

Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting – 10th May 2022 – Chairman’s Report

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Annual Parish Meeting. It is incredible to believe that it is 3 years since the last meeting and what a difficult 3 years these have been.

The Parish Council worked hard throughout the pandemic to try and maintain a normal service on the various responsibilities that fall within our remit and responded to vulnerable and shielding parishioners calls for assistance. We maintained our monthly meetings via Zoom, an interesting experience, and I know Councillors were pleased to be able to get back to face to face meetings in May of last year.

Many activities in both villages were suspended due to the Covid lockdown. Now that restrictions have been lifted, I hope we can look forward to better, healthier times in Keadby and Althorpe.

Your Parish Council has continued to try and address the issues and concerns raised by residents. In some areas we have succeeded but others continue to be a long process.

One of the biggest concerns of village life is traffic and speeding. We continue to see unacceptable driving behaviour through both villages with increased accidents occurring. Illegal parking outside the school continues along with the antisocial riding of quad bikes.

Safety Critical Traffic Management is now a standing agenda item for both Althorpe and Keadby and we have been working with Highways on ways to improve the situation.

- Althorpe has been put on the list for the proposed 20mph scheme
- Two build-outs will be constructed on Main Street, Althorpe in the hope to slow down traffic along with entry treatment work to clearly define the speed limit
- A traffic island was installed outside the shop in Keadby, and we have seen the installation of barriers outside the school. We will continue to ask for parking and community wardens to patrol that area
- Volunteers have completed training for the Community Speed Watch Scheme, and this will begin imminently in both villages
- Parish Councillors attend the NATS meetings whenever possible

Councillors have continued to be part of the Power Station project working groups attending dedicated meetings on Keadby 2 which is due to be completed this summer and we continue to work closely with SSE throughout the examination period of the Development Consent Order for the Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station project.

Flood defences are another top priority and we have supported the Environment Agency Trent Bank survey.

On a more positive note, we have seen the completion of Phase II of the Ropery Project with the completion of a path and gate, wildflower areas have been sown and additional trees have been purchased and planted.

Development of the Althorpe Playing Field and Playground is in progress, and we are looking forward to the installation of outdoor gym equipment thanks to a grant from the SSE Windfarm Fund. A similar application will be made for Keadby in this financial year. The playground equipment on the Althorpe Play area and Millennium Green are now cleaned twice a year, just prior to the Easter and Summer holidays.

The Parish has been fortunate to benefit from the planting of trees including heritage fruit trees on the Ropery and Althorpe Play Area and Cemetery through the Northern Forrest initiative and the Woodland Trust.

Your Parish Council continues to contribute to the Spring in Bloom scheme which this year saw a donation from North Lincolnshire Council of £401. I am sure you will agree the planters make a welcome addition to both villages and I would particularly like to thank Councillor's Sharp and Smith for their sterling efforts along with those villagers who have adopted a tub and kept them watered.

The Great British Spring Clean is another annual initiative that we continue to take part in, and litter picking took place in March and April respectively in Keadby and Althorpe with equipment donated from North Lincolnshire Council.

2022 sees the 70th anniversary of power generation in Keadby as well as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A flagpole is to be installed on Pacey's Lane along with Braziers on Pacey's Lane and Althorpe funded by the SSE Local Fund. In addition, a commemorative oak tree will be planted on Pacey's Lane, and another on the Althorpe Playing Field, funded by SSE. As part of the celebrations, Keadby and Althorpe will each be holding a 'lighting of the brazier' event. We are delighted that the Mayor will be in attendance at both events.

We continue to work with local associations and groups in both villages and are happy to be able to support them through the Section 137 annual donations along with the SSE Micro fund.

We have seen some changes in Parish Councillors over the last 3 years and I would like to recognise the work carried out by previous Chairmen Patrick Hornsby and Neil Bond. In June 2021 we acknowledged the sad passing of retired Parish Councillor, Mr Frank Stones, who had been a dedicated and valued member of the Parish Council for many years.

My thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and for the good work they are doing in the villages. It is a big commitment but very rewarding and having an active Parish Council is a real benefit to the community so I thank you all for your contribution.

I would like to thank our very knowledgeable and hardworking Clerk, Bob Haynes for his continued support and guidance. Bob has been a big support to me in my role as Chairman with advice when needed and goes above and beyond to help and support the Council.

Thanks also go to Councillor John Briggs whose presence and support at our meetings is very much appreciated. Congratulations on your second tenure as Mayor, a very well-deserved honour.

Finally, I would like to thank George Potter for his commitment to the Parish and tremendous efforts in maintaining both villages.

A special thanks also goes to Geoff Bradford who cuts the grass on the riverbank, church, and consecrated ground in Althorpe on an entirely voluntary basis. We get comments far and wide on how immaculate the area looks.

*Kathryn Russell, Chairman, Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council
10 May 2022*