



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**18TH APRIL 2016**

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**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
SESSIONS HOUSE  
LYNN ROAD  
ELY**

**CAMBS CB7 4EG**

**Telephone 01353 661016 Fax 01353 667057**

**E-mail: [info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk) website:**

**[www.cityofelycouncil.org.uk](http://www.cityofelycouncil.org.uk)**

**Clerk to the Council**

**Tracey Coulson**

**Deputy Clerk to the Council**

**Sarah Jay**

**Open to the public - Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 2.30 pm**

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**COUNCILLORS**

**WEST WARD**

Sue Austen	5 Mayfield Close, Ely CB6 3AB	Tel: 663928
Sheila Friend-Smith	33 Egremont Street, Ely CB6 1AE	Tel: 663118
Christine Whelan	119 Kings Avenue, Ely CB7 4QW	Tel: 772123

**EAST WARD**

Elisabeth Every	80 Barton Road, Ely CB7 4HZ	Tel: 665815
Richard Hobbs	16 Bernard Street, Ely CB6 1AU	Tel: 610955
Dian Warman	38 Back Hill, Ely CB7 4BZ	Tel: 666134

**SOUTH WARD**

Mal Lansell	188 Beresford Road, Ely CB6 3SG	Tel: 440044
Ian Lindsay	Hickling House, 6B Station Road, Ely CB7 4BS	Tel: 614184
Christopher Phillips	7 Columbine Road, Ely CB6 3WL	Tel: 669940

**NORTH WARD**

Alison Arnold	51 Fleetwood, Ely CB6 1BH	Tel: 667640
Peter Moakes	43 Chelmer Way, Ely CB6 2WS	Tel: 659910
Joanne Pearson	46 Merivale Way, Ely CB7 4GQ	Tel: 666260
Michael Rouse	25 Lynton Close, Ely CB6 1DJ	Tel: 667082
Alison Whelan	119 Kings Avenue, Ely CB7 4QW	Tel: 772123
Simon Pittock	34 Chapel Street, Ely CB6 1AD	Tel: 610772

**Chairman of the Council and Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor Elisabeth Every**  
**Deputy Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor Ian Lindsay**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016**

This has been a consolidation for the City of Ely Council. Following on from the acquisition of our assets as well as planning for growth the City of Ely Council continues to grasp the benefits of localism. It has also had to take on services that have been reduced by other Councils, eg grass cutting by the Cambridgeshire County Council.

We continue to provide quality facilities at the Cemetery and our play parks; the City has been ablaze with colourful flowers provided by Ely in Bloom. the Christmas Lights and the Switch On were, I believe, the best we have had. Further details are shown in the relevant Committee sections.

Our partnerships are thriving. In particular, the City Centre Forum strives to develop our local City economy through local consultation. The strong relationships have resulted in the City Centre benefiting from increased footfall during all our major events. Progress is also well underway to develop strong business and school links to encourage employability skills and greater opportunities for our young people to work locally.

We acquired the Sessions House, saving one of our most prestigious Ely buildings. Phase one of the upgrading of the Sessions House is completed. It now houses the City of Ely Council offices and the Court Room and we have a lettings schedule in place for the available rooms. Phase 2 has resulted in a feasibility plan looking at putting in a lift to the Junior Court room.

The City of Ely Council now has a team in place to run The Maltings and we have an encouraging order book. As well as commercial ventures such as conferences, parties and events, our Wedding Brochure will be published this month. We believe that the Maltings is an ideal setting for weddings and this will provide additional business. The venue continues to house the ADEC cinema providing the community with opportunities to see films twice a week. The Venue staff work closely with Ta Bouche to collaborate on customer offers.

We are currently in negotiation with Highfields School to renovate the Maltings Cottage for it to provide the development of employability skills for their students through a 'pop up' café and retail space whilst also providing a community space. This will be a collaborative community project. More details on this by request.

