

2013 ASHBY PC ANNUAL WEBSITE REPORT

I start with my usual reminder that the title of our parish council website can be found at www.ashbystmary.org.uk - that title appears on all the parish council's agendas, minutes, correspondence and noticeboards. Your Council is content for me to continue maintaining the site, which I am pleased to assist with.

The Parish website is in its 6th year. It is updated as soon as possible after there is any new information relevant to the parish or its parishioners. Regular updates demonstrate your parish council is proactive. Hopefully the changes encourage those parishioners who can, to keep up to date with parish news.

Your village website provide parishioners with an easy route to find their chosen subject of interest. Being a parish council website, it's principal aim is to deliver information about your council, its announcements, its meeting dates and reports of meetings. There are still just six pages to view – the front (or Home) page, management page with most council information, handbook with all sorts of village and local contact details, the history page with our gallery of pictures, and homewatch. If you wish to contact the council there is a prominent email page link to do so. In many cases there is too much to display on one page (meeting minutes for example), as these go back 6 years. In most cases one further step on the relevant page opens your chosen item. For instance, to reduce searching, all the meeting minutes for a particular year are now shown in a single document.

During the past year, some detail on the majority of pages has again been updated. The last 12 months has mainly involved police homewatch messages, the increasingly important LDF planning information, village events including pictures of Ashby celebrations commemorating the Queen's Jubilee, plus our own horror section – the parish's rainfall statistics. I am pleased to report the aim to include the gallery of historic Ashby Past exhibits, originally displayed at the Ashby Hall event in 2011, has been completed. It can be found on the History page. If you have a contribution for Ashby Past, I would be delighted to hear from you. Ashby Parish Registers and Ashby churchyard details are the next targets to be added.

Since our last APM, and prior to the large addition of the Ashby Past section, 16 website updates were issued involving over 120 changes or additions. News of an update is now notified via email about once a month to anyone who wishes to receive it. This service on behalf of your parish council is completely free. Over a quarter of Ashby households are in receipt of these notifications – if you would like to join them, please do let me know. Whether or not you receive our free service, I do hope all parishioners take a minute to view the Latest News section at the top of our website Home page as it bullet points the latest added subjects for quick and easy reference. In the coming months, any information concerning the proposed housing development in Ashby will be placed on our website, so your council hopes you make regular visits to check for progress. Alternatively, to save that necessity, just register to receive the free update service to alert you when every update has taken place.

I wonder if you have looked at any of our three noticeboards recently, or even the parish council sign in the village hall entrance. You may have seen the council has added a quick response code address to its notices. For those of you with the facility, you can now capture this dedicated QR code via a smartphone camera to link directly to our website and its contents - the first council in Norfolk to offer this facility.

Your parish council is satisfied the website remains of genuine benefit to the community and good value for money. It is also keen to encourage more parishioners to be aware of and benefit from all our website has to offer so please consider mentioning it to your village neighbours and friends. Next time you're surfing the web on your computer, why not take a quick look at your own village website at www.ashbystmary.org.uk. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you find there.

That concludes my 2013 report on the Ashby St Mary website.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor