

FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING OUR AGM. IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT WE HAVE SO MUCH SUPPORT, AND INTEREST IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT VILLAGE RECREATION CENTRE.

I HAVE BEEN CHAIR OF THE MONCKTON RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. DURING THAT TIME WE HAVE SECURED THE TENANCY OF MR & MRS GRIFFIN IN THE UPSTAIRS BAR. THEIR BUSINESS IS PROVING TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND I BELIEVE IT TO BE BENEFICIAL TO THE MONCKTON AS OUR NAME IS NOW BECOMING ESTABLISHED IN PEOPLES MINDS AS AN ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE HUB.

AS CHAIR IT WAS AND STILL IS MY AIM TO SEE THAT THE CENTRE, BOTH THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR BECOMES MORE PLEASING TO THE EYE.

THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE BUILDING IS WELL UNDER WAY. A LOT OF DECORATING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS, AND SPECIAL THANKS MUST GO TO MR WOOD WHO HAS HELPED PROVIDE MUCH OF THE LABOUR. WE STILL HAVE SOME WAY TO GO WITH LOTS OF PAINTING STILL TO BE DONE AND WE HAVE APPLIED FOR A GRANT TO UPDATE THE DISABLED TOILET.

THE KITCHEN IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REFURBISHED, WITH THE AID OF SOME FUNDING. I THANK COUNCILLOR VERONICA DOWNES FOR HER SUPPORT AND STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL THROUGH THE STAFFORDSHIRE LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF A COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM, FIRE ESCAPES AND ALL SIGNAGE TO BRING US UP TO DATE.

THE PLAYING FIELDS ARE LOOKING REALLY GOOD AND WE ARE PROUD THAT PEOPLE ENJOY PLAYING HERE.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING THE SKATE PARK AND THE EQUIPMENT ON THERE, WHICH PROVIDES VALUABLE LEISURE SPACE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR LOCAL PCSO - POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER, WHO IS KEEN TO START A YOUTH FORUM, BASED AT THE MONCKTON.

THE BIGGEST ALTERATION TO OUR RECREATION CENTRE HAS BEEN THE BUILDING OF THE CAR PARK ON THE UNUSED CORNER OF THE PLAYING FIELDS. THIS HAS BEEN BUILT TO EASE PARKING CONGESTION AROUND THE VILLAGE, PARTICULARLY ST MICHAELS ROAD. IT IS NOW

VERY WELL USED WITH AROUND 80 CARS PARKING HERE ON WORKING DAYS, AND OF COURSE IT IS AN ADVANTAGE TO US AT THE WEEKENDS FOR OUR USERS TO PARK ON. WE HOPE THAT WE HAVE HELPED TOWARDS ALLEVIATING SOME PROBLEMS FOR VILLAGERS. I FEEL THAT IT HAS CERTAINLY MADE THE MONCKTON LOOK MUCH TIDIER, THE LIGHTING MEANS MORE SECURITY AND OF COURSE WE ARE MUCH MORE ACCESIBLE TO YOUNGSTERS WHO CAN NOW WALK TO THE CENTRE SAFELY, USING THE UNDERPASS BY THE RAIL STATION.

THE MONCKTON, AS YOU KNOW IS RUN BY A COMMITTEE OF VOLUNTEERS, BUT SADLY OVER THE YEARS FEWER PEOPLE ARE COMING FORWARD TO HELP AND WE STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN, LET ALONE IMPROVE WHAT WE HAVE. WE NEED TO APPLY FOR GRANTS AND FUNDING TO MAKE THE CENTRE INTO A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY THAT OUR YOUNGSTERS DESERVE, BUT WE LACK THE EXPERTISE AMONGST OUR WILLING GROUP, AND SO WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS TO BECOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO MAYBE HAVE THE EXPERTISE REQUIRED. WE NEED NEW BLOOD AND NEW IDEAS TO ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE NEXT GENERATION.

THANK YOU

VAL JAMES

CHAIRMAN