We have now had three Community Forums. This is part of the Council's strategy to engage with members of the public by providing them with updates on local and regional issues. To date, we have had discussions on local policing, housing, highways, speed watch, the leisure complex, by-pass, North Ely, cleaning up Ely and dementia. Issues are raised and we endeavour to feedback progress on these at the next meeting. We intend to take this to different venues and are planning to take an appropriate version into schools. We are aware that improved communication is vital and our new website was launched last year.

We believe that we have achieved more this year through a higher level of negotiation and lobbying with our other Councils, ie the Crossing Patrols were not cut by Council after all, we stopped incorrect lighting being installed and have regular discussions with Balfour Beatty on their programme and we have saved the Barton Road toilets in the short term, in order to allow a meaningful review to take place. Our consultation on the Total Transport Strategy has been formulated and returned.

All this has been achieved by the City of Ely Council through prudent and rigorous good housekeeping this year. However, the localism agenda, the need to provide additional services and the desire of the City of Ely Council to maintain and grow our Pride in Ely vision and the facilities and activities that now belong to the City, it was regrettably necessary in the financial year 2016-7 to increase our precept. Details leading to this decision are available on request.

Our challenge is to continue to improve whilst providing value for money. The key is growing our existing partnerships and establishing new ones between the Council and the community. 2016 will continue to bring opportunities for our City and our people. Additional funds will become available in the future through the CIL allocation provided by the development of new houses and businesses. We need to ensure that we carefully plan for this spend to support the infrastructure required because of new developments.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the staff of the City Council, the Councillors and all the volunteers who have helped the Council to maintain so many of its services. These volunteers work on CCTV, Ely in Bloom, Christmas Lights and Switch on, City Centre Forum, the Maltings and the Sessions House. It has been a real privilege to work with such a great team.

Cllr Lis Every  
Mayor and Chairman of the City of Ely Council  
April 2016

## **PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

This Committee has been extremely busy this year dealing with managing the budget to provide our usual services, additional services that the Council has undertaken, eg grass cutting and some minor highways work, but also to undertake renovation and upgrading of our assets, ie the Maltings and the Sessions House. Details of this are shown in other Committee reports.

New systems including a new computerised accounting programme, procedures and personnel practices have also been put into place in order to support this process. Changes in identifying priorities have resulted in all aspects of finance (including monies allocated through Section 106) being channelled through this Committee. The new Business Plan is about to be published.

We have dealt with a variety of human resource issues as we ensure that we have the right level and skill set of staffing to support the requirements of our local residents, the current requirements of workload and those of the future as opportunities for localism arise. Our offices are open every day (often longer than the published hours) and we continue to aim to promote a positive 'customer focus'. Our new website is up and running and we have increased opportunities for engagement with residents with our new Community Panel. This is part of a wider strategy on engagement which is being worked on by our Communication and Public Relations Working Party which reports to this Committee. Sound financial management has been at the heart of all our planned activities and this has resulted in achieving our objectives with a balanced budget for this year.

Cllr Lis Every  
Chairman of Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee

## **PLANNING COMMITTEES**

The City of Ely Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications received by East Cambridgeshire District Council that relate to the area covered by the Parish of Ely. There are two Planning Committees comprising of the majority of the Council members and they meet every two weeks. In the last year most of the 24 meetings have been chaired by the Deputy Mayor, or, in his absence, by the Mayor.

Applications cover a wide variety of planning matters. On the whole, in accordance with national planning policy, there has been a presumption in favour of planning approval. However, the Committees have recommended that ECDC should refuse planning permission in a number of circumstances related to local issues. These include applications for development where there appears to be inadequate provision of off-street parking places, a danger relating to traffic flows, or proposed changes that adversely affect the street scene.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Deputy Chairman

## **RECREATION AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

### **Recreation**

The 9 play areas under the responsibility of the City Council remain well maintained and regularly used.

Daily checks are carried out on each site to ensure cleanliness. Safety and maintenance of existing equipment is organised on a planned basis.

In the last year Stuntney Playpark has seen the addition of a new multi-play climbing structure

### **Cemetery**

All newly elected councillors were given the opportunity to tour the Cemetery with the Estates Team and were also given a chance to view the beautiful Chapel located within the Cemetery. The Committee intend to investigate the possibility of creating a friends of the Chapel to allow for it to be open to the public during the day.

