

CHAIR

The focus of my role is guided by the terms of TABS' Constitution which in brief is enhancing the local green and built environment, and the quality of life for the residents.

For this to happen needs a hard-working Committee that will work well together. This means recognising the different interests and talents of each committee member and the best role each can contribute. Sometimes encouragement is needed. At other times, if there are difficulties, it's judging the right moment to offer some support. And, as every chairman knows, it's their role to resolve the problems!

As chairman, I am pleased to represent the Society at meetings, especially those concerned with planning and am prepared to make press statements or be interviewed if asked.

So, generally my role is varied, responding often to immediate needs and frequently liaising with other interesting like-minded people and organisations for the good of the Parish.

Judith Lord

TREASURER

I am responsible for the overall financial health of the committee, ensuring all income and expenditure is properly managed and accounted for. This involves maintaining accurate financial records, including income and expenditure books, bank statements, and other relevant documents.

I help prepare and manage the committee's budget, forecasting future income and expenses and regularly report on the committee's financial status to the committee members, providing updates on income, expenditure, and any financial challenges or opportunities. This includes handling bank accounts, making payments, and ensuring all transactions are properly documented.

Ensuring the committee complies with all relevant financial regulations and reporting requirements, I provide financial information and analysis to support the committee in making informed decisions.

In addition, I liaise with other organisations or professionals on financial matters, such as accountants or banks.

In essence, I am the financial steward for the village committee, ensuring its financial stability and supporting its overall objectives.

Bruce Wakley

NEWSLETTER

We produce three newsletters a year, delivered to every household in Thurnby, Bushby and Scaptoft.

This involves ensuring that there are enough varied articles and advertisements to fill each issue, with balanced content, and in line with TABS aims.

So we liaise with the regular contributors and advertisers and encourage potential new ones. It is sometimes necessary to advise on the layout of articles and on the advertising artwork if these won't work on our A5 page. We communicate with the distributors, finding new ones if necessary. All this is to a time schedule. Filling all the pages exactly seems to us akin to guiding a plane down to land on a runway!

A record is kept of the number of households in the two parishes which the newsletter goes to. To this is added the number required for courtesy copies and archiving to determine how many copies to print. We contact the Printers, getting a quote for the cost which the Treasurer needs to approve.

The articles, adverts, images etc are sent to the Printers and in due course they send proofs which need carefully checking and correcting. Finally, the print run is authorised. The Newsletters are delivered to our house and divided up between the local door to door distributors. Courtesy copies are sent out and archive copies archived. Invoices are sent to the advertisers. If any payments are outstanding then we chase them.

It is satisfying to see the finished Newsletter, which gives no hint of the detailed process leading up to it!

Mike and Judith Lord

PLANNING

To support the aims of the Society a watch is kept on plans to add to or change the built environment in Thurnby & Bushby. This includes checking planning applications and consultations which will affect the parish, and deciding if and how to respond.

Harborough District Council (our planning authority) send us their weekly planning list and email us links to consultations. We access the relevant planning pages on the HDC or Government websites for the details. As we have been doing this for very many years, we have become familiar with the jargon and where to look for the detail. We also have an archive (both on paper and electronic) of current and past plans and documents for context and guidance.

We inform the TABS Committee, and with them decide whether and how to respond. Then we send the agreed responses to the relevant authority. The TABS letterhead seems well known to HDC, and occasionally we have been encouraged by them to send comments. It seems they welcome our detailed responses.

The consultation periods are often quite short and this is a challenge.

If an HDC planning application is refused and the applicant appeals to the Secretary of State, and if comments are allowed, we again respond. If necessary, we are prepared to attend an Inspector's Enquiry to present our viewpoint.

If building work is taking place that hasn't received planning permission, we inform the HDC Enforcement Dept so that they can investigate.

Mike Lord

SECRETARY

We hold meetings approximately every three months plus the Annual General Meeting in May for which I prepare all the necessary documents.

I liaise with the Parish Clerk regarding matters in the village which the Committee considers need attention or I often report such matters direct to Harborough District Council or Leicestershire County Council as appropriate. It is increasingly difficult to communicate with people personally at HDC and LCC with everything having to go through the channels of Customer Services although there are some very helpful staff at both Councils who do arrange to get things done although it can take some time to achieve the end result.

Litter and fly-tipping are my two main grouses so, as a way of promoting TABS' aim to protect the environment, I go out litter-picking, usually twice a week, which is a small effort compared to some other very industrious "Wombles" in the village.

Regrettably, not many weeks go by without my reporting fly-tipping and, from the reference number given by HDC to each individual report, I can see how many reports they receive and it is evident just what a huge problem this is in the district.

Also, in connection with the environment, from time to time, Judith (our Chair), and I meet up with a very hard-working resident at Manor Field Pond where we cut back vegetation and plant bulbs and plants.

To sum up, my role is very varied and I enjoy it.

Jean Barbour

MEDIA MANAGER

I created and administer the **website** updating it with news, events and advertising, which helps to pay for it. I post on **Facebook** items from the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Link.

In addition, I contribute to the **newsletter** by creating the front page, the NHW page and writing articles and stories.

Social activities are my part of my role too, but unfortunately, since COVID, we have only managed Treasure Hunts which are organised by the winner of the previous hunt. I only create the posters for this and do a report for the website and newsletter.

I attend committee meetings and contribute where required.

Beverley Lee