Finance

Expenditure during the last 12 months included the completion of the double glazing to the Village Hall Annexe windows. In line with health & safety regulations the Council commissioned an asbestos survey on all properties and carried out all of the report's recommendations. A copy of the statement of accounts for the financial year 2004/05 continues to be displayed in the Village Hall foyer.

The main emphasis of funding during the last financial year was the children's play area, the project costs escalated to approximately £64,000. The Council's budget towards this was originally £10,000. However, in order to meet the shortfall in grant aid this was increased to at least £15,000, with a commitment from the Parish Council to fund any shortfall - to ensure the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act are met in respect of footpaths to access all equipment and entrances.

In order to continue with the necessary maintenance of Parish Council properties Council requested an increase to the Precept for 2006/07 of £2,200 to £50,000. This equates to an increase of approximately £2.67 p.a. per household. This is still somewhat less than other comparable parish precept demands.

Councillors

Mr D Barker QC, Chair	- 17 Nanhill Drive
Mr L H Pole Vice Chair	- 46 School Lane
Lady Martin JP	- The Brand Stables
Mr A J Siddons	- 14 Windmill Rise
Mr R G Mollart	- 2 Mill Road
Mrs J Woodland	- 33 School Lane
Mr C Barnett	- 15 Rawlins Close
Miss R J May	- Inglewood, Charnwood Rise
Mr S Tyler	- 9 Swithland Court

Clerk to the Council	Ms A Irving	- 272 Forest Road Tel: 890050
Responsible Financial Officer	Mrs E Tebbutt	- 79 Birdhill Road Tel: 890307
Village Hall Caretaker	Mrs J Mawby	- Tel: 890995

Parish Wardens	[contact via the Clerk]
Allotments	- Mr M Hynard
Archaeology	- Mr A Holmes
Heritage	- Mr I Waterland
Neighbourhood Watch	- Mr M Greenhalgh
Trees	- Mrs I Brown

WOODHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parishioner,

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & EXHIBITION - 2006

The Chairman and Members of the Parish Council invite you to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on

Tuesday 25 April 2006
7.30 p.m.
Village Hall,
Woodhouse Eaves

At this meeting you will have the opportunity to see some of your Council's work during the year, ask questions and comment on matters of local interest or concern.

In order to prompt discussion, there follows a few notes on items and projects that have been ongoing during the last twelve months.

Please make a note of the date, come along and let the Council know YOUR VIEWS.

If you cannot attend and you have any comments or questions you wish to raise, please forward these to me.

Yours faithfully

Ann Irving
Clerk to the Council

clerk@woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk
Telephone **890050**

The Chairman's Note

I am indeed fortunate to have held the Chair of your Parish Council in a year when so much has been accomplished.

With the direct support of a great many people, our *Neighbourhood Watch* is now truly bedded in. Many thanks to Melvyn in that regard. The *Parish Plan Group* has continued its work apace. Jane Woodland will tell you more of that. The *Friends of the Village Hall* meet regularly and have made valuable suggestions as to the improvement of facilities in the hall. Sadly not all their suggested improvements can be made at once. Financial constraints, as ever, put a brake on what we can do at any one time. The *Traffic Watch Group* has been active and it is hoped that before long the Parish will have a mobile speed monitor, operated by trained residents of the Parish. Your Council is attempting to reform its own procedures with a view to ensuring to the best of our ability, that council tax payers have as much knowledge as possible about our activities and that we perform as efficiently as we can.

Perhaps the best news of all, particularly from the point of view of younger residents, is that we have now given the 'go ahead ' for the long awaited new play area, adjacent to the car park. It has taken a long time to raise the necessary funding, which is from various bodies which make grants for such projects, voluntary donations, and the Council's own funds. Special thanks must go the mums who raised over £6,000 by way of money raising activities and donations, and to Elizabeth Tebbutt who has worked wonders in persuading outside bodies to respond favourably to her applications for grants.

The Defence Sixth Form College opened in September as planned. Hundreds of us have now viewed their most excellent facilities and met some of the students. It is a fact that we have within our midst a most prestigious educational establishment. I know that they are interested in us. I hope that we can return the compliment.

May I thank our clerks who serve us all well beyond the call of duty. I also thank my councillor colleagues for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Finally may I encourage all my fellow parishioners to use as much as possible our local shops and businesses. As a parish we are truly blessed by what we have. It would be a great pity if we lost any of them.

David Barker QC, Chairman

Woodhouse Neighbourhood Watch [WNHW]

Re-launched in May 2005 WNHW has 40 separate schemes covering over 90% of our two villages' households. WNHW is already proving itself, with members using our cascade system through local co-ordinators to report incidents to the police, which have undoubtedly helped in their investigations. Neighbourhood Watch schemes do make a difference to crime prevention and detection and although we are fortunate in living in an area with a low crime rate we cannot afford to be complacent. To this end we are constantly striving to improve our scheme and if any residents have suggestions or want to offer support please ring your Parish Coordinator, Mervyn Greenhalgh [890374] or his Deputy, Johnny Gibb [890514] or contact nhw.woodhouse@btinternet.com

Footpaths

We are very fortunate to have many scenic and interesting footpaths in the Parish and adjoining areas. They are clearly sign-posted and are used by Parishioners and popular with walkers from a wider area. Your Parish Council is proactive to ensure that these are kept clear and useable. A link to all footpaths & bridleways is on the Parish Council website.

Parish Plan

A lot has happened since the Parish Plan was launched in April last year. The tremendous work of the Traffic Watch Group, Neighbourhood Watch and Friends of the Village Hall has already been mentioned. *Village Design Groups* for Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves are well on their way to having Design Statements accepted by Charnwood Borough Council as design advice for all development in the villages. Work has started on developing a magazine for the village incorporating *Roundabout* and Les Pole is developing a *Youth Council* – another of the Parish Plan recommendations. Quarterly *Councillor 'surgeries'* have been set up. As a result of all of this work the villages were runners-up in the *Best Villages* contest. The Parish Plan Group meets quarterly to monitor progress and there are a number of initiatives still to start. The *Parish Plan* is accessible on the Parish Council website. Alternatively copies can be purchased from Ann Irving, Parish Plan Group Secretary.

Village Hall Improvements

The Parish Council set up an advisory group called the *Friends of the Village Hall* to assist in identifying needs and advising on improvements. The group is open to representatives from any groups that use the hall and also includes Parish Councillors, the Caretaker, Responsible Financial Officer and the Clerk. Following several meetings it proposed improvements and the Parish Council as Trustees of the Hall approved the following; new blinds for the kitchen and upper windows in the main hall; a water boiler and fridge for the kitchen. Redecoration of the kitchen and main hall is also scheduled for the near future. The best improvement of all though is that most of the chairs are to be replaced with much more comfortable modern chairs.

Sports Club

The Woodhouse Eaves Sports Club rents the playing fields and tennis courts from the Parish Council. There are 3 clubs within the Sports Club, namely Cricket, Football and Tennis. Each of these clubs is successful and always available for membership. The contacts are:

Cricket	Don Bennett	890828
Football	Peter Bambury	0116 230 1006
Tennis	Peter Cole	890065