A request was made to the Committee for an area to be identified within the Cemetery for different faith burials. This area has now been identified and approved by both the Committee and Full Council.

Roadways and pathways have been maintained and upgraded within the cemetery.

### **General**

This year we have also seen the Estates Team take on additional responsibilities with the Maltings and Sessions House, these have been welcomed by the team and have been managed to an excellent standard.

Councillor Jo Pearson

Chairman – Recreation and Cemetery Committee

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The work of the Environment Committee aims to nurture and develop pride in the City of Ely by facilitating a clean, healthy and attractive local environment in co-operation with the citizens of Ely, local businesses and other organisations.

The Committee has responsibility for street furniture including 52 dog waste bins, 5 notice boards, 3 benches, 13 flower containers, 10 signs, 18 lamp posts and lights, 14 bus shelters, 2 grit bins, solar powered lights in Cherry Hill and the riverside, a flagpole on the market place and the City war memorial. It cares for some trees and green areas within the City as well as floral displays, through the Ely in Bloom Working Group. It also runs the memorial bench scheme.

On behalf of the City of Ely Council various Working Parties monitor the maintenance of signs and road markings; changes to street lighting; traffic calming measures and war memorials. Many of these activities are managed on a day to day basis by other agencies such as East Cambridgeshire District Council or Cambridgeshire County Council.

At the start of the year the Committee reconfigured its structure and from this reorganisation a separate Working Group took on the responsibility for aspects of traffic flow and its effects within the City. This Group reports directly to the Full Council. During the remainder of the year the Environment Committee contributed its part to the City of Ely business plan and developed an action plan to ensure regular monitoring and renovation or replacement of all its assets. The plan also helped build its future budget. In addition to its quarterly meeting members took part in two Ely clean up days, surveyed A board obstructions within the City in support of the East Cambs Access Group, participated in a survey of signs and lines in the City Centre and contributed towards the monitoring of the street lighting replacement programme initiated by Cambridgeshire County Council. Lastly it established an audit of all the trees owned by the City Council. This will lead to a budgeted programme of maintenance to ensure the future health and inherent safety of all the trees on the cemetery site and play areas as well as some around the riverside area. It assumed financial responsibility for grass cutting in the Northwold area of the City.

Cllr I Lindsay  
Chairman of Environment Committee



## **ELY IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group is made up of Councillors and volunteers from the community. The aim is to enhance the City with floral displays in containers around the City centre. The Group works closely with a contractor, who is employed to plant, water and maintain the hanging baskets, gateway entrances, barrier containers and the tiered floral displays. The Group decides on the colour, combinations and plants for the winter and summer planting.

At the end of May 2015 the Group bought a new wooden tub that is now in place and planted up on the island just outside Cheffins and Ely News offices. Also a further ten baskets were planted and displayed at the Maltings.

One of the planted wooden tub displays was vandalized, which resulted in some plants having to be replaced at an extra cost.

The Ely in Bloom 2015 competition in July went well and the presentation was held at the Maltings.

The Group is active in trying to identify places to enhance the City with displays.

In March 2016, two lotus vases and plinths were ordered, to stand in front of Sessions House, the Council's offices on Lynn Road. They should arrive in time for the summer planting.

This summer, in order to celebrate Her Majesty's Birthday, the floral colour scheme will be the Queen's racing colours of purple, gold and scarlet. Retail traders in Ely have been encouraged to either hang a basket or plant a window box on their premises to commemorate her birthday.

The Ely in Bloom competition will again be held in July.

As Chairman of the Working Group, I wish to thank all the members for their help and support, the City of Ely Council office staff and the Estate teams. It is much appreciated.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
Chairman - Ely in Bloom Working Group

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

The Christmas Lights Committee consists of Councillors and co-opted Volunteers from the community. The Committee organises the Christmas Lights displays in Ely and also the Switch-On event which is held on the last Friday in November each year. Within the Committee, there are two Sub Groups, the Lighting Group and the Switch on Group.

