

Chairman's report May 2017

(Reported by Mr J Sharp – Vice-Chairman)

In the absence of the chairman I would like to report the following activity of the parish council:

This was yet another busy year for the parish council.

Street Lighting

We have this year undertaken a large project to replace the majority of street lamps through the village. Old lamps were old and no longer complied with legislation and over the last five years money from budgets was set aside to carry out this project, which cost in the region of £25,000.

A number of residents have expressed their thanks and said that the street lighting has much improved their environment and made them feel safer particularly at night.

We also need to replace some columns and lamps and will do this as and when they fail as they are quite expensive to replace.

Local Plan

The borough council is currently reviewing the local plan. The parish council made representation in this regard continuing to express the desire to keep area of important open space. Work is still ongoing on the final version of the plan.

Hardwater Crossroads

At long last the county council has carried out the much needed works at the crossroads, following numerous accidents over the last few years. The white lining and signage has made motorists more aware and so far no accidents have been reported.

Magna Grove drainage

Following the parish council raising concern over the ditch near Magna Grove to the county council. The county met with ASRA Housing to explain their duties with regard to the clearance of the ditch. Accordingly the Regulations Team at the county enforced the clearance of the ditch. The ditch now flows into a culvert (maintained by the county). Following further investigation works with the county's drainage contractors, there was a partial collapse of the culvert. The culvert is still running at this time and repair work has been arranged for the culvert later in the year. In the

meantime, the site will be monitored for any ponding of water on the highway and reports of further flooding should be made via Street Doctor.

Speeding

Speeding continues to present problems and the police and highways safety team periodically carry out random speed checks. Some volunteers came forward to participate in speed watch but there were insufficient volunteers to participate early in the year. There has been particular concern from residents of The Ridge as cars speed up exiting the village even though this is a 30mph zone. Both the Police and County Council have been contacted regarding the ongoing issue and have promised to carry out more checks; however, there have been no reported injury collisions on The Ridge in the last three years.

Recreation Ground

A charity has now been established to raise funds for the replacement of the play equipment. A very successful May Day event was held. The parish council also arranged for the wire fencing adjacent to the footpath to be removed. Consideration is being given to whether this will be replaced with a chain link fence.

Crematorium

The crematorium has been in operation since September 2016 and has been well used. There does not appear to be particular concern at the present time that the volume of traffic travelling through the village has been excessive.

The rebuilding of the prison

Planning permission was given in April to Wellingborough Prison being demolished with a view to a new prison being built on the site. A number of highway changes will be made including a mini-roundabout near to the entrance to the crematorium. More information will become available in due course.

All of the above plus the day to day running of the parish council has kept us very busy. My thanks are extended to my fellow parish councillors, the clerk and all volunteers.

Chris Davies - Chairman May 2017