



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**30TH APRIL 2012**



# **CONTENTS**



## **COUNCILLOR DETAILS**



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **ADMINISTRATION & OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**
- **YOUTH COUNCIL**
- **RECREATION AND CEMETERY**
- **STREET FURNITURE**
- **ELY IN BLOOM**
- **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**
- **DIAMOND JUBILEE**
- **CCTV**
- **ELY/RIBE**
- **ALLOTMENTS**



## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2011/2012**



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
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ELY**

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**Clerk to the Council  
Assistant Clerk to the Council**

**Tracey Coulson  
Sarah Jay**

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### **COUNCILLORS**

#### **WEST WARD**

William Burton	48 Forehill, Ely, CB7 4AQ	Tel: 610032
Richard Hobbs	16 Bernard Street, Ely CB6 1AU	Tel: 610955
Nigel Clarke	3 Herons Close, Ely CB6 3EF	Tel: 664612

#### **EAST WARD**

Brian Ashton	"Spero", Vineyard Way, Ely CB7 4QQ	Tel: 663027
John Yates	1B Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB	Tel: 667672
Elisabeth Every	80 Barton Road, Ely CB7 4HZ	Tel: 665815

#### **SOUTH WARD**

Jenny Chaplin	9 Hills Lane, Ely CB6 1AY	Tel: 610574
Shirley Overall	2A Hills Lane, Ely CB6 1AY	Tel: 610649
Andrew Brear	Langtree House, 39 Forehill, Ely CB7 4AA	Tel: 610694

#### **NORTH WARD**

Philip Eden	27 Williams Close, Ely CB7 4FQ	Tel: 650408
Elaine Griffin-Singh	29 Forehill, Ely, CB7 4AA	Tel: 658530
Michael Rouse	23 Lynton Close, Ely CB6 1DJ	Tel: 645949
Anthony Winchester	19 Chelmer Way, Ely CB6 2WS	Tel: 665427
Roy Wood	17 Beech Lane, Ely CB7 4QZ	Tel: 663585
Alison Arnold	51 Fleetwood, Ely CB6 1BH	Tel: 667640

**Chairman of the Council and Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor John Yates**

**Deputy Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor William Burton**

## ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012

The Committee members are the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the immediate past Mayor and the Chairmen of all other committees.

The Committee is responsible for the Council finances, legal matters, the Local Needs Housing Scheme, communication, staff recruitment and welfare.

The City of Ely Council along with other minor authorities is largely insulated from the effects of the need for “cuts” in expenditure as our income is not reliant on government grants. I am pleased to report that the Council’s expenditure will be within its total income: a result achieved through close monitoring by our Clerk, Tracey Coulson, and her assistants, working closely with Councillors. We have adopted a balanced budget for 2012-2013 with a rise in the City of Ely’s element of the Council Tax of just 2.5% - well below current inflation.

The Council continues to provide a Local Needs Housing Scheme of 54 dwellings at Larkfield Road and Ramsey Road and we are grateful to the small team of Councillors who interview those interested in the scheme. Some difficulties have been experienced during the year because of the availability of mortgage finance and the dramatic, albeit temporary, increase the number of new properties available under easier terms elsewhere.

We were delighted to be able to continue to support so many voluntary organisations within our community with grants of £14,000. It is never an easy task to decide which to support and which not to help.

During the past year a number of Councillors have continued to hold “drop-ins” at the Farmer’s Market to get feedback from the community – the comments received are most valuable and inform the decisions of the appropriate committees.

Following a number of seminars at the end of the previous year we have continued discussions with both East Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council to further our agreed aim of taking on greater responsibility for a range of services currently provided by them in Ely. These are beginning to bear fruit with very positive arrangements being put in place to enable our Council to take on responsibility for the Riverside from ECDC and others and “street licensing” from the County Council. Working closely with the District Council has helped to resolve many of the outstanding legacy problems that remain following development on the west of Ely.

Over the coming years I am confident that many services will be transferred to minor authorities which can frequently be more responsive to local needs and that we will need to ensure we have sufficient resources to meet any demand.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Clerk and her assistants for the professional and efficient running of the Council’s business and to my fellow Councillors for their wise advice and support.

Cllr John Yates

The Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012**

The City Council members sit on one of two Planning Committees that meet every two weeks. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attend all of the meetings. The committee can only make recommendations as it is the District Council Planning Committee that determines planning applications.

There has been a steady increase in the number of plans to be reviewed over the year which augurs well for our local construction industry. We have made adverse recommendations on relatively few plans and have made representations on occasions direct to the full Planning Committee. We have welcomed a change in national policy that provides local discretion over building on back gardens and we have offered our advice to oppose this where we have thought it appropriate.

