

Henley Parish Council

Chairman's Report May 18

May I thank the current councillors for their support during these past 12mths, 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.

May I 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.

The Parish Council supported the annual Christmas Fayre this year – I am pleased once again to say it was a great success and two children's charities benefited from our fund-raising – Brookes Wish to Walk & the Sick Children's trust Cambridge. Both have connections within the village.

The parking green respect zone outside the school as mentioned last year is not producing the benefit we all intended and wished for. I am grateful to Counsellor John Field who has supported us this year with the attempt to put in restricted parking yellow lines and agreed with the funding, but it is a very slow process with Suffolk highways at the moment. Councillor Steve Brock & I had a positive meeting with the new head of the school, and we are hopeful that we can progress this current initiative. Thankyou, once again to Counsellor Martin Redbond for the unenvious task of putting the green respect zones out every week.

Once again, the portable speed detection sign has given us some good information regarding average speeds at certain times of the day. We have published some facts during the year and hopefully making drivers aware of their speeds. We will continue to move the sign around the village to assess where the hot spots are. Thankyou to Councillors' bryan Marks & Steve Brock who are managing this project.

The ongoing planning application for change of use of the Cross Keys has still not been concluded after many years. The PC has supported the planning objection to change the local public house into a residential house. This has taken once again a lot effort in terms of meetings and attending planning committee dates at MSDC, I would like to personally thank our Clerk for stepping in on my behalf with the previous two planning committee meetings.

The graffiti in the bus shelter was removed and the whole shelter renovated this year. Hopefully it will look good for a few years more.

The last litter pick proved very successful with the 'offer' of a free brunch for any volunteers. I would suggest we arrange the next litter pick in conjunction with the village brunch once again!

I am pleased that we have formally adopted the 'Hastoe Group' in conjunction with MSDC to look at the proposal to build a small number of affordable & open market housing within the village. We still potentially have a long way to go with this project but this will be a major benefit to the village.

Finally, my I thank our County & District councillors, who have supported us with their knowledge and additional funding during the past 12 mths.

As we move into the next year, I believe we still have to focus on the following:-

Conclusion of the school respect zone

Pond End residents parking

Speeding within the village

Condition of our roads & signs

Local Housing development

Church Lane flooding

On a personal note, I have been on the council and chairperson for a number of years.

I am happy to stand for one more year as your chairman if nobody comes forward.

However I feel it is not healthy to have the same person in the same position for a long period. So as a conclusion I will be seriously looking to stand down next year.

Kevin Griggs

Chairperson Henley Parish Council