September.

My visits **South Holderness Technology College** over the past year have been very enjoyable, attended this school when it was a secondary school some 50 years ago, wow has it changed!! I feel I must make a special comment about Mr Martin Cooper, the Head teacher and all his enthusiastic staff who have turned this school around, achieving more accreditations than it ever has in the past. Their encouragement and support to the pupils shows in their fantastic results year after year. I'm sure that all the parents/guardians of the pupils must feel very lucky and proud. Long may this continue.

There will have been 9 **Silver Show Presentations** throughout this year, all with the full support of the two historians Dr Martin Craven and Dr John Markham. These events are where we show off our fantastic silver collection to all dignitaries and local residents, we have had visitors this year from Scotland, York and our surrounding local area. Once described as 'A Jewel in the Crown' Hedon was once the 11th largest port in England, Hedon had its own mint and it retains the oldest silver mace in the country. Thanks must go to our predecessors who had the foresight and vision to hold onto this amazing collection. This year the Town Council had the presentation professionally put on film for their records. My thanks and appreciation must go to Barbara Robinson, Kath Jessop and Jenny Falk for their support and help with all these events.

In July we re-introduced the **Hedon-in-Bloom** garden competition which was judged by Doug Stuart from Radio Humberside.

On holiday to Italy in May last year and before I went I made arrangements to meet with the Mayor of **Lucca** where we were staying. I presented him with a Hedon plaque, he promised to display it on the wall so if you are ever in Lucca, Italy check to see if you can see it, and in turn, he presented me with a book, about Puccini who was born in Lucca. I was shown around the Town Hall, which was once a palace and had beautiful architecture.

I was at a family wedding in **Canada** and I had also pre-arranged a visit with the Mayor of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. I took her a Hedon Plaque and she presented me with a book about the history of Waterloo. She was surprised that I was the 661st Mayor of Hedon and she was the 44th Mayor of Waterloo, their term of office is four years at a time! She did promise to put our plaque on the wall so if you find yourself in Waterloo go and have a look and let me know!!

On November 14th we celebrated an **850 year old** charter with a dance. The fees for this were 1 sheep or 5 goats!! Because of the restriction in animal movement, we couldn't accept sheep!! Only the museum has 5 goats and they weren't prepared to part with them. Nevertheless those that came all entered into it in the fancy dress of the day. It was a very successful night which was quite profitable for the Mayor's Charity.

We had another successful **Christmas light switch on**, organised by the Town Council this has now become a very popular event for our area. This year KCFM radio station attended and of course we were lucky enough to have Father Christmas spare some of his precious

time in his very hectic schedule!!!

Over the last year I have made numerous visits to the **residential homes** in Hedon which I found a real pleasure. Speaking to some people who I have known all my life. More recently I was invited to judge the Easter Bonnet Competition, which was a very difficult task as all the residents had put many hours and a lot of effort into their Easter Bonnets. On a lighter note, as I was judging happened to comment that it was such a difficult task I would have rather had a tooth out!! To this one of the residents replied "would you save it for me as I've lost all mine"

Thanks must go to the Managers and all their staff for all their efforts in this demanding task!

In March I attended a presentation day at **Cadet** Headquarters in Drifffield, where Hedon was well represented. Gillian Watson, detachment commander was presented with an 'above standard' award for Hedon detachment . Two individual cadets from Hedon were also presented with their four star certificates BDR Senior and BDR McGlynn. None of this is easily achieved and it needs constant dedication and hard work by all the cadets and officers.

Ivan Howitt, the vicar of St. Augustine's Church has left us for pastures new he will be sadly missed but I'm sure not forgotten.

I attended a State assembly in **Jersey** in April by invitation of Daniel Murphy who is the equivalent of the Mayor of his Parish of Grouville. I presented him with a Hedon plaque. Again if you visit Jersey keep your eyes open for our plaque!!

This year I have been invited to over 100 various mayoral functions in addition to the ones I have mentioned.

Through various fundraising events the Mayor's Charity this year has raised £1100; £350 for St Augustines Church, £350 for the Hedon Army Cadets, £300 for Hedon Museum and £100 for Hedon Navigation Trust.

