

St Helens Parish Council

Have your Say!

Following elections in May and co-options to the council at our July meeting we are now at full strength, welcoming new councillors Mike Anderson, Christina Hind, Kevin Tutton and Tim Woodcock to the table. We are also pleased to say that a monthly article in this magazine will appear from now on, keeping you up to date with our news.

So, the 10th July meeting of the Council discussed a varied range of topics, including several Planning Applications at various stages of development; including the 'Eco Lodge Development' proposed for Brading Marshes – please see this Council's response (and many more) on the IW Council's website.

During the meeting the following was agreed:

- Grant applications were approved to the following organisations:
 - St Helens Sports & Carnival Committee in support of the costs required to hold the historic Carnival and Sports Day on Bank Holiday Monday in August;
 - St Helen's Rock Solid Youth Club to provide 'seed funding' for the start-up phase, and enabling interest to be fully assessed;
 - We also agreed to create a partnership funding scheme with Brading Haven Yacht Club who are now seeking 'expressions of interest' from young people living in St Helens who have no previous sailing experience and would like to 'try out' on the water for the first time. The council will help fund the scheme if there is enough take-up to go ahead. Details from BHYC.

- A service contract has been put in place for the washing facilities at the Duver beach public toilets, which have now been fully repaired.

The discussion on the public toilets (both on the Green and at the Beach) also recommended a much wider public debate on the long-term options open to the Parish Council. You may be aware that the IW Council no longer support such facilities across the Island and are 'inviting' Parish Councils to take them over. We currently do this on a temporary basis, just to keep the service running, but we need to make a final decision for the future. As we know the costs account for approximately 40% of the entire Parish budget at circa £13,000, it is felt only right that the options are discussed in a special open forum to seek your views. The precise nature of the whole consultation process and timescales will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 11th September.

And finally, the new St Helens website is available at www.sthelensiw.org.uk. This new site replaces the old council-specific website, and is for the whole community. If you would like to see anything more, or would like to contribute articles or pictures to the pages, do let us know – especially if you run a local meeting or group that you would like mentioned on the What's On page or in the Local Directory. Details are on the new site. All feedback is most welcome – there is even a Guestbook for visitors!

We truly welcome your views – please have your say!