The Team Leader of the Lighting Group coordinates the maintenance of lights, fixtures and fittings and the erection and dismantling of the lights. It has been necessary this year to carry out work to electrical connections; this will be completed during April 2016.

For Christmas 2016 it is hoped that the completion of the electrical sockets on the lampposts will enhance the display, in particular providing illumination on Market Street. A new display is planned for 2016, which will also enhance existing features.

The Switch-On Team Leader coordinates the evening's entertainment in conjunction with the Committee. Throughout the year the team plan and decide the layout of the event, raise sponsorship, negotiate acts and entertainment, charity and trade stalls. This year there will be more emphasis on including local businesses with the planning of the event.

Both teams of volunteers work very hard throughout the year, putting in many hours, sometimes in appalling weather, to give the Parish of Ely a splendid evening to start the beginning of the Christmas festive season.

I wish to thank all the Committee Councillors, co-opted community Committee members, volunteers and last but not least the City of Ely Council office and estate team staff for their patience and continued support.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
Chairman - Christmas Lights Committee

## **ASSETS AND ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE**

During the year, the City of Ely Council has been engaged in renovating and upgrading the Maltings and the Sessions House, as well as putting into place the procedures and systems required to manage these assets efficiently and effectively.

In order to achieve this, two working parties were set up to manage the process, ie for the Sessions House and for the Maltings and Maltings Cottage. As a result, the following has been achieved.

### **Sessions House**

We have completed the external renovation of the Sessions House to be compliant with Equality legislation and Conservation requirements.

Phase 1 - completed the internal renovation of the office area. The City Council offices are now housed in the Sessions House. Our Estates Team has re-decorated the hallway and the Judges room of Sessions House.

Phase 2 – Plans have been drawn up and working with the Conservation Officer and the Access Group, the Working Party is investigating the feasibility and cost of an internal lift to gain full access to the Junior Court Room. A lettings schedule is now in place.

### **The Maltings**

The City of Ely Council has taken over the day to day running of the Maltings Venue and a team has been created to undertake this. These include a Venue Manager, Assistant Venue Manager and duty managers and bar staff. The programme to manage the facility as a combination venue for commercial and community use is progressing well. The Estates Team have almost completed the re-decoration of the interior of the Maltings and are currently landscaping an area to the front for a potential cafe area.

We continue to work closely with ADeC in order that they can continue with their Cinema and Arts events.

Ta Bouche (La Raza) continues to add to the every developing food and drink offer along the Riverside and with a new Manager, collaboration between Ta Bouche and the Venue is now thriving for the commercial benefit of both organisations.

### **The Maltings Cottage**

External renovation has taken place. Negotiations are now in hand with Highfields School to collaboratively work on renovating the inside of the Cottage. The intention is for Highfields School to take over the lease and management of the Cottage to turn it into a 'pop up' café and retail space manned by the Highfield Sixth Form students as part of their employability skills programme. At other times, it will be used as class rooms and a community space.

Lis Every  
Chairman of the Assets and Acquisitions Committee

## **YOUTH FORUM**

The aims of the Forum have been amended this year as follows:

- To create a forum in which a healthy debate can occur on social and community issues across Ely which affect youth, seeking opinions and views.
- To identify and develop ideas/projects that will benefit youth.
- To reward those who contribute to society as a whole.
- To enhance public perception of youth as useful members of our society.
- To play a full role in the strategic partnership set up to improve the relationship between the local authorities, business, main stream education and Further and Higher education providers resulting in the provision of a greater level of opportunities for youth employment in the Ely area.
- To raise awareness and understanding of the work of local government and the UK political system. (Additional)

The new Forum has met twice in the year. However, it is anticipated that this Forum will become more active in 2016/7 as members form a new strategy to engage with our young people.

