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Newsletter

Issue Number 6 - June 2008

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CAISTOR TOWN COUNCIL

**(PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING,
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 2008**

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CLLR. J. COLE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It has been a privilege to chair Caistor Town Council and represent the Town as Mayor over the last year. I have attended many events and functions, not only in Caistor, but also around the county.

I would like to thank my Deputy, Cllr. Webster, for all his help and input this year on the many issues that have arisen. I also wish to thank all councillors en-bloc for their continued enthusiasm and commitment again this year. Also, I wish to mention the sad death of Cllr. Harriman during the year - he will be greatly missed.

My thanks also go to:-

- The Clerk, Ruth Dawson, who has once again been an integral part of this Council, acting as the bridge between councillors and members of the public.
- Shirley Macdonald and her replacement, Jean Mumby, who have kept the Council in line financially and kept the budget on track.
- The Council's maintenance staff:- Colin Cearnas and Malcolm Wright, who have helped to keep Caistor clean and tidy. Once again, this Council's continued employment of its maintenance staff has helped to reduce reliance on contractors, in turn saving money. Also, Colin Cearnas must be thanked for the organisation of community service personnel, who have carried out some very good work in Caistor.

I also must thank our County Councillor, Tony Turner, for his input and time and our two District Councillors, Cllrs. Caine and Lawrence, who carry on fighting for Caistor to be recognised outside of Gainsborough.

Once again, I believe that it has been another good year for Caistor and the Council:-

- Council surgeries held every month have proved popular and having many different organisations in one place, at one time, has enabled the residents of Caistor to have face to face contact with those who can help to solve their problems.
- Caistor did reasonably well in the Best Kept Town Competition, providing a much

Town Council website can be found at:- www.caistor.net

Caistor Town Council

Working towards Quality Council Status

needed health check for the Town.

- The Clerk has just sent the Quality Council application for assessment and it is hoped to have the results of this towards the end of April/early May.

- The Council will carry on supporting the work of the Parish Plan which will help to decide what Caistor needs and the direction we take in the years to come and I thank Cllr. Barker for her continued input and enthusiasm on this project.

- The new CCTV system - the project driven initially by Cllr Caine - awaits the formalities of the Code of Practice before it can be used, but it is hoped that this will be completed within the next few months.

- This year the Council has worked on a joint project with the Grammar School to provide a new Council notice board for the Market Place. This is an area which I believe the Council should consider to expand on with other schools.

- The THI scheme continues to see improvements to properties in the Market Place and the Public Realm Scheme. Up-grading of the Market Place surfacing, etc. will begin in the summer.

- There have been many events and occasions over the last year which have further demonstrated the community spirit which I and many others in Caistor have appreciated, including:-

- The Celtic Weekend

- The Caistor in Bloom Competition, which was very well supported. My thanks go to all the sponsors of the competition.

- Another rain free and sunny afternoon greeted the second Proms in the Park, when both of my charities, Caistor First Responders and The Friends of St

Andrew's Children's Hospice were able to raise much needed funds. Once again, I thank Cllr Barker and her team of volunteers for organising this event.

- The Annual Bonfire Event was an even better attended night than the previous year, a terrific night for everyone.

- Christmas in Caistor took big strides forward this year, with a very well organised lighting up ceremony which was enjoyed by all. I thank all those who were involved, giving up their time for the benefit of Caistor. There were over 400 trees around the Town and my thanks go to Cllrs. Galligan, Jackson and Caine, who organised this, and all the other volunteers - who are too numerous to mention individually. The beautifully illuminated tree in the Market Place, once again generously donated by the Mayor of Enebakk, Norway, helped to lift the effect. Overall, it was a marvellous achievement which lifted the whole community.

I believe that it has been another successful year for Caistor and a busy and productive one for the Town Council. The Council has worked quietly, but effectively for the residents of Caistor it represents. As many people will be aware, the Council elections take place in May this year and I hope that any present councillor or resident who thinks they have the enthusiasm, positive outlook, Caistor at heart, plenty of spare time which they can give and willingness to work totally unpaid, will consider standing. Finally, I thank everyone who has contributed to Caistor's achievements in any shape or form over the last year. I hope that the enthusiasm will

continue to flourish.

Report from Cllr. I. Robinson, Chairman of the Planning Committee

2007/08 has once again been a busy year, with a large number of applications for minor extensions to property. The Government's requirement for new housing, especially on "brown field" sites has seen a continuing number of applications for developments as "infill" on areas around the Town.