During the year we have participated fully with land-owners and developers as well as ECDC in developing the future plans for Ely. We very much appreciate the openness and determination on the part of all concerned to ensure that we all contribute to producing plans of the highest quality that provide the necessary infrastructure on a timely basis.

### **REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

The City Council has representatives on various organisations within the City of Ely. These organisations include the Needham's Foundation, Ely and District Citizens Advice Bureau, City of Ely Allotments Association, Trinity Dole Charity, Ely Thomas Parsons Charity, Parish Transport, Standards Committee, Ely Market Town Transport Strategy, Paradise Sports Centre and the Ely Neighbourhood Panel.

## **CITY OF ELY YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT 2011-2012**

The Youth Council has now achieved its long-standing objective of providing lighting for the pedestrian/cycle path in the Park and this is seen as a great success.

Following my Mayoral theme to identify and acknowledge youth in our community it has been agreed that a Youth Forum should replace the Youth Council, consisting of existing youth organisations. The intention is to create a wider youth involvement in the future.

Cllr John Yates  
The Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely

## **RECREATION AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT 2011/12**

The committee have met regularly throughout the year to maintain the high standards of our Recreation areas and Cemetery.

### **Recreation**

The demands on our play areas continue to rise and with this in mind the Council has set out a programme of improvements, where finances allow. This year we have purchased several new pieces of equipment on several sites within the parish. I am happy to report that although progress has been slow, the Council is ready to install a new MUGA (multi use games area) next to the High Barn's play area; this will be completed by the end of May 2012. I would like to pass on my thanks to High Barn's Resident's Committee for their continued support and their commitment to this project.

Each play area is inspected and cleaned daily (Mon to Fri) and a member of staff is on call when the office is closed. Judging by the comments of our residents, this commitment to services is very well appreciated.

### **Cemetery**

The Council is proud of the cemetery and the high standard in which our staff maintains both the cemetery and play areas. With this in mind the Council have started a project to improve staff facilities. There will be a new equipment building thus allowing more room in the north chapel to be internally converted to a staff welfare unit and a much improved work shop. The Council fully expects this to be completed before the start of winter 2012.

We are committed to having all gravestones fully safe by 2014 and thus removing the unsightly but, at the this present time, necessary yellow warning notices from the unsafe headstones.

The Council will need to plan for the future as Ely grows and the demand for spaces increase, and as the site becomes full we must have a long term plan.

### **Staffing**

This year the Council has reduced the full-time staffing of our staff from four to three full-time throughout the winter, and have appointed two part-time staff throughout the summer. We believe that this will give more flexibility to deal with the demands of the seasons.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the office and maintenance staff for their commitment and high level of service they provide in all our sites within the parish of the City of Ely.

**Councillor Richard Hobbs  
Chairman Recreation and Cemetery Committee  
City of Ely Council**

## STREET FURNITURE COMMITTEE REPORT 2011/12

The Street Furniture Committee is responsible for responding to requests from the public, and/or other Councillors, regarding items of street furniture such as dog waste bins, seating, bus shelters, notice boards, signage etc and the maintenance of existing items within the ownership of the City of Ely Council. Similar items are in the ownership of other local authorities and developers, and are thus not the responsibility of the Committee, but suggestions and concerns can be considered through debate leading to comment and joint working with partners.

The completed audit of litter bins, dog waste bins and seating in the parish has now been reviewed and cross-referenced with requests from parishioners. The provision of a number of new dog waste bins will be undertaken very shortly. There have been no specific requests for further litter bins or seating but the Council is now in a better position to consider requests upon receipt. A scheme has also been developed should businesses or members of the public wish to sponsor new seating with personalised memorials or accreditations.

Through consultation with the residents of our shared equity housing scheme in Larkfield Road it was decided that improvements to the street lighting was not necessary.

Following the success of the solar lighting scheme implemented in The Park by the City of Ely Council during the year, at considerably lower cost than conventional street lighting, it is envisaged a similar scheme will be delivered on the footpath between Tower Road and The Chase in this coming year.

East Cambs District Council are in receipt of Section 106 monies from the Sainsbury's Ely development, which has been allocated for the provision of cycle racks. Through liaison, the Committee will be considering suitable sites for further cycle rack provision.

A request was received from Witchford Parish Council for the supply of a bus shelter adjacent to the Lancaster Way Business Park. Sponsorship has been sought from partners and, depending on agreement from Cambs County Council, the provision of a shelter should be forthcoming in the near future.

