



CHAIR'S SPEECH
AND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
2012

Good Evening, my name is Councillor Barry Dyke and I am the Chair of Staveley Town Council for this Civic Year of 2012/2013.

I would like to ask those Staveley Town Council Councillors present to introduce themselves.

(Go round Councillors)

I would also like to introduce Graeme Challands, the Town Clerk of Staveley Town Council.

Also with us tonight we have

Councillor John Burrows Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council

Councillor John Williams from Derbyshire County Council as well as being Leader of Staveley Town Council.

Mention: Councillor Barry Bingham Chesterfield Borough Council
Councillor Paul Stone Chesterfield Borough Council
Councillor David Stone Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire
County Council (if they attend)

This Annual Report provides me with the opportunity to take stock of the last 12 months.

The Precept this year was set by the previous administration and rose by 1.5%, meaning most of our households pay an extra £0.64p per year. We are mindful of the economic situation in the country as a whole but unlike the principal authorities we receive no funding from Central Government and did not benefit from the grant given to those in order to encourage them to keep their Council Tax rise to zero. The Precept is vitally important for us to continue our work to help regenerate Staveley.

Our Councillors continue to work without pay to help Staveley and our residents. They do this to ensure Staveley continues to improve and as a result of the pro active role taken by Staveley Town Council I can report that our communities continue to get better. Being a Councillor means not just the work here at Staveley Town Council but many serve on a variety of outside bodies.

We have worked in partnership with a variety of bodies not least Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council and I expect this partnership working to increase over the coming years.

Details of the Section 137 Grants awarded have been circulated. You will see from the list we have been able to help a considerable number of local organisations in their vital community work and this is set to continue.

One of our major projects in the Heart of Staveley Project. The past year has seen progress with a grant of £880,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and an application for £1.3 million to the EUPA2 programme. News of this application is awaited. Other funding bids have been submitted and negotiations have begun with the newly formed Heart of Staveley Limited, a not for profit company intended to assume the operation of the site in due course. If the EU bid is successful then building work should commence later this year.

The Summer Dig won a prize at the 5th Derbyshire Heritage Awards and an exhibition of finds held at the Stables was well attended.

Another project where building work is expected to commence later this year is our Affordable Eco Homes Project. Planning permission was granted to Staveley Town Council last month and the final loose ends are being tied up as I speak. Our partners Cascade and Guinness Northern Counties Housing Association are working with us to

provide 20 new affordable homes to Level 3+ of the Code for Sustainable Homes. This will bring back into use a polluted area of former allotment land. Because of the design the homes will be cheap to run and in a part of Middlecroft close to many existing facilities. It will provide much needed employment opportunities during the construction phase, including for local people. There will be a Junior Allotment Site and improvements to the adjoining Staveley Town and Middlecroft Allotment Site.

Our current sites continue to improve and as demand justifies we have plans in place to expand provision. We participate in the efforts to make Staveley greener – not least with the provision of our Hanging Baskets and participation in East Midlands in Bloom where last year we were awarded a Bronze Award.

We work with a whole host of local organisations as is clear from the Section 137 awards – from bowling clubs, the Toy Library, Bee There, Staveley Forward, The Staveley Centre, The Staveley Children's Centre, Local Clubs, local churches, Friends of Pools Brook County Park and Friends of King George V Park, pubs and until recently the Interdenominational Faith Group. This last year saw us welcome Father David Tesdale and say goodbye to Father Butt. Incidentally thanks to the Friends of Pools Brook Country Park and Chesterfield Borough Council for 2 new play areas which were opened in the park and have proved very popular.

We have once again helped the Staveley Armed Forces and Veterans' Association and look forward to this year's event.

Last year we took over the organisation of the Remembrance Day Parade, somewhat at the last minute and I am pleased to say it was again an enormous success – and one we intend to build on this year. We placed a bench in the Gardens of Remembrance in memory of local activists Peter Stearn and Shirley Flint with an event to mark this which was attended by our MPs and members of their families amongst others.

One partner organisation we were particularly instrumental in helping this year was the Chesterfield Canal Trust and Partnership. We are a corporate Member and have always offered support. This year they faced a crisis with the withdrawal of funding by Nottinghamshire County Council. That threatened the future employment of Dr. Coles the Development Manager whose visionary work has so benefited the area. Staveley Town Council decided to amend its budget and instead of subsidising an Annual Coach Trip to put the money towards the Partnership. That proved the decisive move to save the Partnership and I am pleased to report that Dr. Coles and his post has been moved from Derbyshire County Council to being hosted by Chesterfield Borough Council. Other Parish Councils along the route have responded to our initiative.