Cllr M Bryan – Mayor of Hedon 2008/2009



Chairman of the HEDON TOWN COUNCIL Finance and General Purposes Committee 2008/2009 Cllr Gordon Thurston



In January of each year the Council decides its budget for the following Financial Year (April to March) and most income is derived from the precept, that is the amount the local council tax payers have to contribute for the services undertaken by the Town Council (see separate note on the Budget). The Council consists of 12 Councillors who receive no remuneration for their services, although the Mayor receives an allowance to help cover the costs incurred during the mayoralty year. Financial management and payment of salaries / wages and accounts, together with matters not within the purview of other Committees / Council, are the responsibility of this Committee.

The Annual Report covers the period April 2008 to March 2009 and the issues considered and determined are many and varied. The Council endeavours to provide a service for the benefit of residents and others.

Listed below are some of the issues dealt with by the Committee

Re-cycling Units – supported a recommendation for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (E.R.Y.C.) for a six month trial re-location of recycling bins from Johnson’s Car Park to Old Station Car Park. It is the Town Council’s view that, although it may be advisable sometimes to empty the bins more frequently, the arrangements seem to work satisfactorily.

Park & Ride Scheme - Hull City Council proposed a Park & Ride Scheme and Hedon Town Council stated it would welcome more meaningful information and to be involved in any decision making. Hedon Town Council is not in favour of a proposed entrance to a site between Kingston Roundabout and the Salt End Flyover.

National Gardens Weekend – agreed to the Town Hall being open for the public.

Flooding Issues – details of Holderness Flood Defence Group received. Meetings held with various organisations, including the Chief Fire Officer.

Flood Reviews and Actions - East Riding Flood Review Panel Report - comments relayed to E.R.Y.C. informing them that the utmost pressure must be placed on the Environment Agency to provide a much better system to evacuate water from Burstwick Drain. The E.R.Y.C. were asked to respond to comments **previously made following the receipt of their Flood Review Panel Report.

**Hedon Town Council acknowledged the consultations and the efforts made by the E.R.Y.C.'s Flood Review Panel and noted the key findings. The Council strongly recommended:

- (i) that the Planning Consultation be reformed to ensure that relevant consultees' views are required on pluvial and surface water flooding and
- (ii) that the maintenance of watercourses and drainage systems are "overseen" by the proposed Flood Protection Board. It was also decided that comments made by Members be noted in connection with the high water levels in Burstwick Drain and related matters and the flooding issues regarding Clough Garth, as outlined, be conveyed to the E.R.Y.C."

Hedon Town Council requested special attention to Gully Cleaning and the E.R.Y.C. informed the Council that Gully Cleaning would be carried out in September. Hedon Town Council asked that special attention be paid to drainage systems in Roslyn Crescent.

It was resolved that action as advised on the Twyers Lane Drain to the value of £4,895 + VAT be taken as soon as possible in line with the recommendations and quotation received."

Ditches, Dykes and Watercourses – The Council formally received a Report compiled on their behalf by Peter Kite Associates and copies were sent to certain individuals and organisations, including the E.R.Y.C., the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Drainage Boards. Following responses from organisations it was decided that meetings* be arranged with E.A., Y.W. and E.R.Y.C. The Council also considered the recommendations from the flood report which were sent to the various agencies, that in relation to Twyers Lane no further action be taken at that time regarding riparian owners, that the E.R.Y.C. be asked to request riparian owners to clear the area of ditch from Cherry Tree Lane to Souttergate and consult with others from the Clough Garth culvert to the Eastern end of Cherry Tree Lane, as necessary, and the public be invited to view the flood report at some time.

(*these have subsequently been held and useful information shared and action agreed.)

Vehicle Parking Review – Hedon In April E.R.Y.C. were unable to carry out a parking review so a Working Group of Hedon Councillors formed to discuss the matter which resulted in a survey of parking in car parks and surrounding areas being undertaken by ourselves. However, in view of the E.R.Y.C.'s

proposals to introduce car parking charges in Hedon it was decided that the matter be pursued at an appropriate time.

Following discussion regarding recommendations made by the E.R.Y.C. in relation to car park charges it was decided that a letter be sent to that authority saying "Members of the Hedon Town Council have heard on the news that the E.R.Y.C. is proposing to charge for parking in three car parks in Hedon. Hedon Town Council is totally opposed to this proposal in this current economic climate and would wish to engage in meaningful consultation prior to any future plans being recommended / implemented. Visitors to Hedon and peripheral residents will shop where there is free parking – we need to maintain the volume of customers to make shops viable. Many elderly residents meet in Hedon socially each day – their custom alone is not sufficient for the traders etc. In recent years East Riding Planners have allowed the town centre development to take place without parking provision, the argument being that car parks can be used, these residents would be penalised. Hedon Town Council wish to be meaningfully consulted prior to any further action being taken on this matter."

