

**North Weald Bassett Parish Council Annual Report 2013 - 2014**  
**Looking Towards the Future Together**  
**'As a Parish'**

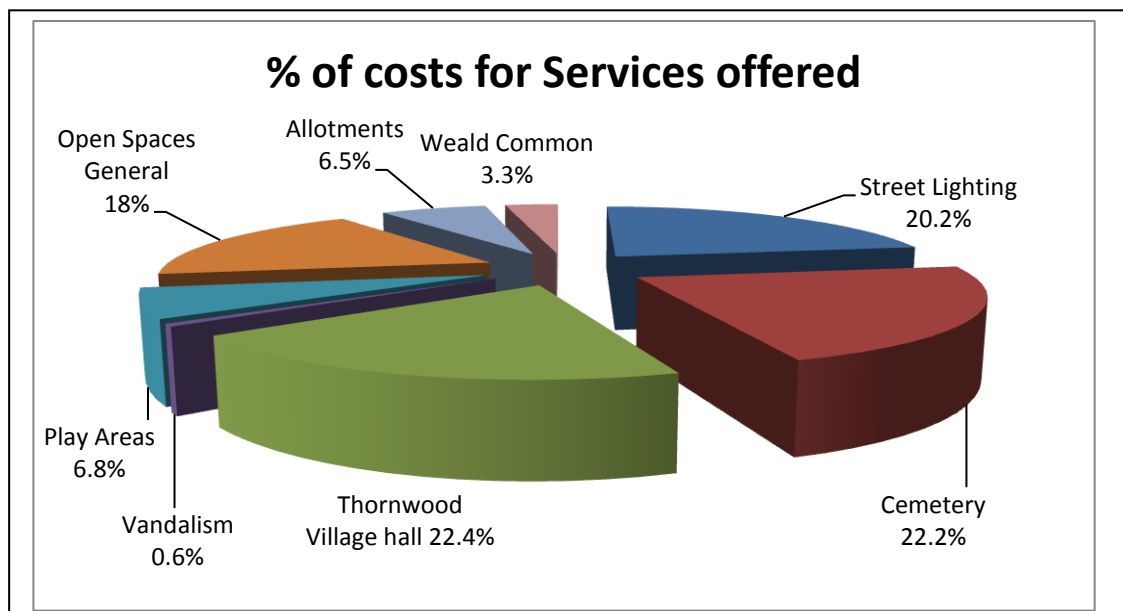
Once again we provided our services to Essex County Council by continuing to run the Library on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings when the Parish Council offices are open. I feel I must remind you that we do not get any remuneration from Essex County Council for this service and we continue to manage to provide this service to Parishioners out of the Parish Precept. For the fourth year running the footfall of residents into the office has increased yet again – and this is something we are very pleased with as it means more and more people are using our services, in both the Parish Office and the Library.

My thanks go again, to my Vice Chairman, Brian Eldridge and to all our Councillors, many of whom have worked so hard this year to achieve outcomes on many issues within the Parish. This year I am going to take the unusual step of naming Councillors as I feel they do deserve recognition for all the hard work they have undertaken:  
So let's start with:

**Environmental Committee** – comprising of Councillors Mulliner, McCormack, Bartram, Eldridge, Clegg, Buckley, Godwin Brown, Grigg, Adams and Spearman - This Committee has been instrumental in ensuring that the play areas are neat and tidy, that the Cemetery continues to look the best it ever has, they have also created Sub Committee to undertake the warden ship of Hastingwood A Allotment site. They are working in partnership with Epping Forest Countrycare in maintaining and enhancing the hedgerows at Weald Common and clearance works in the Nature Reserve at Thornwood Common. Of course we can't forget the splendid Christmas Lights display – organised by Councillors Adams and Godwin Brown (with more than a little help from Cllr Mulliner). Perhaps this could grow to other areas this year !!!!! An idea has been put forward that Norway Spruces could be planted in each of the Villages to commemorate WW1 – perhaps these could be decorated each Christmas – any ideas would be welcome!!

**Planning Committee** – All Councillors are Members of this Committee except Councillors Grigg and Stallan (as they are District Councillors) – This Committee has discussed in excess of ninety Planning Applications throughout the Parish –with some of them only being passed on Appeal. However all applications are discussed thoroughly by Councillors at the meetings which are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7.00pm and residents are always encouraged to attend. Councillors and staff have attended Workshops on a Saturday regarding the Epping Forest District Council North Weald Airfield Master Planning Exercise, and the Latton Priory Consultation.

**Finance & General Purposes Committee** – All Councillors are encouraged to be part of this Committee and to take part in managing the Councils finances. This Committee always meets in October/November to discuss the Budget and to set the Precept for the forthcoming year and at any other time when it is deemed necessary. Thanks go to Councillors Blanks and Stallan for continuing to take a keen interest in these matters.



**Thornwood Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee** - Whilst the three ward Councillors for Thornwood Common are part of this Committee it is mainly made up of representatives from groups who use the hall and local people.

I would like to stress that these volunteers give up a tremendous amount of time in managing the hall and also undertaking the interior decoration of the hall – the hall would not be able to run with the input of this management committee.

Special thanks go to Councillor Collins for his keen interest in Highway Matters and also to Councillor Bedford for his continued help on Health and Safety Issues with the Hall.

I would like to thank our Clerk and her hardworking team, all of whom are professional and dedicated in the work that they carry out. I would also like to say thank you for the support that they give both to me, the Vice Chairman and to all the Councillors. The Clerk has assisted North Weald Mums in guiding them towards funding streams and assisting with completion of grant documentation.

Once again my role as Chairman brought me into contact with many organisations, too many to mention here, but Thornwood Seniors, Neighbourhood Action Panel, Royal British Legion, Hastingwood Village Hall, Epping Forest District Councils Play In the Park team, Countrycare, Tree Officers, and Norway House and their Children's Christmas Party, have all featured at some point during the year.

How nice it was to see the bulbs coming up this year, and we have planted Poppy Seeds, Crocuses and Daffodils again for this forthcoming year.

For a number of years local residents were becoming increasingly concerned at the state of the surfacing on the bridleway at New House Lane in North Weald. Staff were instrumental in contacting County and together we have all managed to arrange for the byway to be re-surfaced by the County Council.

Once again I would like to say a special thank you Janet Abbott our Bookings Secretary at Thornwood, Sue & Peter Hebden for Caretaking the Thornwood Village Hall, Kevin Hebden and Gary Woods for Maintenance throughout the Parish and our Allotment Wardens.

Thanks also go to our District and County Councillors for their assistance in which has once again been a very busy year for all of them.

**Councillor - Cyril Hawkins**

**Chairman: North Weald Bassett Parish Council - 2013 - 2014**