

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –YEAR 2003/2004

In 2003 the Parish Council took the final steps in commissioning work to extend and refurbish Winwick Leisure Centre. I am extremely pleased that at the time of writing this report, the work is nearing completion and the new facilities will be available in time for this year's Winwick Carnival.

Designed to meet the needs and demands of the Community over the next few decades, the work includes the building of a new multi use room / learning centre "the Countryside Suite", which we has been provided by a generous donation from Countryside Properties. Also included are new entrance area and corridor, new disabled toilets and baby changing facilities, new ladies and gents toilets and refurbished showers and changing rooms. Outside we are providing a new terrace area, with panoramic views across Cheshire.

I am extremely proud in helping to bring this project to fruition and I understand how my predecessors on the Parish Council must have felt when the Centre was first built in the 1970's.

We continue our work to encourage community activity and will again in 2004 sponsor a Best Kept Garden Competition. This year we will extend the judging criteria to include gardeners who like to concentrate their efforts on containers and hanging baskets. Following the launch of the Youth Good Neighbour Award in 2003, this year it will be open to 2 age groups i.e. young persons between the age of 7-11 and 12-17 living within the Parish and who have made a difference to someone or a group of people in the areas of personal care, care for the environment, care for the community.

In 2003 Warrington Borough Council were awarded a contract to maintain the grounds and pitches at Myddleton Lane recreation ground and following a successful year this has been extended through to March 2005.

Negotiations with Winwick FC and Winwick JFC to agree and sign formal contracts for the use of the Parish Council facilities at Winwick Leisure Centre were successfully completed before the start of the 2004 season and are working well.

There have been some notable disappointments during the year, in particular the refusal by the Borough Council to designate Winwick as a conservation area. We are hopeful, however that local people may engage in the creation of a "Winwick Village Statement" which is a document which defines how local people wish to see and control future development and which planners can incorporate within local planning guidelines. I would also like to highlight my despair at the increased levels of vandalism at Radley Common and the inability of the Police to act against it.

I would like to record my welcome to Councillor Mrs Pam Barrow who joined the Parish Council as a representative for the Houghton Ward.

I would once again take this opportunity to thank the members of staff of the Parish Council for their hard work and support over the last year.

Ann Iddon-Chairman Winwick Parish Council.

April 2004