Lis Every  
Chairman of the Ely Youth Forum

## **CITY CENTRE FORUM**

The City Centre Forum holds regular seminars to identify issues affecting the City Centre through the process of consultation, identification of partnership working on activities, identification of yearly plans and monitoring progress. City Councillors are represented at the Seminars. The work of the Seminar is undertaken by a Working Group, ie representatives of City Council, District Council, Cathedral, Ely Perspective, Traders' and a local communications organisation, chaired by Cllr Lis Every.

Seminars have discussed the following:

- Joint marketing on shopper promotions, eg vouchers;
- Retailer's pack;
- Footfall and update Surveys;
- Using the Elyi for distribution of marketing materials;
- Promotion of social media for retailers;
- Shopper and eating branding options for a Shopping and Food Guide.
- Launch of Ely Shopping and Food Guide (planned in Seminar 2);
- Wider marketing of Ely;
- Discussion on designs for signage around the City (funding obtained);
- Using a wide range of communication media
- 'Pride in Ely' initiative

The City Centre Forum process is now working in line with many Town Centre Teams, ie formal stakeholders collaborating on planning and implementing projects with joint funding. A review is taking place on how this could be taken forward with initial research into how similar towns operate.

Lis Every  
Chairman of the City Centre Forum

### **CCTV PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP REPORT 2015/6**

The CCTV Partnership comprises the City of Ely Council, Soham Town Council and the Police. The partnership continues to work with a high degree of co-operation.

We have moved from a cable system to a wireless system when enabled the CCTV system in Ely and Soham to be financially viable in the long term. It is anticipated that these savings will amount to thousands of pounds per week.

The volunteers continue to remain very local and we could not work the system without their teamwork approach, expertise and good will.

The whole system is now operational including an additional camera in the Country Park and in Soham. We believe the benefit of converting of wireless will result in financial saving and more flexibility in the siting of temporary or further permanent cameras in the future.

Cllr Lis Every  
Chairman of the CCTV Partnership

## **ELY-RIBE COMMITTEE**

### **Report to Annual Parish Meeting - April 2016**

This report coincides with final preparations for the celebration of 60 years of twinning with Ribe, which will take place in our twin town at the beginning of June.

This milestone represents a remarkable achievement, and I'm pleased to say that our Association is still playing a very active role to keep the links with Denmark flourishing. Over the course of the last year, the main event has been to welcome guests from Ribe for a short visit over the Eel Festival weekend. We were pleased to be able to welcome them to the City Council's new home in the Sessions House, and to round off the weekend with an excellent dinner and entertainment in The Maltings.

Our aim over the year has been to reinvigorate one of the oldest twinning connections between Ely and Ribe and to foster some new ones. We therefore invited representatives of the Ribe Rotary to join us in the visit last May, and hopefully new contacts were made with the Ely and Hereward Rotary Clubs, mirroring the initial friendships made in 1956. We also brought the Ely Choral Society together with Ribe Kammerkor, and there is some expectation of one of these choirs will embark on a tour to the other town in the next couple of years.

At our dinner over the twinning weekend we were entertained by Sing! Choirs Ely, who also expressed an interest in visiting Ribe for a short tour. We are pleased to report that in recent months a contact has been made with a similar choir in Ribe, and a short tour is now confirmed for Sing! Choirs Ely in August of this year.

So, we can therefore approach the formal celebrations of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a very positive outlook for the twinning. Around 20 of our members will be accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress for what promises to be a memorable weekend.

On behalf of the Ely-Ribe Association, I would like to thank the retiring Mayor for her great support for our activities over the past 2 years, and to the City of Ely Council for its continuing financial contributions to the hosting of guests from Ribe.

***G Hughes***

***Chairman, Ely-Ribe Association and Ely-Ribe Committee***

***4 April 2016***

## **CITY OF ELY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **General comments on the allotment year**

Total number on the waiting list for plots (all sites) @ 31 March 2016 – 17

Every year the Allotment Association has its good times and its sad times, but this year the two have been poles apart.

The good came when after a last minute scramble, the Association's proposals were accepted by the Tesco 'Bags of Help Scheme', and we were put forward into the public vote. We came third and this means that we are to receive an award of £8000 to implement our proposed site improvements.