The flagpole was successfully installed in the Market Place and has been much appreciated by the community. The purchase of a flag with the City of Ely Council emblem is underway which will adorn the pole on a daily basis.

Cambs County Council have nearly completed the creation of a licensing scheme for street trading outside of cafes/restaurants in Ely City centre. The City of Ely Council, via this Committee, will accept responsibility for the day to day monitoring and liaison with business owners, with a soft touch approach, to facilitate fair and safe working practices on behalf of the County Council.

Following severe winter weather conditions in recent years, Cambs County Council have requested that the City of Ely Council considers the future provision of grit bins and the possibility of creating and/or co-ordinating a Volunteer Snow Clearing Scheme. Full Council agreed to proceed with this Scheme and this will be implemented by the Street Furniture Committee.

Due to the pressures on High Streets nationally, a City Centre Team will shortly be formed and led by the City of Ely Council to support and improve local commerce. The Team will be formed from a wide sphere of interested parties and all elements pertaining to business will be considered including physical improvements to the City centre. It is expected the Street Furniture Committee will be heavily involved in facilitating the requirements of the City Centre Team.

I would like to thank the members of the Street Furniture Committee for their support and input during the year and to our hard-working maintenance and administration teams.

Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh

Chairman

April 2012



City of Ely Council  
Ely in Bloom Committee Report 2011/2012

The committee comprised of Councillors Chaplin, Eden, Friend-Smith and Overall at the beginning of the year, along with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members. Other members are business and local organisation representatives who are co-opted to the committee. In May, after the City and District Council elections, the committee members comprised of Councillors Chaplin, Clarke, Arnold, Overall, the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor being ex-officio members. District Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith continued as a member, Councillor Shirley Overall as chairman and Councillor Jenny Chaplin as vice-chairman, under the leadership of the council.

The City again was an array of colour, the barrier and hanging baskets were full of blooms, the main colour theme being tones of Red, Yellow and Orange.

The two tubs on the Market Place were decorated with flowers in the Ely Choral Society colours to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. A new trough was commissioned for the Ely War Memorial designed to match the gates, this was filled with red, white and blue flowers, the colours of the Royal Anglican Regiment.

This year, the committee continued to expand floral displays; a dry garden along the river front, extra bulbs in Archery Crescent and under the 'Welcome to Ely' signs. The committee endeavour to provide colour to the City throughout the seasons, in planters, tiered towers, hanging baskets, and barrier baskets, and 'Welcome to Ely' signs. We will continue to encourage other partnerships in the future. Thank you to all the volunteers from Ely, who planted up over 200 hanging baskets for display in Ely and Soham.

The committee decided not to enter the 'Anglia in Bloom' competition this year, but instead introduced their own. The competition consisted of five categories:

- a) Best volunteer group flower bed.
- b) Best hanging basket.
- c) Best shop window display.
- d) Best Sheltered Housing Community garden.
- e) Best Pub/Inn Floral display,
- f) Best Overall winner.

The winning contestants met up at a reception, where they received acknowledgement for their hard work. These competitions proved to be a great success, more local residents, businesses and organisations participated than in previous years. This helped to give a cheery and welcoming appearance, to all who visited the City. The committee provided Afternoon Teas at the Royal Wedding event in Ely to raise funds and advertise the forthcoming Ely in Bloom Competition.

The Committee wish to thank the District Council Parks and Open Spaces team for their help and co-operation again this year.

We wish to extend our gratitude to the District and Ely City councils for their continued financial support, without them and sponsorship from other organisations, projects like this could not continue.

As chairman I wish to thank all members of the Ely in Bloom committee and the organisations who participated, for their enthusiastic support, who made the meetings enjoyable and stress free. Thanks also go to the City of Ely council office staff for their unlimited help and commitment.

Cllr Shirley Overall  
Chairman – Ely in Bloom Committee

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE REPORT 2011/2012

The Christmas Lights Committee is comprised of Councillors and co-opted volunteers, and contains two teams. One is responsible for the lighting; the other for the switch-on event. Both teams are assisted by non-committee volunteers.

The lighting team is responsible for the planning, erection and final display. During the year, they maintain the existing lights and connections, and purchase some new lights to upgrade and improve the display. This year's costs were kept well within budget.

The switch-on team is responsible for organising the stalls and entertainment for the evening. They also co-ordinate all the services necessary for the event to take place. The evening attracts a great number of people, and generates much-needed income for the City's charities and businesses.