Twyers Lane Ditch – update on the situation, particularly in relation to Ancient Monument Consent was noted.

Bus Bay Markings – supported a request for bay markings to be painted on the highway in Market Place.

Traffic Warden - support given to the Police Authority by funding an appropriate amount of mileage at the appropriate rate for the appropriate distance to provide a traffic warden in Hedon for one extra full day per week on a 3 month trial basis up to the value of £200.

CCTV – Operation and Maintenance Costs – the Council continues to fund 50% of the maintenance costs for next 2 years (08/09)

Local Action Teams - meeting with E.R.Y.C. Officer who gave an explanation about LATs.

Donations - £30 for Mayor Making event and £30 for Mayor's Sunday event to St. John's Ambulance.

£1000 granted to Youth project on obtaining suitable premises for a drop in centre.

£20 to Holderness Defence Group

£40 each to Barrel Organ, ACF Band and Hedon ACF, £200 to Hedon Museum

£400 (+£400 in April) to St. Augustine's Church.

Definitive Map Modification Order – Middle Lane - the Council have noted the Order but strongly objects to the removal of the existing barrier to the southern end of Middle Lane on Health and Safety grounds. The barrier was erected following removal of a wooden gate in order to prevent motor cycles / vehicles from using Middle Lane and driving onto amenity land owned by Hedon Town Council therefore protecting the public walking Middle Lane and subsequently small children using the newly installed play area situated on land accessed via Middle Lane.

Footbridge – Charles Street - the Health & Safety Officer / Public Rights of Way officer / Highways Department, E.R.Y.C. were informed that the bridge is in a state of disrepair. Subsequently requested E.R.Y.C. to confirm that the Council do not intend to carry out any re-surfacing work on this bridge and re-iterating Hedon Town Council's concern re surface of the bridge.

Consultation Documents/Enquiries - dealt with consultations and enquiries, including "Environment Agency Burstwick Drain Framework for Action Scoping; Hull & East Yorkshire NHS – Foundation Trust – Public Consultation; Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees; PCT's Draft Single Equality Scheme.

Freedom of Information Act 2009 – adopted a new model publication of scheme.

Street Lighting – Wayfbain Lane - supported installation of a street light subject to no cost to Hedon Town Council.

Youth Council - supports setting up of a Youth Council for Hedon and will give assistance as practicable.

Application for inclusion in the East Riding of Yorkshire Pharmaceutical List – Holderness Pharmacy Ltd - NHS informed that the Council does not support any changes to chemist provision in Hedon at this time.

Police - discussions held with local Inspector and Police and received information given on crime in Hedon and area, including issue of fixed penalty notices in relation to parking offences noted.

Neighbourhood Watch – recorded support for such activities.

Dog Fouling - Church Lane/Churchgate/Market Hill – letters to residents encouraging them to report any dog fouling incidents and to place article in Hedon Newsletter.

Complaints – dealt with a few complaints and notified appropriate organisations.

South Holderness Technology College - gave support to their proposal to significantly enhance sports facilities.

Newsletter – agreed to fund for further 12 months in current form.

Great Newsome Brewery – resolved to contribute to this promotional event and the name "Hedon Charter" Ale.

Christmas Light Switch-on - thanks to all concerned who contributed to the Switch-on and arrangements made, including an agreement for KCFM Radio, for the event to be held on 27th November 2009.

Sport and Play Recognition Awards - nominated South Holderness Cricket Club in the "Top Sports Club" category and South Holderness Technology College in the "Top School" category.

A63 Castle Street Improvement Scheme – welcomed the Highway Agency’s public consultations on this scheme and strongly supports the need to improve the A63 in the Hull area. The Council prefers the “over ground” option and the type of crossing at Porter Street, Princess Quay and Market Place is footbridge rather than signalised pedestrian crossing.

Old Railway Track – Maintenance and Environment Protection - the Council requested that the E.R.Y.C. undertakes its duty to maintain the Right of Way and protect the environment without further delay.

Staffing Matters - the Council recognises the efforts undertaken by staff and encourages and provides development / training as appropriate.

