



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sgt A Baines is now based in the Corporate Policy Unit for the next 8-9 weeks whilst the Joint Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Strategy is drawn up. We are presently enjoying a good working relationship with the Police and have partnered a couple of good community safety initiatives, including cameras at Brookside and Petheril Bank and a kick-about area for young people - also in the Petheril Bank area.

I have received a reply from the Clerk to the Police Liaison Forum regarding my concerns over the appointment of the Chairman. Apparently, the appointment was made in line with the constitution, which was amended to enable this to happen - on the casting vote of the Chairman! It would appear that he has now voted himself a huge increase in allowances and as there is no additional funding from National Government this will probably impact on front-line services by the Police.

Sure Start - will soon be up and running. Having received the first tranche of funding from the Government, an interim steering group is being set up. Whilst the money for this project is coming through the County Council as the accountable body, we are the Lead Authority - this project not only affects Carlisle South but also links into rural areas of the district - particularly Longtown.

CLSP

I continue to chair this partnership and we are currently trying to encourage other Cumbrian authorities to participate. A referral protocol has been set up and so far is working reasonably well. I also attend management meetings of the Law Centre on a regular basis.

Golden Jubilee

The Queens Jubilee Baton arrived in Carlisle on a promotional tour on 5 December 2001. It will be in Carlisle again on its official journey on 22 July 2002, 3 days before the opening of the Commonwealth Games.

Parks

A trial period with swings for disabled children was held in Bitts Park during the first week in January. These swings were very well received and we are waiting for feedback from all relevant groups before any decisions about other parks are made.

Parish Council Meeting with the City

A very constructive meeting was held on 3 December 2001

- the IT supplied by the City has been well received and is working well
- the Parishes raised their usual concerns over planning and highways.

A further meeting will be held shortly regarding the Rural White Paper.

Fire Show

Once again, the highlight of the year was our spectacular Fire Show. An audience of over 30,000 enjoyed a safe and well organised family event and I would like to thank all Council employees, sponsors and particularly the public for their support at these events.

Pantomime

Yet again, the Council came up with the goods, in the production of "Aladdin", in partnership with Cumbrian Newspapers. With flying carpets and spectacular waterfalls, the show was a brilliant success. A record audience attended and the show may even make a profit - again I would like to thank everyone involved with its production.

Grant Aid

I have supported a number of grant applications of which you have all been advised.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all Councillors to encourage groups in their Wards to apply for funding in support of their own initiatives.