

Still on traffic and transport matters, we have had some success in both preserving, and enhancing, the number 106 bus service. You may remember the threat of CCC to remove the subsidy from the service, which would probably have resulted in us having no bus at all.

Your Parish Council undertook a household survey in 2012 to ascertain patterns of usage, and met with the County officials and the bus company to share the results in order to arrive at a solution. The dialogue has been long and complex, but finally we, in conjunction with CCC Councillor Bill Hunt, have come to the point where a sensible solution can be implemented. I would like to thank Bill for his excellent common sense approach and support in this achievement.

The 106 will continue to run, but with an amended route and timetable, which will tie in with other services at Stretham, and allow people to use it for work commuting to Ely or Cambridge. This will be advertised shortly and publicised within the village. The County Council will be putting the contract out to tender soon, and we hope to see a new and improved, and well-supported, 106 service running this summer.

Your Council continues to show support for the Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride scheme and this can be used by the public to supplement the bus service. We have asked them to publicise their services more widely as there is still a lack of awareness of their purpose.

Your Council has continued to support the Arkenstall Centre, the Aldreth Village Centre, the Youth Club, the Village Voice, Haddenham Library and the Ely and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

It is with some pleasure that I am able to report the existence of a new "mini-orchard" for public enjoyment on Feasts Green. This has been created by the efforts of two public-spirited parishioners, Alan James and Barbara Grafton, and I would like to thank them publicly for their generous contribution to the improvement of this small piece of the village landscape.

On a similar note, I would like to thank P J Lee & Sons for their work in clearing and levelling the verge in School Lane, Aldreth, which has provided a safe walking access to the playing field.

Over the next year, we will endeavour to complete the upgrade work at Aldreth Play Area. Timing of this will depend upon the outcome of our grant application for funding. The new play equipment is likely to have a "zoo" theme.

Financially, your Council continues to exercise prudence in the management of its affairs and the accounts will be published as usual in the June issue of the Village Voice.

Our balance sheet is healthy and in line with commonly accepted norms. The precept has been increased this year by 2.63%, and amounts to just under £80,000. We believe this will give us the requisite level of funding to provide the parish with the service it requires from its Council.

We have a risk management plan in place, which is reviewed regularly, and I am pleased to be able to report that there are no significant risks which are not being actively managed.

Finally, I would like to place on record the Council's appreciation of the work done by our Clerk, Mrs Jenny Manning, without whom the Council would not function as effectively.

David J Lyon
Chairman
Haddenham Parish Council