Cllr Gordon Thurston



Chairman of the HEDON TOWN COUNCIL Property Committee 2008/2009 Cllr Allen Marshall



Several topics have caused deliberation throughout the year

1. Twyers lane
2. South Holderness Cricket Club
3. Watson Park
4. Various land issues
5. Town Hall matters
6. Watering device for hanging baskets
7. The Cemetery
8. Flooding matters
9. Matters as and when they arise

1 Twyers Lane

This was important for several reasons, all ongoing:

- a) Ownership contentions
- b) Definitive Map status
- c) Flooding

a) Ownership contentions.

These are probably the most serious problems that the Town of Hedon has faced over the period and possibly in its history. The land was assumed to have been owned, and maintained by the Council since 1348. Maintenance was mentioned in the 1890s recorded minutes as being carried out in the early 1840s. This assumption has now been challenged.

How does one prove that ownership, passed down from the Monarch to the new Borough, is still valid? The saga continues.

b) Definitive Map Status

Along side the ownership matters, there have been applications that Twyers Lane and various other existing Rights of Way be upgraded to the new Restricted Byway status. Hedon Town Council are not convinced that these applications, although seemingly backed by the Ramblers Association, are wholly altruistic. Here again, have all rights of Town and Parish Councils over lands within their jurisdiction, been usurped?

In Causes a) and b), the challenges are being led by outsiders, i.e., non-residents. Is this taking Human Rights too far? Have not residents at least the same Rights as 'strangers'?

c) Flooding

Following the floods of 2007, a working group was set up to study the implications of the flooding, where the flooding occurred, why the flooding happened and what needed to be done to defer a reoccurrence. It was established that the amount of water overwhelmed the drain and some dwellings were affected. Consultation with the Environment Agency concluded that the E.A. would clear Twyers Drain from the point where it turns due south to its outfall into Burstwick Drain. Hedon Town Council's share would be to clear from Souttergate to meet up with the Environment Agency's section of drain clearance. This was carried out, not quite as intended but the situation seems to be stabilising. This was completed before the issues in a) over land ownership appeared.

2 **South Holderness Cricket Club**

Several meetings with the Cricket Club have taken place throughout the period. Questions about the siting of their boundary fence enclosing the drain previously cleared by Hedon Town Council. The Club's requests to the Council to plant whips to eventually screen the fence and to obtain road 'scrapings' to fill in pot-holes on Middle Lane. The final request was for Hedon Town Council to allow the extension of the Cricket Ground into Hedon Town Council land. No hard ideas have yet been received. The Council applaud the efforts of the Club members to attract, retain and train youngsters into becoming long term, active members. It is noted that the Hedon Museum are exhibiting items from a collection of a time-served member as player and umpire.

3 **Watson Park**

After some confusion about the structure and purpose of Watson Park, after discussion, it was decided to try to build up a wildflower meadow with short mown grass paths around the perimeter and across from the North West corner to the gate on the Magdalen Lane side. By leaving the grass to grow, we now have wild flowers coming up. These were scattered two years ago. We may have to manage the wildflower area and coax them grow in a more restricted area but we will keep an eye on things. The field will need 'strumming' and the hay removed to encourage the 'hay-meadow' feel. Some autumn planting of under croft trees such as beech or hazel and two fairly established trees to replace two planes which have just about run their course. Do we still, want a large Oak tree? If so the autumn is the time to plant.

4 **Various land issues**

As well as Twyers Lane ownership problems and land which the Cricket Club might have aspirations, there is land at the site of the old WRVS Hut on Baxter gate. The Catholic Diocese and Hedon Town Council evolved a way of letting off the hut to an After School Club. It was later thought that it would be better if we could release our share of the lease to the Diocese. Valuations from both parties are in progress from which it is hoped an outcome can be reached to our mutual satisfaction.

5 **Town Hall Matters.**

An eye is permanently on the Town Hall to help in our stewardship of the ancient building. A working group was set up to provide plans which could be costed to allow the whole Council to decide whether the new kitchen with disabled access from the amended toilet block is feasible. Several false starts were made until a suitable set of plans could be drawn up to please the Conservation Officer. Since the gate fronting on to St Augustine's Gate was removed by our neighbour, a gas pipe has been revealed and is now in an unsatisfactory position. Advice will be sought on the next course of action.

The state of some of our paintings has caused concern and latterly we have sought quotations for their cleaning and or restoration.

An anniversary commemorating the change over from Aldermen for life to elected members of the Council. We have been asked to do something and thoughts are being focussed.

