

The last twelve months have seen a dramatic turn round in the appearance and cleanliness of our villages. Much of which has been achieved is simply down to the amazing efforts of one man – Wayne Peapell.

Wayne came to work with the Parish Council as a Consultant and within a very short space of time he was making his mark on the Parish.

I worked with Wayne developing a work plan and it soon became clear the extent of the task that was to be undertaken. Twelve months dawn the line, a fully developed work programme has developed and is working very well. Wayne's work programme is monumental but varied. It covers green spaces, cemeteries and play areas. He also works with both D.C.C. and E.B.C. and the Environment Agency.

Projects that are currently being undertaken include maintaining and developing the grounds and sports pitch at the Ashbrook Centre in Borrowwash, working with the Volunteer Group for Borrowwash in Bloom to provide expert advice on the work they are doing to keep Borrowwash clean and tidy and working with the Parish Council to enter the Parish into the Erwash in Bloom competition. Other projects are working on the refurbishment of Belmont Drive Closed Cemetery as we turn it into a Garden of Remembrance and assisting in the development of Balmoral Road Cemetery. He will also be working on both allotment sites to make 'unlet' plots available for use as well as turning another plot into a Community Garden which will hopefully be involving local school children who can use the experience to learn about the environment in which they live and play.

There has been much written and spoken lately about the effect that discarded plastic has, not only on the local environment, but also on a global scale. It is, therefore, extremely important that plastic, together with other waste is disposed of in a proper manner. It is our duty to encourage people not to litter our streets and green spaces. The quality of our environment is extremely important to residents in our Parish. I personally litter pick on a regular basis and many other people are now doing the same. They want to be proud of where they live, work and play, and the Parish Council, together with Wayne and his assistant Andrew Brain want to make it happen.

Despite a very wet winter and spring which has delayed our work plan, we are now getting back on track. It is an extremely busy time of the year, grass is growing at an alarming rate as I am sure that many of our residents are finding out for themselves.

There is still so much to be done, but the Parish Council is determined to press ahead and make our Parish the envy of our neighbouring Parishes. With your support, patience and understanding we can make it happen together.