The beginning of the development at the bottom of Navigation Lane is a mixed blessing. Whereas we wish to see Caistor grow, the infrastructure of the Town needs to develop alongside it. Issues to do with the increased traffic flow on Navigation Lane continue to concern the Town Council, particularly since this is a route for children to the Grammar School's sports complex.

The THI Project has produced numerous applications for the Town Centre properties. It is good to see that these developments are beginning to show some improvement to the area - although some are still ongoing and we look forward to those being completed, the scaffolding being removed and the properties brought back into full use. There are still one or two properties in the area in dire need of restoration and we look forward to the owners of these properties taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the THI.

The public realm aspect of the THI is about to get underway. There was an extensive public consultation at the early stages of the THI regarding development of the public area of the Market Place. The general consensus was that the public wanted to retain the Market Place as it is, but to see it enhanced and improved. Consequently, the highways, central area and footpaths are to be repaired and enhanced. There is also a need for a new bus interchange and there is the possibility of this being located near the War Memorial - with the War Memorial area itself being upgraded. At a late stage, members of the Town Council have been involved with the planning group to ensure that the wishes of the town folk are heard. Whilst not wanting to go through a completely new consultation, the Council has requested that the plans for the Market Place area be available for public inspection and comment. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the autumn, but we have asked that residents and businesses be fully informed and consulted, to minimise disruption. Although the original money provided in the THI pot has been used or allocated, it is hoped that further monies might be available. The THI project got off to a very shaky start, but West Lindsey District Council staff have been most helpful in guiding the project to the satisfactory point that it is at this moment. They and their colleagues are to be applauded.

Report from Cllr. A. Caine, Chairman of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee

It has been a very busy year. The THI Scheme moved into top gear, which resulted in road closures impacting on Town Centre trade. West Lindsey District Council funded five banners, which were erected at the Town entrances, to encourage trade back in.

In May we asked WLDC to investigate, with County, the possibility of strengthened replacement lamp posts, as part of the public realm aspect of the THI, to carry Christmas lights. This will help remove lights/catenaries from the listed buildings. Discussion is still underway.

CCTV:- In June the Town Council, in partnership with the Multi-use Centre and Lincolnshire County Council, were given the opportunity to have a CCTV system erected with a £10k grant from Lincolnshire Broadband towards the cost, the drawback being that the system had to be erected by June 30th. The surveillance aspects of the system are to be adopted by WLDC and the Council is still awaiting the final draft of the Code of Practice.

Euro Market:- This took place on 24th August. With one exception, all traders reported improved business on the day.

Annual Concert in the Park:- This was held on Sunday 9th September in the South Street Park and was very successful.

The Christmas tree, generously donated by the Mayor and people of Enebakk, Norway, was bigger than ever and, thanks to the efforts of Keith Brown and Mike Galligan of Sealord, was sponsored at every stage of its journey, costing Caistor nothing. However, if the costs were added up, we would be looking at the best part of £10,000 worth of sponsorship, not including the vast number of volunteers who helped erect and decorate it. 460 small trees arrived this year and, again, we are very grateful for the number of volunteers who assisted in all aspects of the delivery, erection and removal. The Switch on Ceremony was organised by the Caistor Goes..... Committee, on behalf of the Town Council.

WLDC repainted the toilets in the Town Hall car park, to support the current refurbishment underway in the Town. West Lindsey members and officers visited Caistor on 20th December to inspect the progress on the THI and the need for a THI 2 and extol the efforts being made to improve Caistor.

A retrospective planning application for the CCTV camera and equipment on the Post Office was approved in December and conditions to mitigate impact (painting boxes, etc.) were carried out by volunteers in January.

The Town Clock was erected on the Multi-Use Centre building. It had been in storage from 2001, having been removed from another Town Centre building at that time. Though not ideally positioned, its current position is the wish of the planning

officers and has the advantage of being on a publicly owned building. The Council has tried to dispose of the surplus clock bracket, without success.

In January, Cherry Valley loaned the Council two senior engineers and a cherry picker to remove festive lighting.

Proposed Events, 2008:- Events which the committee intend to assist with, given that these events attract trade and tourism into the town include:-

- Caistor GoesRock n Roll :- Sunday 13th July, in the Market Place
- Celtic Festival:- Saturday 9th August, in the South Street Park
- Proms in the Park:- Sunday 14th September, in the South Street Park
- Tree Erection:- November/December
- Switch on Ceremony:- Saturday 29th November

Report from Cllr. S. Webster, Chairman of the Churchyard, Cemeteries and Field Paths Committee

The cemetery and churchyards are in a very good condition. I thank Colin Cearnas and Malcolm Wright for the first-rate work which they have done in maintaining the cemeteries. Mr Cearnas has also organised the Community Service workers, who have shown good support. At present there are no moles in the cemetery, due to the vigilance of Cllr. Smith and Mr Cearnas.

