

Farringdon Parish Council Annual Report 2010-2011

This year the Parish Council managed to reach full strength with the recruitment of Shirley Willatt and Isabelle Kendall-Torry to join Julian Hutchings, Alan Pearce and me as Councillors for Farringdon. I offer my sincere thanks to each one for the efforts they have made on behalf of this community during the past year. Our parish Clerk, Alana Sayers also deserves special mention for the untiring effort she puts into dealing with the myriad of “opportunities” we confront her with. She has a natural talent for sifting the hidden big issues from the mountain of trivia that falls through her letterbox or email.

Particular thanks goes to Alan for the effort put into making the new footpath from Princes Cottages to Farringdon Cross actually materialise! And indeed, thanks needs to go to Troy Stewart for his role in this same venture.

As always, our time has predominantly been spent on planning issues. There were in the region of twenty five applications to comment on in the period. I won't comment again on each one individually as our comments are already documented in our Parish Minutes and also available on the EDDC website.

Some applications have taken up much more time than others. With one application in particular, the PC has been involved with meetings with EDDC Senior officials, the Standards Officer and the Ombudsman as well as voicing our view to the press, an interested BBC producer (working on Inside-Out) and our local MP.

Additionally, we have been asked to comment on the Airport Hotel and FlyBe training facility, a Large Business Structure at Hill Barton, and several other planning issues that are adjacent but not in the Parish. The Parish Plan, which was developed from residents input, has, time and again, proved a powerful guide for us. I am indebted to those in the recent past who put it all together. In order to keep it relevant and up-to-date, it will be due for review in the coming year.

As in previous years, the PC has represented the Community on local panels and groups. These include: the Exeter International Airport Consultative Committee, Hill Barton Business Park Liaison Group, Crealy Adventure Park Liaison Group, and the Devon Association of Local Councils County Committee. EDDC also invite us to participate in their consultative processes at various times during the year and we have addressed several EDDC committee meetings to ensure Farringdon has a “voice”.

It's also nice to report that the Farringdon Residents Association and the Parish Council have been in total alignment and mutually supportive on Farringdon's key issues and have added joint pressure when it's been needed.

We may be only a small parish but we are geographically located in a zone of great change and every bit of support is most appreciated when it comes to ensuring that the area develops in a way that mutually benefits all who live and work in the locality.

I would urge all residents to be proactive in protecting and enhancing our local environment. Please don't leave it all to “someone else”. Make your views known to us and take action by positive support for your side of the debate.

Thank you.

Jack J. Smith (Chairman, Farringdon Parish Council, 2010-2011.)