

Chairman's report for May 2008 to May 2009 By Cllr Alan Litton



This has been a very busy year for the Parish Council. It must be a record year for direct partnership with residents. The involvement of the council and individual council members in the Titan Prison Campaign and the Flood Alleviation proposals have been prime examples of this.

Hundreds of residents attended a meeting at Whittle Hall early in the Civic year. This kickstarted a massive campaign to harness opposition to the government's proposals to consider building a Titan Prison on the Omega site. This campaign has taken up many hours of Councillors' and residents' time and has been an example of dedicated commitment to a cause. Now we have heard that the WRAPP campaign was entirely successful. No prison is to be built on Omega.

The Council is continuing to work with residents and United Utilities to ensure that the most appropriate site is found for flood alleviation works; seeking to both protect precious green spaces and at the same time to find the solution necessary to relieve the flooding problem for residents in Pyecroft Road. Many residents have attended Council meetings over this issue, and I believe they have valued the way the Parish Council has acted in the best interests of the whole community. A thorough approach and a willingness to listen to residents have marked this work. Councillors have been very encouraged by involvement of residents, some of whom have taken an interest in other issues that have come before Council. **We do welcome all residents to our meetings and are always ready to listen to their concerns and to take them seriously.**

The Parish Council has some concerns over the impact of Tolls on the proposed Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Parish Council represented Great Sankey's interests at the public enquiry, we await the outcome.

In summer 2008 the Parish Council funded 6 weeks of Playschemes over 3 venues, which were very popular and successful. Further schemes are running this summer with additional schemes possibly provided in cooperation with Warrington Wolves. The Council is concerned to work positively with young people and has established a project group to look at ways forward. A shadow Parish Council involving young people from our High Schools is planned for October 2009.

An art competition in our Primary Schools was sponsored by the Council. This was very successful and the winning entries were published in our newsletter, which is also on our website.

I have outlined some of the highlights of the past year, but these are in addition to the ongoing work of the Council in running its five community centres; maintaining its play areas; and supporting residents' groups in a variety of projects. One such project is the work of the Dorchester Road Residents Association, who are working hard to refurbish

the Park on Dorchester Road. The Parish Council is helping with funding for this, as well as support from Ward Councillors.



On 26th April 2009 we held our first Civic Service in St. Mary's Parish Church. This was well attended and received. It was an opportunity to celebrate life in Great Sankey. In his address the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev Michael Buckley, spoke about our new logo and in particular the initials **GSPC**. He used the initials to say what he felt should describe a local Councillor. He thought that GS could stand for GOOD SERVANTS and PC could stand for PASSIONATE COMMITMENT. This is a challenge to us as Councillors.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, our Clerk, Assistant Clerk and centre staff for all their work over the past year, and I look forward to us all being able to offer **Good Service** and **Passionate Commitment** in the coming year.