

Haxey Parish Council, Newsletter, August 2013

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Hallcroft Close, Haxey



As readers will know, Haxey residents have been actively supporting the campaign aimed at saving the dwellings in Hallcroft Close, which were designed for the vulnerable elderly of the parish. Last year, North Lincolnshire Homes declared their intention to demolish the existing bungalows and bedsits without declaring with what they intended to replace them. Local residents declared their wish to modernise the existing buildings rather than demolish them. Haxey Parish Council, having supported the residents in this matter, is happy to announce that a compromise has been reached, whereby the properties will still be demolished, but replaced by thirteen, two-bedroomed bungalows, designed for people over 50 years of age, with connections to Haxey parish.

Jubilee Memorial Gardens

One year on, and as a fitting finale to the wonderful Parish celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a Jubilee Memorial Garden has been created in the centre of Haxey, funded from proceeds of the sale of Jubilee calendars. It has been established in "Dr Dyson's Garden" and is for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community but is primarily aimed at the young. It consists of a commemorative "Royal Tree" table, some mushroom stools and various wooden animal figures and plaques which children can touch and investigate. There is also a "human sundial" and a small microscope so that children can examine leaves and other small items.

The garden will be officially opened on Tuesday 10th September at 3 o'clock by Mr Wilf Lindley, one of the eldest local residents and a former Parish Councillor, from whose garden some of the wood was sourced, having been planted in 1947, the year of the Queen's marriage to the Duke of Edinburgh.

Matthew Grove – Police Crime Commissioner

Matthew Grove, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner attended Haxey Parish Council's last meeting on 23 July 13. Also in attendance was a representative from Epworth Town Council.

Mr Grove introduced himself and told the Council how his career had evolved through Parish Councillor to Ward Councillor and the issues he had dealt with in these positions and how he had ultimately decided to stand for Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner. Mr Grove went on to describe his responsibilities and powers and that he holds the Police Force to account, working for the community and spending at least 1 day a week within the community. Mr Grove attends many Town & Parish Council meetings and gains much useful information from doing so, which he feeds back through the Police command structure.

Mr Grove distributed copies of his Police and Crime Plan for his period in office out to 2017. His number one priority is the reduction of crime and in the plan he outlines his long term vision and what he wants to achieve on behalf of those who receive a service from the police or who may need their services in the future. His plan should act as a guiding hand for dealing with and overcoming the policing and community safety challenges that face people today and in the future. As with other public sector organisations, dealing with the necessary budget reductions and the commitment to deliver "value for money", provides him, Humberside police and partners with a whole range of challenges. It does however, present opportunities as we examine what we do and what can be done differently and how we can combine all public resources to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way.

Prior to the Governments 2010 spending review that ushered in the current efficiency drive, Humberside Police had already commenced major restructuring programmes to create a more cost effective customer focused policing service, which has reduced crime year on year for the last nine years. As the first Police Commissioner for Humberside, Mr Grove is determined to build on this achievement by leading the successful delivery of his Police and Crime Plan. The Plan has been put together with the close involvement of the public and partners and it focuses mainly on our communities. In putting the plan together, Mr Grove has, in particular, engaged his newly appointed Chief Constable, Justine Curran, who is fully committed to delivering the police elements of the plan and to working alongside him with the partners to cut crime and make Humberside even safer.

Mr Grove's vision of safer neighbourhoods, improved levels of public confidence, crime reduction, public protection and more responsive victim services can only become a reality if he can continue to harness the energy and enthusiasm of the public to become a key part of the solution and even more effective partnership working will be needed to enable the finding of solutions to some difficult problems facing communities.

Mr Grove took questions from the Council which included the perceived lack of police presence in the parish, police attendance at Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting and the past and current governance and feedback opportunities for the police to inform the community. It was also stated that Haxey was on the border of 3 other policing counties and each county dealt with crime differently and that anecdotal evidence appeared to indicate that Humberside was more lenient when dealing with criminals. Mr Grove advised that there are Regional Collaboration Boards set up, which he is actively involved with. Mr Grove stated that Haxey was a low crime parish, however there were local issues that needed to be addressed and that policing relied on evidence of crimes reported. Mr Grove stated that Neighbourhood Policing would not be reduced but that other areas are being look at. Local officers are being empowered to make their own judgements. Finally, Mr Grove stated that he was delighted that Haxey had such a strong Parish Council that was committed and cared about police and crime issues.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would maintain the lines of communication with the Police and Crime Commissioner.