The annual invoice of the Council's collection of Municipal Silver has been completed and a copy passed to the outgoing and incoming Mayors

6 **Watering device for the watering of hanging baskets**

With the uptake of hanging baskets increasing year on year a more efficient way of watering was sought. The old 'barrow' was now more

and more redundant. Various avenues were explored to find a suitable machine that would cope with the restricted pavement access in The main streets. Pallet Truck Manufacturers were reluctant to design such a machine. A Firm who deal with all sorts of electrical trucks from Golf Buggies to sixteen-seater passenger vehicles was eventually found on the Internet and contacted by phone. They had designed an electrically operated vehicle to allow Southern Railways to top up the water in the toilets in a remote station. It could be charge from an ordinary 13 amp plug and would deliver water to a head of about twelve feet. The width seemed OK for Hedon's pavements and it would hold enough water to satisfy the whole bunch of baskets from one filling. The price and lack of storage caused a problem. At the end of the period, The Library Bus Garage was let to us for a 'temporary period'. The vehicle was tested on a very busy Friday lunchtime and was deemed satisfactory. It is now in use and the operator is well pleased.

7 **The Cemetery**

The Cemetery continues to improve in looks. Several trees and plaques have been ordered by relatives of the deceased. The trees have been established as *Sorbus aucuparia* – 'mountain ash'. A few different varieties were chosen to slightly different interest throughout the year. E.g. red, yellow or creamy coloured berries. And red to orange leaves in the autumn. The type of plaque we allowed was shown to the clients but none of the ones produced were suitable. We have now a contract with a local blacksmith to produce a standard plaque and we arrange engraving with the family's chosen text. A standard seat has been negotiated with a standard size.

8 **Flooding Matters**

A Working Group was chosen to study the reasons why Hedon flooded in 2007, where the town flooded and could it be prevented in the future. Old maps were walked to see whether the old watercourses still existed and in what condition. Some were found, others surmised because of tell-tale manhole covers and some had obviously been culverted but conditions were impossible to guess. An expert in Hydrostatics and drainage systems in general was hired and eventually a full report was published giving

- a) Where the flooding occurred
- b) Why the flooding occurred in these places
- c) Possible future defences
- d) Actions to be taken and by which Organisation, (Hedon Town Council, East Riding County Council, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Riparian Owners). Copies of the reports were sent to these responsible bodies with the passages alluding to responsibilities highlighted. Meetings were followed up and discussions with the various bodies took place. Hedon Town Council undertook to clear out Twyers Lane ditch from the Station Hotel to the South bend of the old Haven. The E.A. had already cleaned the drain from this point to Burstwick Drain.

9 **Other matters as when they arose**

Hedon Museum were allowed to obtain Internet access.
The allotments were being taken up.
Ivy Lane field was re-let when tenants left.
Various repairs to hedging or fencing were carried out when necessary.
Trees were pruned or felled by our own team when needed.
A planned planting of trees to replace ones of limited remaining life span.
Was carried out after a survey in conjunction with the Arboriculturist' report.
Repairs were made to the Chains of Office when needed.
A survey was carried out on the five car-parks to establish

- When the customer arrived
- Who parked
- Why they parked
- For how long.
- Would a short walk be acceptable should another car-park be provided?

Cllr A Marshall

Remarks made may not be the thoughts or conclusions of the Hedon Town Council



Chairman of the HEDON TOWN COUNCIL Planning Committee 2008/2009 Cllr John Dennis



In general terms the Planning Committee meetings have been relatively quiet over the past year, a situation brought about in my opinion by the recession in the nation's economy. Builders have had little confidence during this time in their ability to sell properties and therefore have not been inclined to even invest the money required for planning fees, let alone build them. However the number of applications for residential extensions continues at a high level, brought about I suspect by the failure of many people to sell their homes in today's challenging property market.

As Chairman I have been charged from time to time to attend events and meetings at various venues in connection with the East Riding's Local Development Framework, and we are watching progress on that project with interest. The Town Clerk and I submitted comments on behalf of the Council upon Hedon's 'Settlement Profile'.

Whilst initially we were expecting to receive information by now upon how the LDF would impact upon Hedon, that has not yet been forthcoming. However we will apparently be provided with details of which parcels of land within Hedon's boundaries are being considered for inclusion in the town plan and will have an opportunity to make Hedon Town Council's opinions known within a consultation period.

Hedon has also been invited to send representatives to other meetings and workshops in connection with such issues as Town Centre Retail Studies, the Future of Market Towns, Parish Council Liaison etc. and I have attended as many of these as possible. My thanks go, however, to those who have accompanied me on these trips, or who have gone in my absence.

