

**Chairman's Report to Esh Parish Annual Assembly 2008
Tuesday 8th April 2008 in the New Parish Office, rear of Front Street, Langley
Park. Commencing at 7.00pm**

I would like to thank the Council for their support during this year of office and present the Annual Report outlining the main activities for the year including:-

1. Councillors
Barbara Armstrong and Paula Mollon were co-opted onto the Council in 2007.
2. New Notice board for Langley Park
Is now in use.
3. Christmas Decorations
Tree, decorations and Motifs provided in Langley Park and decorated trees in Esh and Quebec.
4. Play Areas
Work continues to complete the legal paperwork for the transfer of land to the Parish Council.
Once complete this will allow work to commence on site to provide facilities for the Sir Bobby Robson Park.
5. Esh Leaves Newsletter
Three editions printed during the year plus one edition of Esh Leaves Extra.
6. Environmental Improvement Works
Local Contractors continue to carry out Grass Cutting, Winter Gritting, the provision and watering of hanging baskets and inspections of the Council's Play Areas on a regular basis.
7. New Library
We have continued to support County Councillor Armstrong's work in providing a permanent library for Langley Park.
8. Planning Applications
Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to 48 Planning Applications. Details of all applications together with a note of the Parish Council's response can be found on our web site
www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk
9. Donations and contributions to local projects
Local projects receiving donations include:-
 - a) Langley Park Angling Club (juniors)
 - b) Langley Park Primary School (Summer Fair)
 - c) Summer Soccer School organised by the Langley Park branch Sunderland Supporters Association and Simply Soccer Ltd.
 - d) County Durham Society for the Blind & Partially Sighted
 - e) Langley Park Goodwill Association
10. Social Events
During the year the Parish Council organised the Annual Beating the Bounds walk, a Winter walk and a Pantomime by Jack Drum Arts who performed "Red Ridding Hood and her amazing Grandmother".

11. Allotments

The Parish Council continue to carry out inspections of all allotments. Provide a number of skips to help keep the allotments sites tidy and also keep a waiting list of anyone in the Parish who may be interested in renting an allotment.

12. Precept for 2007/2008

The Parish Council precept for 2007/2008 was £31,035.00 plus a contribution from Derwentside District Council of £13,358.00. The Council Tax base for 2007/2008 was 1464. The Parish Precept for 2008/09 will be £36035.00 plus a contribution from Derwentside District Council of £13692.00. The Council Tax base for 2008/09 was 1469.

13. Quality Parish Council Status

The Parish Council obtained Quality Parish Council Status on 30th May 2007.

14. New Parish Office at Langley Park

In March 2008 the Parish Council moved into new office accommodation at the rear of Front Street, Langley Park (ex-Neighbourhood Office). The office comprises of a reception area, meeting room, office space, kitchen and storage facilities, the I.T. training room and an office for the EQUaL Partnership worker (Karen Gibson).

15. Finally

My thanks to Geoff Smith (Parish Clerk), Mike Ackroyd (Assistant Clerk), David Ryder (I.T. Officer) and Mrs Ackroyd (Admin Assistant) for their work and support throughout the year.

A.J. Mollon
Chairman 2007/2008