

# Henley Parish Council

## Chairman's Report May 16

May I thank the current councillors for their support during these past 12 mths, it is always difficult to volunteer your own time especially when all of us sit on other committees within the village and also our ever increasing work demands. My I also thank Councillor Graham Doyle for his support and efforts over the past year. Graham has resigned from his position.

May I also personally thank our parish clerk Rod Caird who once again has maintained the Parish administration to his normal very high standard throughout the past 12 months. Rod has given the village good clear communication through our email system, web-site and local magazine.

Looking back as a parish we have had some success..

The Glass bottle bank has been a real success since its installation last May – we are being emptied on average every 2 weeks. Which is double what was predicted?

The village now has a 'defibrillator located at the Community Centre – If needed hopefully it will save someone's life.

The Parish Council supported the annual Christmas Fayre this year – And I am please once again to say it was a great success with just over a £1000 raised to two of our nominated children's charities.

Broadband in Henley Square has been very frustrating for the PC over the past years. But we are happy to report that the radio wave system beamed from the Community Centre via an independent provider is up and running and has delivered good results.

After many years we have some movement as to the problems with the school parking – good & bad! The idea of a new footpath from the Community centre failed due to landowners concerns, however with the support of Suffolk CC & the School we have introduced a 'no parking respect zone' since Jan this year. With a few acceptations this seems to be working well, however we now have increased parking at Pearsons Place & Pond End and sadly not everybody wants to walk from the Community centre.

A massive thankyou to Councillor Redbond who has taken on this project with board shoulders!

Another ongoing area that we talk about a lot but really never move forward to a satisfactory conclusion is vehicle speeds on the two main roads in the village and the square. The PC has joined forces with Hemmingstone and purchased a portable speed detection sign. We hope to have some speed results soon to assess and review.

Thankyou to Councillor Marks who is managing this project.

Other areas the PC has successfully managed this year are:- The ditches in Church Lane, Parent support with the Debenham Bus service at Fiveways & the appointment of a 'village approved tree surgeon'.

The PC has also supported the planning objection to Change the local public house into a residential house. This has taken a lot effort in terms of meetings and attending the planning committee at MSDC. After two unsuccessful applications it is now at the appeal stage, and we hope all our work will not go in vain.

This year we have agreed to partly fund a 'local Police person' alongside with other villages within the area. We are looking forward to seeing more 'presence' on a daily & weekly basis within the community.

The village is suffering from being an 'aging' community which is common in many towns & villages around the country. The village will clearly need an injection of energy in the future as it has enjoyed over the past 80 years. New housing will certainly help, and the council has agreed in principle to agree a development plan that we serve the needs of the village for years to come. We need to identify suitable locations and what sort of housing we need from you possibly from a survey. We would like to have control with any form of new development within our boundaries. This injection would clearly benefit the community in many ways, but we also need to be mindful of the effect it could have on transport & services.

May I thank in advance the parish council for their future commitment – We will continue to listen and deliver clear communication to 'our customers' – but we really do need more support onto the council. We are two councillors below the number of seats which is seven. It would be great to have two volunteers come forward onto the Council – many hands make light work!

Kevin Griggs

Chairman Henley Parish Council