

Chairman's Annual Report for 2012-2013

This report will cover topics that have been achieved and featured in the Parish Councils work over the past year.

- 1 Council Members
- 2 General Purposes
- 3 Planning and Development
- 4 Objectives for the Future

1. Council Members

Since the Election in May 2010 we have had a full complement on our Council:

Sharon May (Chairman)
Susan Sargeant
Suzie Clark
Paul Helyer
Ray Huskisson (Clerk)

Bill Treves (Vice-chairman)
Andy Siragher
Mike Rodham
Liss Norton

Chris Brown stood down due to other commitments earlier in the year so we are now looking to replacing him.

2. General Purposes

This committee has been ably run by Mike Rodham as Chairman over the past few years. We have achieved many things including the provision of a new Street light by Oak Tree Cottages and an extensive project into

flooding overseen by Susan Sargeant. Also down to Susan is the near completion of the Jubilee Wood . Thanks to Avisford Park Golf Club and Richard Stilwell we have been able to plant many trees including Oak Ash and Horse Chestnut just inside by the 10th tee. We asked for grants for this project and were given over 400 saplings from the Woodland Trust which have been planted by staff at Avisford and by children from the Pre-school who had a morning on the site. This was achieved from suggestions from our Jubilee Celebration weekend which was a huge success. A huge thank you to Andy Siragher and Suzi Clark whose tireless work made it all possible. The village turned out in force and the weather was kind to us. Friendships were formed and hopefully will continue into the future. Our Olympic weekend with Scarecrows was also well attended with games for all.

Our thanks from this committee also go to John Heathcote, who has, after many years retired from community work keeping the village looking spick and span. We have found someone else to continue his good work thank goodness.

3. Planning and Development

Bill Treves has overseen this committee since the last election and we thank him for his expertise. We have had few actual planning applications, the majority being extensions and alterations to houses in the villages. The major development being the Holly Tree and the six houses behind. We thought things would move after a buyer was eventually found, having had three other serious contenders who could not agree terms with Hanbury. Alas this was not to be and we are coming up for two years without the pub. Had we thought this would have happened I am sure planning would have taken a different turn. We just wanted the pub up and running. This has also caused a huge delay in the building of the Community Playcentre whose funding mostly depended on the section 106 money from Hanbury. That said, the charity committee members are doing an absolutely brilliant job in obtaining small grants and fundraising to keep this project ongoing. Many villagers have expressed disappointment in the fact that for the time being childcare from breakfast club to afterschool club has been delayed.

We, as a parish, will in the near future be asking for expertise in the community on the project of writing a Neighbourhood plan. This is a joint parish project with our cluster of Barnham, Aldingbourne and Eastergate. These parishes are already a long way down the road on the subject as they are already fighting large swathes of development on their doorsteps. We have to find space for fifty houses over the next fifteen

years. That is why it important to start looking soon at these areas. Our main argument would be the drainage and sewerage systems.

Arun Districts Local Plan has thrown a spanner in the works by looking at plans for a realignment of the A29 coming dangerously close to our boundaries and the building of a “Garden City” to be built on green fields between the villages. Nick Herbert MP, who Bill Treves and myself have had a few meetings is fighting our corner and is hopefully holding another public meeting in due course.

4. Objectives for the Future.

We are still looking for suggestions for the red telephone box in Fontwell but think at this moment a book exchange is a good idea. The pond is in need of an overhaul and that is already in hand. The pound has been given an update and this is in response to the fact that finally Walberton is back on track for an open gardens weekend at the beginning of June. Better Broadband connection is an ongoing campaign. We will be keeping an eye on the Jubilee Wood and expanding as we can.

This council works hard for the community and I would like to thank them all for there contribution especially our clerk Ray Huskisson who without his help we would all fall short. Although this report is slightly more comprehensive than last year I hope you will all take time to take in all that has been mentioned and to look around our villages and if there is more we can do we will try.

Sharon May
Chairman Walberton Parish Council
21st May 2013