

## **FINANCE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:**

The attached un-audited figures show the finances to be in a healthy position.

The Cemetery continues to make a considerable contribution towards the Council's expenditure. The income during 2008/9 was over £65,000 with an expenditure of just over £25,000. The Council is mindful that it will need to increase the capacity of the Cemetery at some date in the future if it decides to continue to provide a burial ground once the current Cemetery is full. The Council has been monitoring the usage and continues to look into the possibility of purchasing additional land to meet this need.

The rolling programme to replace the old concrete lamp posts was delayed during the financial year due to scheduling problems with the suppliers. We had not been invoiced for all of the work undertaken to the value of £26900 before the year end and this gives an equivalent inflated view of the Council's Cash in Hand in the Balance Sheet.

We have continued to give financial support the Youth Centre, Village Hall and Carnival this year and are always minded to look at requests for funding from other organizations.

**Cllr. Mrs. Sue Baxter**  
**Chairman**

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Last year saw the merging of the Highways and Public Facilities committees, to create one new committee, which we decided to call Community Services, as we felt that this best reflected what the two committees look after.

With the ever increasing costs of steel, we took the decision to accelerate the ongoing programme to replace all of the old concrete footway lamp posts with new steel columns, and we have high hopes that not only will this be completed by the end of this financial year, but that we will also be able to get many if not all of the pole mounted lights replaced too.

Once this replacement programme has been completed we anticipate that the maintenance costs for the footway lighting will be reduced as the new lamps are more energy efficient and more reliable.

The bus shelter in Hollywood Lane was removed, following vandalism, and in our most recent newsletter, we are seeking the opinion of our parishioners on whether or not it should be replaced.

We have now joined the Parish Lengthsman scheme, and a number of jobs have been carried out under this scheme, such as clearing ditches and cutting back overgrowth.

Much of what the committee deals with is 'business as usual'; maintaining the cemetery, repairing or replacing damaged or decrepit notice boards et cetera and ensuring that the facilities we provide are kept in good condition.

**Cllr. Helen Cleaver**  
**Chairman**

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

We are still awaiting an update on the Regional Plan proposals for the future housing requirement numbers in our district and when this is known the proposals will go out for consultation.

Likewise we do not have any further information on Birmingham City Council's Draft Core Strategy but your Parish Council is strongly opposed to any option they have to spread into our Green Belt south of the Maypole.

The Planning Committee continues to comment on and monitor planning applications applicable to our Parish, of which we receive over a hundred each year.

The former Wythall lodge near the Police Station on the Alcester Road has now been demolished and the building of five affordable houses has now commenced.

**Cllr Ron Hall**  
**Chairman Planning**