



WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report to the Annual Meeting, 2019

In what has been an incredible sixteen-year journey for Winshill Parish Council, 2018-19 has been the outstanding year.

From the outset in 2003 the Parish Council had clear aims: -

- **To make Winshill an area of which we can all be proud.**
- **To make Winshill an area in which all who live there feel they have a stake in their community and feel their opinions are valued.**
- **To represent the people of Winshill and put their hopes and aspirations at the top of our agenda**

To further those aims we consulted with the people on two occasions to ascertain their thoughts about Winshill and how it can be improved. These consultations resulted in the production of two Parish Plans.

In each case we listed: -

- **The Visions that people had for Winshill;**
- **the Actions we needed to take to fulfil their aims;**
- **the partners we would work with;**
- **the priority of each action (high, medium or low) and;**
- **the timescale for completing each action.**

We need now to complete a third consultation in order to produce a new Parish Plan for the next four years; but more of that at future Parish Council meetings.

Last year Winshill achieved FIVE top awards and two special awards for its entries into Heart of England in Bloom in 2018.

Winshill Parish Council, entering as Winshill in Bloom, achieved a gold award for the fifth year running and were the Urban Category winners, competing against eight other areas including Wednesfield, Burton (near Stoke) and Aldridge, many of them much larger than Winshill. Because of our success, this year we will compete against three other areas in the national finals.

Tower View Primary School achieved a gold award for its entry into the schools' section and the Peace Wood achieved a gold award for its entry into the open spaces section.

In the “It’s Your Neighbourhood” category, Winshill Neighbourhood Resource Centre achieved the top award of “Outstanding” whilst Little Empire Road achieved the second highest award of “Thriving”.

And, to top it all, there were two “Judges’ Special” awards issued by RHS Heart of England in Bloom.

The first went to the Peace Wood for its grounds maintenance and landscaping. This is the second time the Peace Wood has received a special award. The second award went to Little Empire Road for its outstanding WW1 display.

Of special note is our achievement in gaining 100% for our Community Involvement.

We have in the last year: -

- worked with all four Winshill schools to help them improve their environment and provided them with, amongst other things, raised allotment beds to grow their own vegetables;
- involved fifteen groups (schools, scouts, guides etc.) in our Adopt-a-Tub competition and individuals, commercial and non-commercial organisations in our competitions for the creating of floral features;
- given grant funding to the two Winshill allotment associations and other organisations;
- maintained 17 Shrub beds, 7 Barrier baskets on Ashby Rd, 12 Hanging Baskets on Bearwood Hill Road, 6 Hanging baskets above the new shops in Hawfield Lane, 8 up the pole planters outside Buckingham Court and the Resource Centre in addition to all the other planting at the Resource Centre;
- held our Annual Parish Fair;
- completed the WW1 commemorations at the Peace Wood with the erection of a memorial to remember all those from Winshill who served in the two world wars and other conflicts;
- supported Little Empire Road in its entry into the Heart of England in Bloom “It’s Your Neighbourhood” section
- supported Tower View School in its entry into Heart of England in Bloom;
- produced the booklet “When Winshill Went to War’

The Neighbourhood Resource Centre goes from strength to strength and as a charitable trust provides a venue where groups can meet regularly to help the people of Winshill develop their interests. Amongst the Centre’s many achievements are the creation of a Youth Club where young people can meet in safe surroundings to develop their interests and a Luncheon Club which serves to provide healthy meals for the senior citizens of Winshill. The Centre also provides a venue for children’s parties

At a time when both the County Council and the Borough Council withdrew financial support to the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, the Parish Council funded the CAB, one day each week, to support Winshill people at the Resource Centre. The Parish Council also

successfully negotiated with South Derbyshire CAB to take over the role previously run in Burton.

All this and much more has been achieved by the Parish Council working with many partners including Trent and Dove Housing who have given us so much support including the lease of the Resource Centre at a peppercorn rent. The successful negotiation of a new 10-year lease will enable us to continue to develop and maintain a Centre which is the envy of the Borough.

We have been successful in achieving sponsorship from *Planters at Bretby*, and from local shops and firms. We have bid successfully for grants from East Staffs Borough Council, Consolidated Charity of Burton, Trent and Dove Housing Residents Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A few years ago, a representative from Trent and Dove Housing stated that, thanks to the improvements made by Winshill Parish Council, when people apply for housing, Winshill has moved up from being last on their wish list to second place behind Stretton.

I believe that the people of Winshill want: -

- to be able to walk around safely and free from intimidation;
- to keep the area free from over-development and ensure that such developments as there are, are in keeping with the surroundings;
- to ensure Winshill is a clean, litter free environment;
- to ensure there will be adequate provision of areas where children can play safely;
- to protect our parks and open and improve them in a way which satisfies the needs of the majority.

There is no doubt in my mind that improving our environment enhances the general well-being of a place, introduces a sense of pride, reduces vandalism and fosters a sense of community.

After sixteen years as a Parish Council, I think we can be proud of our achievements and I am sure most people would agree that we have achieved our original aims.

Dennis Fletcher
Chair
15th May 2019