The problem at the entrance to the North Kelsey Road Cemetery will be tackled this Spring, with the aid of plastic mesh laid on the surface, to make it more durable. It has been decided that the grass at the rear of the church will have less cuts in future so that wildlife may be attracted to the area. The main attention will be given to the front, which is more in the public eye. The Congregational Churchyard has been thoroughly cleaned up during last year. The overgrown gravestones have been cleared and the trees and shrubs pruned.

I would like to thank the Clerk for answering so many queries from members of the public about the location of relative's graves.

The field paths, stiles and signposts are in good condition. The only blemish to the work which Lincolnshire County Council has done is at the junction of the A46 and the Viking Way, where a car has run off the road and demolished the roadside barrier and the Viking Way signpost. However, I am sure that this will be rectified shortly.

Report from Cllr. W. Smith, Chairman of the Parks Committee

South Street Park

It has been another busy year for the Park and, despite extremely variable weather, it has looked well for most of the year. The excessive dry spell in Spring 2007 and the torrential downpours of June /July 2007 did make grass care very difficult and at these times, mowing was not as efficient as usual. The edges of the Park were left

“rough” most of the year but were trimmed right back in the winter. Re-growth at the base of the trees near the gate has been removed.

Lincolnshire County Council once again supplied a number of free trees and the Council obtained some slow growing bushes this year which have been planted in the top right hand corner, along with the young trees, in an attempt to start some growth to replace the mature trees in the future.

The regular events took place again and included the Celtic Festival, Family Fun Fair, Proms in the Park and the Bonfire and Fireworks Display, organised by the Caistor and District Lions Club.

The roundabout was replaced. Also, the soft fall areas around the basket seat swings, slide, and roundabout were replaced as they were breaking up, due to heavy use and old age. The small picnic table has been removed and will be replaced this year. The rest of the equipment has been painted.

Millfields

The play equipment has been painted and maintained and the stream cleared of rubbish on several occasions.

Newbolt Close

I am disappointed that there has been no visible progress on this area. This Council has written to WLDC with a suggestion to the stalemate situation but, so far, has received no real response. I feel that it is unacceptable that, after four years of trying to find a solution for this derelict area, WLDC appear to be no further forward than they were at the start, despite a great deal of Taxpayers money being spent.

General

The new Dog Control Orders are now in force and signs will be displayed as soon as they are available. I would like to thank the Handyman and his team of “volunteers” who keep the park areas in good order and also Cllr MacDonald for his support as Deputy Chairman.

Report from Cllr. J. Cole, Chairman of the Sports Ground Committee

Cllr. Cole reported that the Sports Ground and Caistor Sports and Social Club continue to provide facilities that are amongst the best in the area and are enjoyed by many people, of all ages, from Caistor and surrounding villages. The input of the various sports clubs and their maintenance of the grounds continues to be a great success and, without this, the residents of Caistor would not have the facilities they have today.

The facilities are used by:-

- 3 Senior football teams:- Caistor Rovers, Caistor Tennyson and a team in the

Lincolnshire Saturday League:- Caistor Rovers.

- 5 senior cricket teams.
- 5 junior cricket teams and, more recently, 1 girls team.
- Caistor Hillside Bowls Club:- 6 teams.
- Caistor Tennis Club:- 2 teams.

The Sports and Social Club also has a flourishing Social Committee which organises entertainment and other events and there is also a darts and dominoes team which plays during the winter months. Indoor bowls are played on Tuesday nights throughout the winter. Quizzes take place during the winter, which help raise much needed funds for all the various sports clubs and these are excellent social evenings.

Five items of play equipment are provided. 3.5 acres are left as a “free play area”, with goals for kick about football. Vandalism seems to be down on last year and the new Dog Control Orders are proving to be effective, with some 6-8 dog owners being reported to WLDC.

This year the old wooden pavilion was replaced with a new brick built structure and there has been general maintenance of the play area, in line with the ROSPA reports.

Projects/works planned for 2008/09:-

- Refurbishment of the surface surround - roundabout
- Tree surgery
- General maintenance
- Spraying for weeds/chafer bugs

Caistor Cricket Club were turned down for a grant application in excess of £100k for the much needed extension to the Sports and Social Club, to provide extra changing facilities/storage space and meeting rooms.