The sad comes as in most years, with some of our older members having to leave due to ill health or incapacity, or with their passing. This year has been particularly sad with the recent and sudden passing of Nigel Clarke, a valued member of the Association's committee.

Nigel was originally the Council representative for the allotments and attended and added to our meetings, giving us constructive advice from his wealth of local knowledge. He became a plot holder on the Upherds Lane site, and when he lost his Council seat at the 2015 elections had no hesitation in becoming a committee member and a site representative for Upherds Lane. He became a very valued member of the committee where again his local knowledge was very much appreciated on several matters which arose during the year.

The news of his sudden passing has left the Association shocked and saddened. Nigel has left a void which will be very difficult, if not impossible to fill, and our thoughts at this sad time are with his family.

### **Bridge Fen**

Number of Tenants – 98

This has been a year of changes for Bridge Fen. The wet summer meant that weeds were a bigger problem than usual. The added work led to several people deciding that the work involved in tending a ten pole plot was too much so they have cut back to five. We are sad to report that we have lost two of the stalwarts; Bill Lennie sadly died and Alex Atkin gave up his plot for family reasons. They were both very popular with the other tenants, always happy to chat and pass on their knowledge.

Clearing out the drainage dykes has totally eliminated the flooding problems we have previously experienced on the Stuntney side of the site and we are very grateful to Graham Bond for overseeing this work, and also fitting a gate. This along with help from the local police has minimised the thefts from the site. The front of the site has been vacated ready for the Ely bypass work.

We are happy to welcome several new tenants.

### **Canterbury Avenue**

Number of Tenants - 9

2015 started out with lots of hard work from all the plot holders. We cleared the entrance and planted some wild flowers such as birds foot trefoil, wild thyme and marjoram. Then we had a blitz with trimming the hedge and removing the waste. It was a great time to meet every one and get to know one another.



## **New Barns**

Number of Tenants - 50

This year has on the whole, been a good one for the New Barns site. We suffered only a few incidents of trespass and vandalism, all of which were reported to the police who have dealt with them accordingly. We have continued to make improvements to the site, including repairing the boundary fence between the site and the cemetery to prevent any future trespassing.

The British weather continues to give us our biggest problem, that of flooding on part of the site. When the new flats were built at the top of Clayway the existing drainage ditch for the site was filled in, thus during heavy rain the surface water cannot drain away and floods several plots on the site. The association has noted that on the plans for this development provision was made to connect the land drain in the cemetery to the new storm drain in the road, but no provision was made for the allotment site. Therefore we would request that the Council look into this matter and a similar provision be made for the allotments.

Trophy-wise this has also been a successful year for the site as Colin and Olive Bowles won the AJ Fenn Cup for the best kept allotment in Ely, and Mick and Napha Flanders were awarded the best Newcomer Cup.

The spirit on the New Barns site remains high and there are always many volunteers to help with the communal tasks in maintaining the site, e.g. repairing fences, mowing paths and even collecting a supply of manure, a much needed commodity for allotments.

## **Upherds Lane**

Number of Tenants - 44

The Upherds Lane allotments site continues to be a popular City of Ely amenity, with a steady stream of requests for plots from Ely residents joining the waiting list. During 2015 six plots changed hands to new tenants, plus some internal changes among existing plotholders.

It is encouraging to see younger people and families joining the Association disproving the myth of the stereotypical old codger allotment keeper. All plots are tenanted, and generally well maintained. This gives a good and cared-for appearance to the site to passers-by, as Upherds Lane is perhaps the most public of the Ely city sites. Security has not been a problem on this site this year, the fence and locked gate does seem to deter casual unwelcome visitors.

Good growing weather is unfortunately outside the jurisdiction of the Association, but nonetheless the Upherds tenants are generally satisfied with their harvests and yields of a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. Of course we complain when there is too much rain, and equally when there is too little. That's gardening!

