

Report of Councillor Jennie Hart, District Council Representative on the Broadway Town Centre Partnership, May - December 2013

The BTCP is made up of:

Chairperson: Dave Stannard

Deputy Chairperson: Joan Davis

Secretary: Doreen Corsi

EFDC Officer: Chris Pasterfield (Chief Estates Officer)

EFDC Councillors: Councillors Jennie Hart, John Knapman
(Councillors Ken Angold-Stephens and Lance Leonard also attend meetings)

Loughton Town Council: Councillor Leon Girling
(Councillor Margaret Owen also attends meetings)

Epping Forest College: Carol Moya

Debden Traders' Association: (DTA): Geraldine Wilson, Dave Pilkington, V. Gadhia, Linda Knight. Peter Sparks

Restore Church: Judy Lovell

Epping Forest Community Church: Luke Lowrie

Debden Community Association: Colin Harries,

Residents: Geoff Boughton, Peter Relph,

Dave Stannard was re-elected as Chairperson at the 2013 AGM.

Joan Davis was not able to be present but was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson at a later date.

Doreen Corsi was re-elected as Secretary

Regrettably, Dave Stannard has been seriously ill over the last year and Joan Davis has been acting Chairperson for the times when Dave has been unwell. Dave has however remained active and has been involved in many events over this period

A recent introduction to the agenda has been councillors' reports and traders reports. Councillors present reports on Council matters relevant to the BTCP and the traders voice any relevant matters and concerns.

Co-ordination of Town Council events and BTCP events is to take place in the future.

There was no summer Debden Day this year but this was compensated for by the time and energy put into making Christmas 2013 one of the most successful ever for Debden.

A sub-committee was set up to discuss the Broadway Christmas lights and Christmas activities and the following events were held:

29 November 2013 - The switching on of the Christmas lights

This event was opened by the Town Mayor, Jill Angold –Stephens who was conveyed along the Broadway in a horse-drawn carriage loaned by T Cribb and Sons. It was followed by an exciting programme of music and entertainment. Local schools sang and entertained and there was a record turnout in the number of children from Sir Thomas Willingale Primary School. Students from Epping Forest College performed and sang, and for the first time Epping Forest Community Theatre performed.

More residents attended this happy event than in the past and a light buffet organised by Cllr. Margaret Owen was provided afterwards in the Restore Community Centre.

1 December 2013 - Santa's run (or walk)

This very successful event was organised by Geraldine Wilson of Geraldine's Hairdressers and with Geraldine's enthusiasm, raised over £2,000 for St. Clare Hospice. Those taking part ran or walked a circular route between Debden and Loughton in colourful Santa outfits enjoying a Christmas buffet afterwards at the Restore Community Centre.

4 December - Santa's Sleigh Ride

This was a community event with a carnival atmosphere organised by Loughton Town Council which contributed to the Christmas fun. Cllr. Leon Girling made an excellent Father Christmas as he rode on a sleigh through the streets of Debden accompanied by local councillors, residents and children on decorated open-top vehicles. Christmas songs were provided half way by Epping Forest College students who again gave their time.

14 December 2013 - Christmas Debden day

This was a hugely successful day using Debden Day funds and further funding from Loughton Town Council and Epping Forest District Council. The opening was attended by The Town Mayor, MP Eleanor Laing and EFDC Chairman, Cllr. Mary Sartin.

A Santa's Grotto designed by Davenant students was enjoyed by many local children at no cost to parents. Davenant students assisted Santa Claus in his grotto. There were extra fun events in the form of free face painting and free fairground rides. Almost 2,000 competition pamphlets were delivered to all local primary schools for a 'Spot the Sheep' competition.

A Christmas Dinner for senior citizens, with a professional pianist and college students waiting on, was held in Epping Forest College.

Twenty eight Debden Traders advertised in a colourful Christmas card which was delivered to 2100 households, inviting residents to come and enjoy Christmas Debden Day.

Other subjects which have been discussed are:

- **Sainsbury's:** The store is currently being renovated and will be closed for 3 months from January 2014.
- **The Sir Winston Churchill Public House Site** development application

A public meeting was held 12 November 2013 to give local people an opportunity to air their views on the development proposals. The District Council's Chief Estates Officer, Chris Pasterfield and Assistant Director of Planning, Nigel Richardson, attended.

At the DDCC on 10 December 2013, members voted in favour of the application for 64 flats, 2 retail outlets and a restaurant or public house to replace the existing building.

- **New businesses in The Broadway**
- **Re-location of the Jewellers.**
- **Proposal (proposed in 2008 Design Brief) to widen the passage-way from Burton Road car park to The Broadway.** This would be beneficial to shoppers using the Burton Road car Park and to the Broadway traders.
- **Community Project** There are plans in 2014 for a competition for Debden primary school children to design a mural for one of the walls under the Broadway Arcade. Epping Forest College, Davenant Foundation School and Debden Park High School students are all involved in this project. The details are to be finalised and Luke Lowrie of Epping Forest Community Church is co-ordinating the competition.
- **Re-planting the central reservation in the Broadway:** There was a decision to request roses and evergreen ground- cover as the area had become badly damaged. The Council agreed and the central reservation was re- planted early December 2013. It was decided that if this doesn't work and plants do not survive, raised beds or large planters may be the best option.
- **Brickclamps Path:** Cllr.Jennie Hart requested a shrub border to improve the appearance of this route to the Broadway, and a border of roses and lavenders has now been planted along one wall of Brickclamps Path.
- **Lucton Fields (land opposite EF College):** Eleanor Laing's help sought by resident Pete Relph to get the field brought into community use.