

## NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012-2013

The past twelve months has been a time of Celebration, Sewerage and Success.

**Celebration:** The whole Community celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, starting with a magnificent parade of watercraft and cars. This was followed by the 'Big Lunch' on Gypsy Meadow (where the Parish Council provided the 'portable loos', insurance and administrative support) and numerous other smaller events around the villages. 'The Beacon' was built by the Sayers Family and lit up the sky for miles. Music and laughter could be heard throughout the Parish. Hopefully the St. Francis Playgroup and Newton Ferrers Primary School children will still have their Jubilee Mugs in 40-50 years time and look back and smile.

**Sewerage:** Unfortunately we were all too aware that the sewerage system in this Parish had been failing for quite some time. Finally, the cancellation of the some Regatta events including the swimming and children's raft race brought things to a head. The Parish Council decided to ask our MP Gary Streeter for help, which I did. Mr. Streeter responded immediately, stating when and at what time, saying that he would 'Do the Inviting' and we only had to arrange where. The Meeting was held in the W.I. Hall in August, and there was standing room only. The Parish Council had asked Andy Coughlan to put 'Our Problems and Concerns' to the Meeting, South West Water in particular, the Environment Agency and SHDC, which he eloquently did, and for which we thank him.

Mr. Gilpen, from South West Water, was impressive. He stood up and took responsibility. We have all been aware of the work that has been carried out and there has been very little disruption to the residents.

**Assets:** A few years ago, when the Parish Council were looking for a suitable site for Affordable Housing, an SHDC Surveyor suggested building on Gypsy Meadow. This has resulted in the Parish Council requesting the possibility of acquiring ownership of the majority of SHDC Assets in the Parish. This way we, as a Community, would be able keep control over any possible future development. The Contract is with the Parish Council's Solicitors for approval.

The Parish Council would also like to invite those who would be interested in volunteering to help look after the assets to come forward.

**Community Housing:** A final adjustment to a planning issue has been agreed and development is going through due process for approval.

**Snow:** The Parish Council has appointed Mr. Paul Clark as Snow Warden. The Council has bought a towable salt spreader, with the financial assistance of Cllr William Mumford's Locality Budget for use in extreme snow or ice conditions. Devon County council has approved the supply of more grit bins for the Parish. A Snow

Plan has been prepared and is available to view on the Parish Council website or a copy is available from the Clerk.

Due to the number of planning applications that we are still dealing with, we continue to meet twice a month. Everyone is very welcome to come and express their concerns, or even tell us what a good job we are all doing.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish Clerk, Shona McDonough as well as all of the Members of the Parish Council for their commitment during the past year.

Suzie Cooper

Chairman, Newton & Noss Parish Council.