Finally, I would like to thank Colin Cearnies and Malcolm Wright for their input and work around the sports ground.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ACCOUNTS CLERK

Budget Review at February 2008

Variance per budget at February 2008	38944 in hand
Payments understated (April 2007)	-57
Payments understated (May 2007)	-39
Payments understated (July 2007)	-112
VAT refund (2 years to 31.03.07, treated as miscellaneous receipt in budget)	<u>-12442</u>
	<u>26294</u>
Interest received per capital a/c (not in budget information)	<u>462</u>

26756

Reduced budget at 01.04.07 to carry forward bank a/c 2219 + Reserve
a/c 19852 + VAT to claim 12442 + Precept received 48956 = 83469
Forecast budget 90070 - 83469 = 6601

-6601
20155 in hand, 29.02.08

Assets to Prove this Figure

Bank reserve at 29.02.08 10314
Bank current a/c at 29.02.08 1866
VAT to claim April 2007 to February 2008 9002
Additional VAT to claim adj in April 2007 but
was never claimed in first place 365
Parish Plan funds included in bank a/cs -1533
20014

Diff. NB Many Calculation Differences April 07 to September 07

Per budget 20155
Per assets on hand 20014
141

Estimated Funds on Hand at 31st March 2008

Per assets 20014
Per budget summary (March 08 projection) 3385
Assumed funds in hand at 31.03.08 16629

Estimated in hand at 01.04.08 per budget summary 17678
Estimated difference in funds in hand at 01.04.08 1049

Special Projects, April 2007 to February 2008

Income per bank a/c for the period
1st April 2007 to February 2008 -20262

Payments per bank a/c for the period
1st April 2007 to February 2008 51998
Total 31736

Per budget at February 2008 31797
Difference -61

Park:- 11042
•Replacing soft fall area:- 5960
•WLDC grant re. park:- -850
•Supply roundabout:- 5932

Sports Ground:- 10430
•Construct replacement sports pavilion 10095

Clock:- 250

•CCTV:- 5501
•CCTV Survey:- 750
•CCTV:- 5678
•WLDC:- 68
•CCTV grant:- -10000
•CCTV camera:- 9005

Christmas decorations, trees:- -419
Allotments:- - 7

Town Hall Grant:- 5000

31797

Annual Report from Cllr. Mrs J. Hughes, the Town Hall Trustees Representative

It is my happy duty to thank the Town Hall Committee and its co-opted members, on behalf of the Town Council, for its continued dedication and hard work in this financial year.

Under the chaired direction of Mrs Ruth Smith, with the support of existing officers and, in addition, co-opted members, the Committee continues to try to push through reforms. The meetings are held in the Arts Centre on the third Wednesday of alternate months, with representatives from user groups, co-opted members and trustees of the Management Committee. The ethos of the current committee is to try to update the Hall and make it economically competitive in the current market. I would like to thank the rest of the Executive Committee:- Mrs Cath Hands, who is the Secretary and Mr Mike Grant, who handles the significant Treasurer's job. Also, I thank Mrs Pam Cluff, who now has the job of Booking Secretary, a new bar manager who will co-ordinate the Town Hall with the Sports Club Bar and also Dot and Eric, the caretakers.

Mr Roy Schofield and Mr Geoff Lane are the very able team who are co-ordinating the applications for funding for "work to be done", under the Town Heritage Initiative Scheme. To that end, they now have a new kitchen, finished and in use, with only minor adjustments to come. The hope is to start on the summer project of installing some new windows fairly soon, with a "working towards project" - for work to be done

on mending the leaky flat roof. Eventually, work on the main roof will be scheduled, with the final ideas already agreed. Also, they shouldn't forget the new curtains for the stage which are in the pipeline and the new tables which are on order.

I commend the work of Mrs Charlotte Linsell, whose tireless work provides visits from the touring theatre circuit, with successful bids for forthcoming plays. These arts projects continue to put Caistor on the map as an arts venue.

The year started with a very successful clean-up campaign, which took place on 23rd and 24th June 2007 and this will take place again this year, on a date to be announced. A cooked breakfast was served again at the Mayor's Fair this year, on Easter Saturday, alongside a visual presentation by Mr Les Outram, on the proposal for the THI Public Realm plans for Caistor's Market Place improvements. This seemed to be well attended, with many comments from the public.

Finally, I urge users of the Town Hall to volunteer their services to the Town Hall Committee.