

Sheriff Hutton Parish Council
Chairman's Report April 2009

The past year has been a quiet one. I am happy to report that there were no major problems and some pleasing successes.

Previously the speed of traffic through the village has been an ongoing problem. Now, with the roundabout to our northern approach and the newly implemented 40mph restriction to the south, our village should be both safer and quieter. The building of a pedestrian path to the Industrial Estate also means it is easier for local residents to access the businesses there.

We are blessed with a fine rural environment and it is the wish of the PC to foster that. The photographing and cataloguing of trees has continued, and we now have a handsome replacement tree in the Square. The protection of the Village Green is an ongoing issue; we need to maintain it for the enjoyment of everyone, now and in the future. Extra bulbs have been planted and the railing repaired and painted.

One of the pleasures of Sheriff Hutton is the circular walk around the castle. It has been my particular mission to get this path improved but sadly, after 6 years, I can only report that the matter is still awaiting either approval or funding; the two never seem to coincide in the same financial year.

Communication in the village has never been better. In addition to our excellent Village News we now have the benefit of a fully fledged, lively website.

The future of our parish has further improved with the acceptance of the Parish Plan. This has involved the efforts of many people and we all appreciate their time and expertise given.

After consideration the Council has agreed to strive towards achieving Quality Council status. Over the time that I have been a councillor the function of the council has become increasingly complex, with the necessity for attention to legal detail and other requirements. All the councillors are conscious of their responsibility to carry out their activities to the highest standard possible and attaining Quality Council status will be a mark of the council's success. We are especially grateful to our parish clerk, Bev Taylor, for undertaking all the extra work that this will entail.

I must mention the excellent work done by all those who earned two awards for Sheriff Hutton. In the 2008 Village of the Year competition the village was the winner in 2 categories: firstly, the business award, for two way support between local businesses and the community, and secondly, the communications award, for the Village News and Village Website. Of course we all know that Sheriff Hutton is a good place to live, but winning an award recognising that is a great achievement.

Finally may I thank Councillor Wooles for his support as Vice Chairman, all my colleagues on the council for their hard work over the past year, and the many members of our community whose efforts make Sheriff Hutton what it is.