The City of Ely Council is extremely grateful to both teams and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication, making the City so bright and colourful for the festive season, and the switch-on night the great success that it is.

I would like to thank the members of the committee and all the volunteers, without whom this event could not take place. This year was the brightest and best yet. Lastly, my sincere thanks to the clerks for their support and guidance throughout the year.

Cllr Jenny Chaplin  
Chairman Christmas Lights Committee

## DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012

The committee was formed in June 2011 in order to co-ordinate and facilitate a celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and is a one-off event being underwritten by the City Council.

The Committee, comprises Councillors Yates, Burton, Chaplin, Overall, Rouse and Griffin-Singh, with Cllr Burton as Chair and Cllr Griffin-Singh as Vice-Chair.

The date chosen to stage the celebration is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and the event decided upon is a concert in The Park, together with the commissioning, erection and firing-up of a Beacon, the latter under the direction of H.M. Pageantmaster, Bruno Peek OBE, MVO, OPR. It was decided at the first meeting that outside parties would be co-opted as required. E CDC, the Rotarians, Ely Cathedral and St. Mary's Church have agreed to support the event with stewards, information, equipment and general assistance. Our thanks goes to them and everyone else who has contributed to date.

Another important aspect of the celebration is the involvement of the City of Ely 6<sup>th</sup> Form College in the production of a film montage of the City of Ely's services in the community. This will be integrated with some commercially sponsored promotion, all of which will be viewed on a 3m x 3m screen throughout the event.

The concert planned will feature a Queen-tribute band, supported by two local bands with contributions from local artistes and community organisations. The celebration will commence late afternoon and culminate with the lighting of the sponsored Beacon at around 10.00-10.30pm.

There will be a variety of catering providers on site, including a beer tent, soft drinks and other refreshments. Picnics will be encouraged but we are not promoting a major commercial flavour to the event. There will be small scale stalls for memorabilia and the like.

First Aid provision has been arranged and general health and safety aspects addressed; these are awaiting approval.

The event is free to the general public. Sponsorship is being sought from local sources.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all Committee members for their support and hard work and we are looking forward to a fantastic event.

Cllr Will Burton  
Chairman  
April 2012

## **CCTV COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012**

The Committee, which is the Ely City Council Management Committee was formally convened in June 2011 and is the culmination of the CCTV Project which had been recruiting and training a number of volunteers who are now ready to "do the job".

The Committee comprises Councillors Yates, Burton, Ashton, Clarke, Arnold, and Griffin-Singh, together with the following co-opted members; the local police, CCTV volunteers' representative, Soham Town Council and ECDC, with Cllr Burton as Chair and Cllr Ashton as Vice-Chair.

Further recruitment has taken place throughout the year, resulting in approx. 21 regular volunteers which includes 8 PCSOs and a co-ordinator.

The main periods of observation are now being enhanced due to more volunteers coming forward to provide additional cover. This has resulted in the system being very effective and receiving very favourable feedback from the partnership, particularly the police who, due to fiscal constraints, acknowledge that the volunteers are providing a very valuable service to the community. The Chief Constable has nominated the volunteer team for a national award in recognition of their excellent work.

We are constantly seeking new volunteers, reviewing our procedures and practises in an effort to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency, and utilising new technology as it emerges. Proposals are being considered to incorporate some aspects of Ely Cathedral and King's School CCTV system into our own. However, this is still an embryonic consideration.

Arrangements are being made for the system to undergo a full audit to ensure that it meets the required standards.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all Committee members and volunteers for their support and hard work throughout the year, and look forward to continued growth and success.

Cllr Will Burton  
Chairman  
April 2012

## **ELY-RIBE COMMITTEE**

### **Report to Annual Parish Meeting - April 2012**

Last year I highlighted some of the problems that we were encountering with the new contractors at The Maltings, where the Ely-Ribe Tapestry is on permanent display. Those problems continued throughout the summer, with access to the foyer for viewing of the tapestry becoming more difficult at weekends because of the increasing number of weddings held at the venue. On top of this, we found that during the winter months, the venue was closed for a significant proportion of the week.

A meeting was therefore held with the Maltings Management, attended by Councillors Hobbs and Yates, as well as an officer from East Cambs District Council. The meeting was productive, in that an accommodation was reached on access through the winter and during summer weekends. However, the arrangement still falls far short of the public access which is a requirement of the agreement between the City and District Councils, and we await the ultimate results of the review of the Maltings contract undertaken by the District Council in recent months.

