The Gosford Park Residents’ Association has once again worked hard this year to improve our area, look after the interests of our residents and to foster a sense of community spirit in our neighbourhood.

We continue to work closely with the Stoke Park Residents’ Group and thank them for donating £450 to us this year. We keep in regular contact with CAN (Community Action for Neighbourhoods) and continue to work with residents, the Council and other agencies to tackle the issue of litter, fly-tipping etc., in our area.

We are very grateful to Jenny and Pete and staff at the Humber Road Post Office for collecting our membership fees and storing our newsletters.

**Policing**

We are grateful to our community police who attend our meetings when their shifts allow and provide us with a report of what has been ‘occurring’ locally. We maintain regular contact with them and appreciate their help and guidance.

**GPRA Finances**

Our finances are in a healthy position – thanks to our Treasurer, Lindsay Haig, who adopts a prudent stance when it comes to expenditure! A detailed breakdown of our accounts will be given at the AGM on 2nd July.

**GPRA Achievements July 2018 to June 2019**

There have been a few battles and a lot of successes.

The £21,000 grant we received from WREN in 2017 has helped pay for the new pathway and 18 disease resistant Dutch Elm Trees in Stoke Green Park. The old chestnut trees have been fenced off and are being left to decline naturally. The grant also contributed towards the Green Man sculpture in the park which has been very popular with our young and older residents.

In partnership with the Stoke Park Residents’ Group we have raised several hundred pounds by organising events such as the Quiz Night, Burn’s Night, St. George’s Night, Community Fun Day, Party in the Park etc. All this money has been ploughed back into improving our neighbourhood.

In March this year we received a grant for £9,250 from the Ministry of Housing and Communities which we used to install new benches and transform the neglected strip of tarmac in Gosford Park with colourful thermoplastic designs for young children. Part of the grant also paid for planting up the Victorian rockery in Gosford Park.
which is a work in progress. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with this, especially Ann Wilson for sharing her expertise and drive.

In April we received a grant for £418 to help celebrate the Mayor’s Community Weekend. We held a very successful Party in the Park on 29th June which was attended by about 50 people.

Emma Aspinall has been doing a fantastic job in leading the fight against litter in our area. The Wombling Wednesday Group has carried out several clean ups of local litter hotspots in the area.

**Our biggest challenge this year**
Undoubtedly this was the 4 day fun fair in Stoke Green Park which was imposed on us by the Council without any consultation. Residents were concerned that the park was too small and the increase in noise and litter. However, the fair went off without incident and a few minor complaints. At the end of the day, our biggest concern was the way in which the Council dealt with the matter and some of their processes which did not seem to be very democratic.

**How we performed against our objectives from July 2017 to June 2018**
The following shows how we did against our list of objectives that we set out to achieve during the year:

- *Listen to and address residents’ concerns*
  Throughout the year we have continued to follow up a number of concerns raised by residents and have tried to obtain a satisfactory conclusion. Some concerns, such as litter, bins etc., have been ongoing for several years and appear to be getting worse because of many factors, e.g. Budget cuts in council spending, more transient residents, increased student numbers, etc. We hope we can continue to rely on the support from residents, Coventry City Council, Coventry University, the Police etc., if we are to deal positively with the challenges ahead.

- *Keep residents regularly informed about the work of the GPRA*
  The GPRA prides itself on keeping residents informed through several channels:
  - We hold regular meetings for 10 months of the year. Many thanks also to Lynn and her staff for accommodating us at our monthly meetings at the Humber Pub.
  - We have kept residents informed with our monthly Newsletter which till recently was distributed to over 1,200 homes. In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly our newsletters are now being sent out electronically with
only about 60 hard copies being kept at various locations for residents to access. Massive thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who gave out the Newsletter in all weathers, including our student volunteers – you are my heroes!

- We have a Facebook page, a twitter account and a website, all of which have been very useful in keeping residents up to date with our activities.
- Our notice boards in the parks, Tick Tock Play Area and by the Empress Buildings on the Binley Road remain a valuable window on to what’s happening in our area.
- We also regularly send information via emails to all residents on our mailing list.

• **Recruit more members to the GPRA**
We have had a steady increase in the number of residents joining the GPRA. We currently have almost 90 paid up members. Your subscriptions help fund our community projects and keep the work of the GPRA going. Our subscription remains as £2 per household.

**And finally**
My sincere thanks to all who have supported the GPRA over the past year, those who attend our meetings and all who have played their part in helping make our neighbourhood a nicer, friendlier place to live. Special thanks to our committee members who give freely of their spare time to help with the work of the GPRA and always do it with kindness and humour.

I will no longer be carrying out my role of Chair of the GPRA. It has been an honour and a privilege to work for our community in this capacity. I have learned so much, made lots of great friends and enjoyed myself immensely along the way.