**Graham Bond**

**Chairman of the City of Ely Allotment Association**



## **REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **ELY MUSEUM**

The City Council provides a considerable annual grant in support of the Museum, which it regards as a vital asset to the City. Cllr Phillips and Cllr Lindsay served as Trustees of the Museum over the past year. Collectively they were able to attend all 6 meetings over that time and report back to the Council.

Over the next three years, the Trustees aim to improve and increase the flexibility of the museum space so that they can better meet the needs of the museum's users and the collections. Alongside this, the collections are to be developed and interpreted in varied ways to make them accessible to multiple audiences. The museum would like to develop a way of working that encourages participation by its users and attract new audiences to the museum. They feel that it is vital that the museum continues to create engaging learning opportunities for all users and responds to the changing needs of those users. Key to this is the continued employment of an education officer, which requires external funding.

In support of their plans the Trustees and staff have been working on an ambitious bid for Lottery funding.

Cllr I Lindsay  
City of Ely Council Representative

### **PRICKWILLOW VILLAGE COUNCIL**

This organisation had its 10th AGM in January 2016 and serves the community of Prickwillow by bringing issues of village residents to the attention of authorities that may be able to resolve them.

Prickwillow Village Council also produces a village newsletter which informs the community of events, meetings and includes advertising and is delivered to all properties. Community transport to and from the village is still not ideal, a village car share scheme was advertised in the village newsletter, but so far has had no response

In the course of this year Prickwillow Village Council has worked with local farmers on speeding farm traffic. Farmers have implemented a 20mph for their drivers, with some adding trackers in their vehicles, which can also monitor the speed when drivers are passing through the village. This initiative has improved speeding farm vehicles. Also the committee has started up a Speedwatch unit for other speeding traffic that pass through the village. They have gained sponsorship for three Speedwatch signs needed on the three approach roads to the village, with the equipment for this being sponsored as well. A village sign is in the process with relevant bodies and hopefully looking to being installed and unveiled by the end of the year.

Some residents still cannot get connected to broadband, but contractors have put in another cabinet and piping in for another 96 connections.

Progress is slow for the St Peters Church Project, as they are still waiting for information from the Diocese from their last meeting in February.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
City of Ely Council Representative

### **THE BARNES COMMUNITY VOICE**

This is a Resident's Association for the Barnes area of Ely, with its Committee meeting once a month. This Association was founded 15 years ago and work with residents and other external groups.

This year the Committee set up a Facebook page to engage, inform residents with up and coming events, activities and give information on what the group has achieved. The Association run yearly events in summer and winter and also raise funds through the year.

The Association, in February requested for the public footpaths on New Barnes and High Barnes estate to be cleared. So far out of the four, two have been cleared with one having to wait until after nesting season and the fourth on going.

Cllr Alison Arnold & Cllr Jo Pearson  
Representatives for the City of Ely Council

### **STUNTNEY VILLAGE COUNCIL**

The Stuntney Village Council continues to work on the enhancement of the Village through a number of initiatives well supported by the local residents.

Plans continue to improve the 'well kept' look of the Village with an emphasis on keeping the environment tidy. The 'Stuntney in Bloom' competition in the summer results in the local gardens looking increasingly colourful and well managed. Plans are in the pipeline for entrance improvements with white side gates and flower filled tyres and we are working together to obtain funding and permission for this.

A bid for approximately £6,000 from ECDC is being pursued for improvements to the Village Hall.

The less than satisfactory Broadband situation for Stuntney residents is still being addressed by a local Village Council working party involving the City Council and ECDC. There are a couple of solutions being discussed and it is hopeful that the most cost effective solution can be found to provide a much better service in the very near future.

Cllr Lis Every  
Council representative on the Village Council

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OF GOVERNANCE OF ELY ST JOHN'S  
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE LANTERN COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

As a member of the City of Ely Council, the role of governor to the school is that of a community governor and it is their opportunity to cover skills gaps and bring in governors with a wide range of experience including business skills

The governing body is responsible for the conduct of the school, and must promote high standards of educational achievement at the school. It is the school's accountable body which among many other areas of responsibility holds the headteacher to account for the performance of the school and ensures that parents are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate, with information to the community being made available as required.