In my capacity as Hedon's representative to the HOTI, anti-incinerator campaign group, I have endeavoured to keep the Council fully informed of the group's activities. HOTI appreciates the support given by Hedon Town Council to this important local cause.

The Planning Committee continues to press the County Authority to be more strict with Listed Building applications and others within the Conservation Area in the hope of halting the inexorable slide of the Hedon's traditional town centre into the 'plastic abyss' of the 21st century. Unfortunately however the response of Planning Officials at Beverley is not always as encouraging as members would like. Even the simple matter of ensuring that shop and office signage complies with the reasonable wishes of Hedon Town Council seems to provide ERYC Planning with problems and the need for the enforcement of restrictions or conditions sometimes seems beyond their comprehension. Concerns continue to be expressed by members over the growing threat of future flood events such as the one experienced in June 2007 and we are constantly reminding the County Planning Department of our concerns in this regard. However scant regard seems to be paid to such matters when applications are decided at Beverley and we must continue to use our best endeavours to drive home our fears on behalf of Hedon's residents. 'Design and Access Statements' have become a fixture of the Planning Applications system over recent years. I have read many of these in preparation for meetings only to conclude that those 'experts' who put applications together often do no more than 'cut and paste' a number of stock phrases, which to be frank, serves very little purpose and is of no help to us in coming to our decision as to whether to back or reject an application. There are many errors and inconsistencies evident in these documents and a distinct lack of local knowledge is evident. As such they are often virtually useless.

Very important to Hedon and its residents, because of its proximity to our boundary, and the number of residents it employs, the Saltend petrochemicals complex continues to evolve. Many of the old plants have been dismantled in recent years and the point was reached where the site was looking somewhat under used, However, in recent times applications were submitted to fill the

gaps with new projects, including the large bio-fuel producing plant already being constructed, and a further 'pilot' plant for the testing of equipment to produce biobutanol.

Whilst the future health and well-being of residents has always been in the forefront of members' minds (Hedon being one of the local communities and a statutory consultee) I personally, am very pleased to see the commitment of the various Saltend companies to our area, and the encouraging signs for future employment for their workforce.

I have had three years as the Chairman of Planning and have enjoyed the experience greatly. I put on record my thanks to our Town Clerk Joanna Richardson and the Town Hall staff, Joanne and Heather, for the help and advice they have provided me, and to David Thompson for deputising for me in times of holiday, or when I have been unable to attend due to other commitments. Three years is, in my opinion, an adequately long enough period to hold such a position, and whilst there were many times when, due to the need to declare a Prejudicial Interest I had to vacate the Chair (to sit on my special chair), I hope members agree that this did not too often adversely affect my ability to carry out the task.

I wish David Thompson well as Chair of Planning for the foreseeable future, and look forward to deputising for him whenever the situation calls for it. Obviously I will always be pleased to make available to him the wealth of experience I have gathered doing the job over these past years.

John P. Dennis F.R.I.C.S



Ditches Dykes and Water Courses

Cllr John Ledger



On the 29th June 2007, as Mayor of Hedon, I held a public meeting to find out more facts on the extent of the flooding and to assure residents that we would do everything possible to find the causes and pressure the responsible authorities take action to prevent the same problems occurring in the future.

A small working group was set up by Hedon Town Council and a Consultant was appointed to help us with the investigation and to produce a credible report. After carrying out his research, the consultant concluded that the exceptionally high level of the Burstwick Drain had created a 'ponding' effect which prevented the water in the surface drains discharging into the

Burstwick drain. This had been known about for many years but we had never been able to get the Environment Agency (EA) to acknowledge or respond.

At the present moment the EA are in the process of increasing the level of the drain banks in the Hedon Area in order that the drain can hold even more water, apparently in an attempt to prevent overtopping. Hedon Town Council maintains that overtopping did not occur during the flooding in June 2007. Indeed we have told the EA that raising the banks will only exacerbate the problem because it will result in more water being held in the drain, which in turn will delay the discharge of Hedon's surface water even longer than previous.

Towards the end of January 2008 further flooding was prevented on the Inmans Estate Area due to the implementation of an emergency procedure we had agreed with the Yorkshire Water Authority, however we are disappointed that a more permanent option has not been funded by them. We have requested Yorkshire Water and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on many occasions to find a solution to Westwick, off Sheriff Highway, as yet we have not received a response.

