



**Report to: Cabinet 3 April 2008**

**Subject : Parish Liaison Progress**

**Author: Councillor W Peet Cabinet Advisor**

Contact has been made with all the twelve parishes and most welcomed the suggestion of a liaison Parish / GBC member.

All agreed that Planning was the most contentious, new Councillors were at a loss when on Planning Committees, and even more at a loss when trying to explain planning matters to the public. New members were of the impression that the Parish Council were the planning authority. It was generally felt that some basic training would be helpful, it was felt that a half-day school for interested Parish Councillors would be of benefit both to members and parish clerks.

All Parishes have received the latest copy of the Code of Conduct and members have signed the acceptance form. Mrs S. M. Sale has already visited some parishes to give a short presentation on the Code of Conduct.

Most parishes suffered some degree of anti-social behaviour, and each felt that more police presence was needed. It was interesting to see the community police officer attending the Colwick parish meetings, and the opportunity for the parishioners to pass on their problems first hand.

Most Parish Councils are made up of retired members (80%). The lack of young people leaves a gap in the understanding of the needs of younger groups often leading to a feeling of being left out of the local scene.

Nearly all youth work and work with youth clubs appears to come from the voluntary sector. Youth drama, football and cricket teams for children, Scouts and Guides, Church youth groups. A similar situation occurred in the elderly social groups where the organisation is left to volunteers from local church groups.

All parishes have different needs and differing responsibilities, on the whole most were generally satisfied with the way the Borough relationship was conducted.

Most of the rural population know little of the daily running of Gedling Borough Council; this to some extent must also be true of the urban wards. Here we recognise the value of the parish clerks and their knowledge of the Borough Council and the patience to deal with Parish Councillors.

**Councillor Bill Peet.**