

**PARISH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2003/2004.**

Nine of the ten existing Councillors stood as Parish Councillors for the following four years.

Mrs. Sarah Davies stood down and I would like to pay tribute to her contribution during her term of office.

Mr. Michael Smith was co-opted as the tenth Councillor.

The Parish Council met eleven times in the last financial year.

The Parish Council operates three sub-committees. Namely, the Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee (chaired by John Meischke), the Budget and Finance Committee (chaired by Denis Filer) and the Environment Sub-Committee (chaired by Christine Dinnin). These sub-committees met as and when necessary, discussed issues and made recommendations to the full Council.

The signs for the new byelaws have been installed on Watton Green and the Lammas.

The Parish Council has made a donation of £300.00 towards the cost of the Parish News.

The Parish Council has awarded two trophies, one to Watton-at-Stone Primary School for a "Good Citizens Award" and the other to the Scout and Guides for "Outstanding Effort".

Parish Paths Partnership has allowed us to receive grant money for hedge cutting and strimming work, especially on the 'Rights of Way' footpaths.

The University of Hertfordshire has named one of its halls of residence after the village. The hall has been called "Watton Hall". Parish Councillors attended the dedication ceremony.

The Parish Council has commented on the following documents:

- Hertfordshire Sustainable Development Guide
- Secondary Schools, review of admission rules
- Home to School Transport Policy.

The Parish Council, along with many parents, presented a petition to Hertfordshire County Council re the Home to School Transport Policy. The Parish Council would like to thank Sarah Davies who is the driving force trying to amend this policy for the benefit of parents and children going to Secondary School.

The Police visited the Parish Council during the Civic Year and gave Councillors an update on policing issues and crime figures relating to the village.

A mobile Police-unit is now visiting the village on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. It is parked in the lay-by opposite the Bull Public House.

Councillors have attended the following;

- Hertfordshire Constabulary Policing and Community Safety-The Way Forward
- East Herts District Council's Summer Conference
- Inter Village Conference
- Hertfordshire Constabulary 2003/2004 Policing Plan
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment Workshop
- Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire.

In association with the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society, the Council has held numerous public meetings with WAGN. Items discussed included Station Maintenance, Information Systems, Security and Vandalism, Quality and reliability of the Trains and Ticketing. The meetings were well attended by members of the public, PC John Ivens and Norma Unwin, Group Station Manager WAGN.

The Village Directory has been updated and distributed to all the residents in Watton-at-Stone and Whempstead.

Work is progressing with the ornate village sign which when complete will be erected at the southern end of the village.

The War Memorial at the southern end of the village has been cleaned.

The Environment Agency has undertaken a clearance of the riverbank on the Lammas.

The Parish Council is working with the Countryside Management Service to draw up a management plan for the "Lammas Bank". Work has already started at the southern end to enhance this area.

The Parish Council has been asked to look after old photographs of the Women's Institute.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the organisers of the Family Fun Day held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The Parish Council has been working closely with Hertfordshire Highways with regard to the resurfacing of the Hazeldell footpaths, the Walkern Road culvert and drainage scheme and the adoption of the footpath joining Rivershill with the Bull car park.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr. Nick Collingridge who is trying to get “Broadband” installed in the village.

RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents) have undertaken a safety inspection of all our play equipment.

A new safety-surface has been installed under the small swings and see saw.

The Parish Council has representation on local organisations so that we may assist in any ideas, projects or plans they might have. The list is as follows:

- Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society
- Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee
- Watton-at-Stone School Governors
- Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide Group
- Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club
- River Beane Restoration Association
- E. H. Community Playbus
- Police Authority
- Watton-at-Stone Playgroup
- Allotment and Gardeners Association.

It is the policy of the Parish Council to view all local plans and make appropriate planning comments to the local authority.

Mr. Paul Rossington, Assistant Director of Planning at East Herts District Council, gave a presentation to the Council on planning issues.

It is with regret that I have to announce that David Stock, who has been Vice Chairman of the Council for the last ten years, has decided not to stand for re-election as Vice Chairman for the coming financial year.

David has achieved much for the benefit of the village and I personally will miss his wise counselling.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors I would like to extend a big thank you for all that he has done.

Can I also thank all Councillors who have assisted me throughout the year.

Finally, none of our work would have been possible without the assistance of our Clerk, Mrs. Jane Allsop, who has put in many hours beyond her normal duties and on behalf of all Parish Councillors I would like to say a big thank you to her for all her hard work.

<b>Watton-at-Stone Parish Council</b>	
<b>Summary statement of expenditure and income</b>	
<b>for the year 2003/04</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Sportsfield/Recreation Areas	5721.64
Administration	13936.27
Grant to Community Hall	5632.00
Footpaths/Amenities	6048.25
	<u>31338.16</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Hire of sports facilities	950.00
Agency work	1310.30
General income	2339.94
Precept	<u>22165.00</u>
	<u>26765.24</u>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	
Total Expenditure	31338.16
Total Income	26765.24
Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves)	<u>-4572.92</u>