We also house the Waterways Recovery Group on our premises whilst the volunteers work on the Canal here in Staveley. Great progress was made with the construction of the canal down Mill Green to our new Staveley Town Basin. This will be formally opened by the Duke of Devonshire at the Chesterfield Canal Festival 2012. This will be a great community event on the weekend of June 30th and 1st July. We now expect the Festival

to be an annual event whilst being centred on the new Town Basin it also involves Hollingwood and the Hub that opened last year together with Barrow Hill Engine Sheds. Nona's Café at The Hub has proved a great success providing not just a well used facility but employment and training. It's involved many people from the community – and their petition to the Heritage Lottery Fund demonstrated the strength of support for the canal. The opening of the Staveley Town Basin is just the start – plans for a training centre, bunkhouse, workshops and housing are well advanced and details will be launched soon. It's another success story for Staveley and one that Staveley Town Council was crucial in enabling.

On that note I am pleased to report the Caravan Club site continues to prosper and indeed it expanded this year – bringing more money into our local economy. We have worked with Turning Point on their not for profit hospital at Mastin Moor. Due to open this summer it will provide almost 90 FTE jobs – and 50 of these have been earmarked for local people. Our support for Markham Vale continued. We hosted The Gathering at Staveley Hall and the Town Clerk gave a talk to senior officers from Derbyshire County Council to let them know what a valuable regeneration tool it was. In the middle of a massive recession the past year saw lots of new facilities open there, Squadron Medical being the latest. Andrew Paige Car Components Factory and a new McDonalds are being built as I speak and other developments are well advanced in the pipeline, together with a Green Gateway arts development that will be launched soon.

The future for the Staveley Works Site is being worked on and we expect concrete proposals soon. The Chesterfield Borough Council Draft Structure Plan identifies this and the Eastern Villages as major growth points. There are major changes in Planning which we are monitoring closely.

Our own activities continued and continued to improve. We reduced the loss made operating Staveley Market from that inherited from Chesterfield Borough Council and working in partnership with them are spending an £18,000 grant from then on improving the Market and promotion together with launching a new Tuesday Market on June 26th and publicity for this is out soon. We continue to benefit from the Staveley Hall Garden Centre Farmers' Markets and our seasonal Table Top Market at The Speedwell Rooms is still popular.

Our Arts and Crafts Competition had a great number of excellent entries and a marvellous Presentation Evening. As always the judges were amazed by the standard of work our students produce. We look forward to this year's event – and to see if one particular village manages to dominate the prizes again!

Our Summer Activities Scheme was as popular as ever and we are finalising this year's programme now with publicity available soon.

The Community Coach Trip went to Skegness and was popular and went without a hitch on the day. There will not be a Staveley Town Council organised one this year as the

Council felt the Canal was a priority for our limited funds. The Canal Festival means we still have a community event but this time over two days. And funding has been reserved for individual coach trips.

Our Community Bonfire and Firework Display proved the most popular to date despite clashing with the Chesterfield Borough Council display on Stand Road.

The Feast has its usual elements, plus some new ones including a Beer Festival, Bowls Tournament, Fishing Matches, Fun Run, Garden Party, a Circus and the Battle of the Bands. This year's Feast is just being finalised, so look out for publicity.

Our involvement with our local schools continued. Barrow Hill Primary School invited us to nominate a Governor to help them on the road to improvement under their new Head. With Netherthorpe School's new buildings due to be open later this year, we have been involved with their Citizenship students, French Exchange students, Speech Day and a Work Experience pupil. Springwell Community College new building was officially opened last year and their results continue to improve. We welcomed a student for work experience.

The events for the Christmas season included a Victorian Christmas Fayre in partnership with Staveley Hall garden Centre which attracted some 3,500 people. It was followed by our Elderly Citizens' Christmas Party which was very enjoyable. The Christmas Lights were switched on in the Market Place with a Lantern Parade from the Hall. Lastly on a

winter's front, we expanded our grit bin provision as promised. Fortunately it wasn't a very snowy or icy winter, but the provision was there.

In closing I should like to pay tribute to our staff. Thanks to their hard work supporting Councillors we continue to make progress. They work above and beyond their Job Descriptions as they like us, have a great pride in our communities.

Thank you for listening and I invite questions.