For that reason, we have postponed our plans to upgrade the permanent display alongside the tapestry, and will instead make some temporary improvements to cover the summer period of opening. We have also arranged for a reprint of the Tapestry leaflet in sufficient quantities to cover the summer season, with the possibility that a new version will be required if circumstances at the Maltings change during 2012/13.

There has been ongoing contact with Ribe amongst our members as usual this year, but no organised group visits. The next one of these will take place in Ely over the Jubilee weekend in June.

We have also been giving some thought to the future development of the Association and of the twinning arrangement during our meetings this year. Our membership holds steady at around 50, and this month has seen a recruitment exercise with a display in the foyer of the library. However, a number of the committee, my wife and I included, have served the Association for many years now, and in some respects an injection of new blood would help to bring some renewed vigour to our activities. We are also conscious that the participation of members of the City of Ely Council has reduced since the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning in 2006, and I would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss the future of the twinning with the Council as a whole, certainly before our Annual General Meeting in September.

**G Hughes**

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

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

## CITY OF ELY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### Report for Ely City Council 2012

SITE	2010	2011	2012
Bridge Fen	99	96	104
Upherds Lane	40	40	45
New Barns	40	38	43
Back Hill	2	2	2
Canterbury Ave	11	9	9
Total	192	185	203

There are still 38 people on the waiting list. The waiting time for a plot is now nearly 18 months. Although the number of tenants has increased this has only been achieved by splitting plots up as they become vacant. Over winter the number of people inquiring about allotments dropped to one a week but with the advent of Spring this will increase.

Parking at Bridge Fen The plot next to the entrance has been vacated. We are currently looking at using the area next to the road as an extra car parking area and have made the rest into small plots like the ones on the other side of the road.

Thefts were kept to a minimum last year thanks to regular police patrolling and reporting of any suspicious people or vehicles. Two rotorvators were taken from sheds. The police have marked tools on all sites.

Rents The rents for the year beginning Sept 2012 decided at the 2011 AGM are as follows  
Less than 5 pole £16 5 to 10 pole £ 21, 10 pole and multiples of 10 pole £26 20% discount for those in receipt of a state pension,  
It was proposed at that meeting that a regular annual increase of 5% would be made.

#### The Committee

President In the run up to the AGM Peter Holden announced that he was stepping down from the day to day running of the Association after many years on the committee, but will continue to represent the Association at civic events and work in promoting the allotments in the community through the Museum and schools. The committee felt that an ideal way to both mark our gratitude and respect for all his hard work and to continue to benefit from his advice and experience would be to offer him the inaugural post of President which he was pleased to accept. At the start of the AGM the Mayor presented him with a small token of our appreciation and a certificate on behalf of the City Council which was very much appreciated by all who were present.

The Committee for 2012 is as follows

President - Peter Holden

Chairman - Les Turner (New Barns)

Vice Chairman - Tony McNally (Bridge Fen)

Treasurer- Gerald Rolfe Secretary- Linda Adams

New Barns representatives - John Durrant, Lisa Bennett and Roger Halls.

Canterbury Avenue representative - Sarah Fraser

Upherds Lane representatives - Michael Stares, Dave Tomlins and Kevin Jay

Bridge Fen representatives- Tony McNally and Lesley Phillips

#### Future of allotments

The Committee is grateful to the City Council for their help in raising the profile of allotments in the proposed Highflir Farm development.

The final route of the Southern Bypass will be close to Bridge Fen. We have made the planners aware of the presence of the allotments and are monitoring the situation.

Treasurers report. The year saw the full implementation of the new higher rents which had the effect of doubling the total received in the previous year. From now on rents will increase roughly in line with inflation. A small amount was raised at the Ely Aquafest and a draw at the Awards Evening.

Other than items over which we have no control such as Site rents, drainage rates, affiliation fees, and insurance, we spent virtually nothing on projects or maintenance. Overall the Association showed a healthy surplus. It is our intention that we build up cash reserves with the objective of looking after the interests of all allotment tenants on our sites in Ely. Finally on behalf of City of Ely Allotment Association I would like to thank the City of Ely Council and the Clerk for their continuing support and make special mention of Cllr Nigel Clarke for his work with the Association throughout the past year.

Mrs Linda Adams

Secretary



## CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2011/2012

Due to the insufficient time between the year end on the 31st March 2012 and the publication of this report for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 30th 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.

	2011/2012	2012/2013
	£	£
Gross Expenditure	396,414	411,395
Income	97,739	100,409
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>298,675</b>	<b>310,986</b>
Contribution to/(from) balances	(0,00)	(0,00)
<b>Amount of Precept</b>	<b>298,675</b>	<b>310,986</b>









