



PCF Annual General Meeting - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman, Tony Galbraith, reported as follows:

The Petuaria Community Forum has now been in operation for just over a year. It was formed with assistance from the Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council and proceeded to adopt a constitution and with a slogan that summarised the aim of the organisation – “Bringing People and Business Together”.

We started with an article in the *Petuaria Press* seeking people to join us and inviting applications for assistance. Blackburn Leisure, requesting help with publicity about their facilities, and Ladybird Pre-school, seeking assistance with improving their facilities, were the two organisations which sought assistance in bringing people and businesses together.

We immediately started working with Ladybird pre-school and did help them to a degree with their work at the premises on the Blackburn Leisure site.

In the summer, we received significant funding in the form of East Riding Council's High Street Fund grant of about £6000. The Town Council was made the accountable body for the expenditure but the PCF was made the executive body. We undertook to spend about one third of the sum each on publicising Blackburn Leisure, improving the environment and creating a new website for the Forum.

To publicise Blackburn Leisure it was decided to hold a Scarecrow/Halloween Festival. After a great deal of preparation, the Festival was successfully held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, and we were fortunate to enjoy fine weather on the day. The Festival, whilst not perfect, was so successful that we have decided to repeat it for 2016. It will not have a subsidy this time so we will be planning for it to break even at least.

Our new website is now ready as “hu15online.co.uk”. It requires further development but we hope it will become an essential guide to our communities and will include a business directory. To that end, we are holding a Launch Event at Brantingham Park on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May which we hope will give a significant boost to the website.

We have improved the environment locally by working with partners. In 2015 the W.I. celebrated its centenary and the milestone has been marked locally by updating and decorating bus stops amongst other things. We have worked with Brough In Bloom and Morrisons to provide decorative planters in Welton Road.

In view of all the above, I think that we have made good progress in meeting our aims in our first year. We have received financial support from Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership. Equally importantly, we have received assistance in kind from many local businesses and I would like to thank all these organisations.

We would, however, have been able to make no progress without the dedication and hard work of my fellow officers of the Forum and of the members of the Steering Committee. My thanks go to all of them.

We now must build on our successful first year and we do have a number of on-going projects and new ones in mind as we work towards our Aim of “Bringing Businesses and People Together” to the benefit of all.

**Tony Galbraith**