

NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 13th November 2017

District Councillor's Report

I have provided a detailed response to a local resident regarding the consultation of charging for the **green garden waste wheelie bin service**. Despite it being a comprehensive response the individual was unsatisfied with my reply as they felt it too closely aligned with the information being supplied by the Council. As a member of the majority administration it is disappointing that someone would expect that my response and that of officers would not fit hand in glove. After all, West Lindsey District Council is run by its elected members.

Since the last Nettleham Parish Council in October I have attended the first meeting of the **Community Awards Panel**, on Wednesday, 18th November, in preparedness for next year's **West Lindsey Community Awards**. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on Monday, 23rd April 2018. I also attended a meeting of the Planning Committee on Wednesday, 18th November, there were no matters directly affecting the ward for determination, although I did take the opportunity to welcome the outcome of the appeal at 1 Kingsway, Nettleham (Ref 135552) which was dismissed.

I was in the chair for a meeting of the **Governance and Audit Committee**, on Tuesday, 7th November where we considered a number of important items, of particular interest to members of the Parish Council, the report by **Internal Audit into Development Management** (Planning, as it is more commonly know). On balance the report shows that considerable improvements have been made since work started to focus efforts on improving these services in October 2015. I am indebted to former district councillor Malcolm Leaning who encouraged me to undertake a comprehensive review of these services and I am pleased to report that whilst there is still work to be done both the **Planning Service** (Development Control) and **Section 106 Monitoring** received a rating of substantial assurance from our auditors. This indicates that our internal auditors have concluded that they have considerable confidence that the activities of the Council on service delivery arrangements, management of risks and operation of controls and/or performance in these areas. It indicates that there is still some improvement needed to ensure that any risks of these activities not achieving these objectives is medium to low and evaluated that the management of risk is adequate. Meanwhile the auditors concluded that they only had limited assurance for **Planning Enforcement**. This indicated that the controls in place to ensure the delivery of this service area were found to not always be operating or inadequate. On that basis the auditors do not have a reasonable level of confidence that the risks to delivery are being effectively managed and it therefore follows that the activity will not achieve its objectives. Several months ago, prior to the report being written, additional resource was put into the enforcement team which should in future help improve this area of the Council's work.

At **Full Council** on Monday, 13th November, this evening, I have tabled a motion related to the audit report on Development Management to ensure that it receives proper attention by all councillors and to agree, I hope, support for the recommendations our internal auditors. It also calls for making the additional resource in enforcement a component of the Council's base budget.

I have been working with members of the **Nettleham Bowls Club** who are experiencing considerable problems with their water supply. I would like to request in my absence that an agenda item be added to the December meeting of the Parish Council to consider this matter, which in my view will likely need a joint approach at both a district and parish level.

Finally, I have approved the application for monies from my **Councillors' Initiative Fund** from the Parish Council and passed this to officers at the Council for Confirmation of the award of £150.00. The Village Hall Committee has also made contact and I have issued an application form to be completed.



Giles McNeill

Working hard for the Nettleham Ward