Although currently a Governor on the Resources Committee serving a 4 year term, at the end of this period, the new governance arrangements brought in by the Government will change the way a successor is selected. The recruitment and selection process will depend on application and interview and it is likely that successful candidates will add to the experience and skills set of the governing body in order to bring a level of rigour into the governance of schools. It is therefore unlikely that schools will look to the City of Ely Council for a representative governor in the future.

Cllr Lis Every  
Governor at Ely St John's Primary Community School  
Cllr Alison Arnold  
Governor at the Lantern Community Primary School

## CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

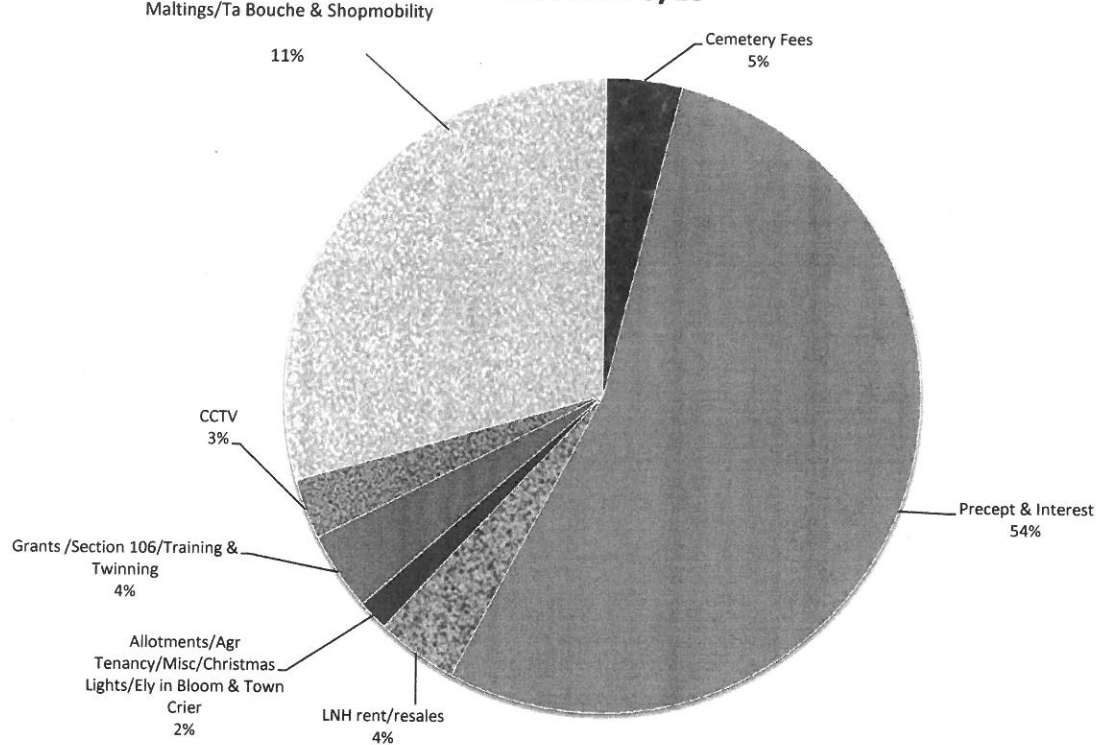
### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2015/2016

Due to the insufficient time between the yearend on the 31st March 2016 and the publication of this report for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th April, it is not possible to produce the year end accounts summary. Therefore, information is provided in the form of pie charts, which show the income and expenditure of this Council.

A detailed summary will be available shortly from the Clerk.

	2015/2016	2016/2017
	£	£
Gross Expenditure	436,775	716,532
Income	91,942	236,560
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>344,833</b>	<b>479,972</b>
ECDC's parish contribution	32,037	56,218
(includes reserves/ECDC contribution)		
<b>Amount of Precept</b>	<b>312,746</b>	<b>423,754</b>

## INCOME 15/16



## EXPENDITURE 2015/2016

