

**AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
March 10th 2008**

To start this report, I would like to thank, on behalf of the village, the councillors for their advice and contributions over the year. The Parish Clerk also deserves special thanks for keeping the finances in good order and ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

It may seem strange to suggest that you now read no further. The reason for this is that you could, alternatively, go to the Village Website

www.akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The 'Latest News' provides information on the 'Conservation Area', 'Rural Affordable Housing' and updated information on the 'Local Wildlife Site'. In addition, the minutes of Parish Council meetings from May 2007, onwards, are available. There is also lots of other information and you can even search the site. *So, if you don't do anything else please have a browse and, if you have any suggestions or comments, contact us.*

Two new councillors joined the Parish Council in 2007: Terry Cavender in May and Elaine Rowlands in June. The Village Website project was initiated by Terry and has benefited a great deal from his technical expertise. He has been supported in the design and development of the site by Elaine.

We had good news in December 2007 in that we were awarded a micro-grant of £1,000 from the AVDC Community Chest to fund fencing for the junior play area. This fencing is now in place and we are in the process of purchasing a bench for the area. We are grateful to both the Village Social Group and the Gardening Club for donations to this project.

In late June 2007, we had a traffic survey (speed and type of vehicle) carried out over a period of 7 days on the A413 through the village. The survey serves two purposes. Firstly, to provide data that can be compared with that of future surveys to determine if traffic is increasing through the village; for example, what will be the effect of the Maids Moreton development? Secondly, to determine the extent of the speeding 'problem' in the village within the 30 mph limits. In the week of the survey there were roughly 1,900 cases of excessive speeding (>46 mph). The local police have accepted the survey as good evidence that there is a problem in Akeley and there have been, and will be further, mobile speed traps. (As an aside, the survey would provide a good source of information for a school project!)

The village recreational field, the churchyard and the children's play area are kept in good order by the contractors. The allotments also continue to flourish. We have attended 'Cluster meetings' and 'NAG meetings' to raise issues relevant to the village. And there are various other issues we have dealt with: replacing street lighting (an ongoing project), organising a long service award for a councillor, commenting on planning applications, supporting the 'War memorial' project, corresponding with AVDC Highways, and so on.

Finally, we have been involved in discussions relating to the establishment of a Conservation Area in the village. In this context, it must be commented that the administration and organisation of the public consultation has been handled very efficiently by the AVDC Conservation Areas Officer. For the coming year, we plan to look at 'Rural Affordable Housing' for the village.

Mike Mortimer, Chairman, Akeley Parish Council