Following the incident in January 2008, in conjunction with Burstwick United I arranged a meeting in Hedon with all the parish councils along the course of the Burstwick drain to form the Holderness Flood Defence Group with the initial objective being to bring pressure to bear upon the EA and others to resolve the problems with the Burstwick Drain. It should however be noted that an Environment Press Release dated the 18th January 2007 stated " Residents living in Hedon and Burstwick, near Hull, will also see the final stages of a scheme to reduce the risk of flooding" it goes on to say "A pumping station is due to be installed in 2007/08 at the drain to take out water from the channel when it backs up following heavy rain"! The pump was not installed and it is the belief of Hedon Town Council and our expert, that many of the problems will be prevented in the future if suitable permanent pumping is installed at the Burstwick Clough (Saltend).

The EA has recently erected some pipe work on the Clough, and, they intend to have a pump permanently available. This pump is currently stored at Selby, and, it is the belief of many that the size of the pump is inadequate if the same situation arose.

The consultant's report has identified that Preston is a few metres higher than Hedon and during the heavy rainfall of 25th/26th June 2007 the excess water from Preston travelled down the ditches to the rear of South Holderness School field towards Hedon. The culvert under the old railway track and Clough Garth was, and we believe still is blocked. Much of the Preston water entered the Rush Lyvers Lakes, and the surface water in Clough Garth was unable to enter the culvert resulting in a 'ponding' effect with the water backing up into the homes nearby.

The Clough Garth culvert discharges into the ditch which runs westwards, alongside Cherry Tree Lane and across Station Road and Souttergate into Twyers Lane. The Hedon Town Council has cleared about half a mile of the dyke in Twyers Lane whilst the EA has taken responsibility from the rear of the cemetery across Hull Road southwards into the Burstwick Drain. It is our belief that the entire water course from Preston through Hedon to the Burstwick drain should be re-classified as 'main river' and adopted by the EA. We are pursuing this point with them currently.

The outfall from the Westlands Drain into the Burstwick Drain is totally inadequate and in times of high rainfall it will still require pumping, however EA inform us that they are trying to find a solution to this problem.

Copies of our report have been sent to: The Flood Team at the Government Cabinet Office, Graham Stuart MP with a copy for Hillary Benn MP, The Leader & Chief Executive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, The Chairman of the Environment Agency, The Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water, The Chairmen of both the Preston and the Keyingham Internal Drainage Boards.

Hedon Town Council has had several meetings with the Environment Agency, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and Yorkshire Water. We also understand that Graham Stuart MP has a meeting planned with the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Environment in London on the 6th July.

The Hedon Town Council are hopeful that a permanent solution can be found, whilst it would be ideal to get the problem resolved quickly, we are one of many claiming for the limited funding, but we will continue to pursue all issues on your behalf.

My thanks go to Cllrs. Allen Marshall & John Dennis for assisting me to survey the ditches, dykes and watercourses past and present around Hedon. It is surprising how many have been filled in, not knowing if they have been potted correctly.

Cllr. John Ledger



EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

ERNLLCA (East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association) Annual Conference Council rep: Cllr John Groome



Councillors Ledger, Thurston and Groome attended ERNLLCA's Annual Conference held at the Ropery Hall, Barton on Saturday 4 April. The conference began with a most helpful and interesting review of the new Code of Conduct for councillors by Rob Walsh, Director of Law and Democratic Services for North East Lincolnshire Council. He outlined the ten General Principles of Public Life and went on to detail the general standards of conduct expected of Town/Parish councillors. Having spent some time outlining a councillor's general obligations and stressing the parameters of personal and prejudicial interest, he indicated how local assessment of councillor's actions was conducted. Finally he described several very relevant and topical case studies.

Next Good Practice Manager David Evans of the Information Commissioner's Office dealt with a subject very close to Hedon Councillors' hearts, namely the handling of Vexatious Enquiries. After carefully defining what comprises a vexatious request, he gave examples of obsessive requestors and revealed the harassment and distress, plus the financial and work-load burdens that can result. He revealed that Refusal Notices and/or a cost limit can be applied in some cases, but stressed that the requests always have to be very carefully examined. However help was at hand as the relevant guidance could always be sought from the Information Commissioner's Office.

Councillor Chater Chair of the National Association of Local Councils then gave a thought-provoking, but up-beat Keynote speech and was followed by ERNLLCA's Councils Development Manager Alan Barker, who introduced the concept and rules relating to the Power of Well Being. He explained that this was the informal name given to the statutory power enabling a local authority to do anything, which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being in their area. However he emphasised that the power cannot be taken up until a council has proved eligibility. Among other things this requires councillor training and a published statement of intent as to Community engagement. The Power of Well Being (PWB) has wide-ranging potential, but the local council has to have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy drawn up by the principal authority. Also the council is advised to (a) allow public participation when Power of Well Being is discussed. (b) Publicise decisions on using the power within 1 month. (c) Explain the details of use of the power in its annual report. Finally he added that the PWB will be regulated by an external auditor.

The final session of the day titled Good Decision Making was delivered by ERNLLCA's Councils Development Officer Gareth Roberts. Having explained that decision making is a core skill, that is assumed but rarely taught, Gareth went on to define Predisposition and Predetermination. He stated that the test of a good decision was "would a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts, decide there was a real possibility that the councillor had predetermined the issue or was biased. Councillors are entitled to have and to express their own views, as long as they are prepared to re-consider their proposition in the light of all the evidence and arguments. They must not give the impression that their mind is closed. In conclusion he opined that decision making "was a skill requiring an open mind, active listening, tolerance, critical evaluation skills and the bottle to make difficult choices.

Councillor Tom Glossop President of ERNLLCA began and ended proceedings, as well as providing explanatory and analytical input during the day. He reminded delegates of the significant influence presented by the country's 80,000 councillors in 8,500 town and parish councils. With a budget totalling some £400 million and covering over 35% of the population, we were a force to be reckoned with.

All things considered it was a valuable and stimulating day.

Cllr John Groome



Yorkshire Water Council rep: Cllr Mike Bryan



I joined the Yorkshire Water Treatment Plant Forum Committee in June 2008. At our first meeting in June 2008 discussions took place as to how Yorkshire Water had employed a company to do a survey for the elimination of the smells. We had a further meeting in early September 2008. Yorkshire Water stated that they will eliminate the smells from Hedon, Preston and Paull by Summer 2009 but they have had a lot of difficulties on the way with equipment breaking down. However, we now get a weekly email from Rachel Walker from Yorkshire Water warning us of any smells that may occur and the reasons why.

The meeting in September 2008 was with Graham Stuart our local MP and the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water, Mr Kevin Whiteman I put my point forward very forcefully that people should not have to live with this. I asked how the smells are monitored his reply was that there are two monitors in the Hedon area but he said the latest technology is that there is new portable monitoring system available so I have requested that I have one placed in my garden.

At the meeting we were given a presentation package and a tour around the site where improvements from the survey were taking place and the offending smells are produced. We were given reassurance (we could actually see people working) that action is being taken and that the smells in Hedon, Paull and Preston should be eliminated, the package states clearly, by the end of summer 2009. Mr Kevin Whiteman seemed very enthusiastic and totally dedicated to solving this problem. But we will monitor the situation carefully. We are on their case and monitoring this as there have been too many broken promises in the past to just sit back and relax. I am determined that we will succeed in getting rid of the foul smells for good.

If you have any complaints regarding the smell please ring the Hotline
Numbers: **01482 396176** and **0845 1242429** this will help as every
phone call is counted

Cllr Mike Bryan



BP Forum/Nippon Goshei/SCCL (Saltend Cogeneration Company Ltd) Council rep: David Thompson



Representatives of the Hedon Town Council have participated over the past year, along with parish councils in the locality, in attending regular meetings with the management of the above named organisations. Discussions have centred around their current business activities and processes, future business plans, and their ongoing commitment to preventing pollution, minimising odours and noise, and continual improvement in environmental performance, in the context of the impact on the local communities.

At the meetings it has been a priority concern to see that all emissions are controlled and reduced year on year.

The value of these companies to the local economy cannot be overstated, given the considerable number of people who are employed locally, along with recruitment opportunities and apprenticeships.

Given also the highly commendable voluntary support of local causes, they are clearly keen to promote themselves as good neighbours.

It has been noted, that over the past year, the BP Chemicals skyline has changed considerably with the demolition of the DF Plants bringing an end to an era there.

The Hedon representatives continue to monitor closely the future developments including traffic control during the Vivergo construction phase and beyond, and also as relevant with the planned Bio-fuel Plant, along with potential flooding issues.

As representatives of the Hedon Town Council, we are grateful for the time given by the management of each of the above organisations, the meetings

are always informative, we thank them for their hospitality and the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues of concern to the Town Council, and we wish them well during the current challenging economic conditions.

Cllr David Thompson

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORDS 2008/2009



