

CHAIR'S REPORT 2021/22

With Covid restrictions lifted, we were allowed to meet face to face for our May meeting which was the first of our newly formed Parish Council following the earlier elections.

The village website was re-vamped by Jonathan Gilpin in May and parish councillors now have email addresses for parish council business in line with GDPR and to keep personal emails separate.

The Village Diary (or green sheet which people like to call it) was discontinued after some 40 years and replaced with a quarterly newsletter which has been well received.

The Around Bierton Walk was produced by John Fisher and Steve Knowles and a leaflet and waymarkers issued. Several stiles have been replaced by kissing gates for ease of access and we hope to have them all replaced eventually.

The Community Allotment continues to flourish under the direction of Louise Gattward and her team and a further plot has been added this year. We were able to improve the access from Great Lane with the help of the annual grant from the Gib Lane Solar Farm (Grantscape), which has made access easier.

Mike Glynn took on the project of renovating the plaque at the old Cricket Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. This coincided with 100 years of its inception in 1921. The work was kindly funded by the Mike & Claire Griffin Trust. Morgan Sindell (Kingsbrook Secondary School developers) then offered to paint it for us as part of their Community Week, along with several other smaller projects in the Recreation Ground and around the village. The Dedication Ceremony took place in November and the plaque was unveiled by our MP, Greg Smith, with representatives from the Trust, Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council and British Legion present, along with a number of parishioners which was good to see. Wreaths were laid from these organisations.

The Neighbourhood Plan was worked on throughout the year and members met weekly to continue to look at the comments received during Regulation 14 and amend the plan where it was felt necessary. Regulation 16 is now underway and it is hoped to have the Referendum and adoption of the Plan by the end of the year. Our thanks to the remaining members of the Steering Group who have worked very hard to bring this plan to fruition.

The Eastern Link Road North was fully opened in July up to the canal. To date it has had a minimal effect on traffic on the A418 and we are still awaiting the implementation of traffic calming through the village. The proposals are currently with Buckinghamshire Council and we await the outcome of their examination.

The Events Group continue to organise events in the village, most of which have become annual events, well attended and enjoyed by those who participate.

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee approaching this year, we have looked at planting trees, wildflower verges and bulbs in the village. However, due to the costs incurred

in surveying, etc, we decided not to pursue these and instead have ordered Jubilee Mugs for children under 18 living in the village.

Our new Local Area Technician from Transport for Bucks did a tour of the village with myself and another councillor last year and we identified a number of areas needing attention. Some of these have been attended to and the flooding situation on Aylesbury Road has improved following drain clearing and associated works. We will work on the others in due course.

Through the Wendover Community Board, we have been granted funding to provide yellow lines at the top of Burcott Lane by the old chapel. The process will take a while to implement but hopefully will happen soon. We have also applied for a gate at the entrance to the public footpath to Kingsbrook by the old Dairy (joint bid with Kingsbrook Parish Council) and for hardstanding alongside the Recreation Ground in Burcott Lane. Both these projects are in the early stages and funding has not yet been agreed.

Our Parish Clerk, Jo Payne, resigned in December to take up a full time post with Milton Keynes Planning Department. We welcomed Wendy Tomlinson into the post at the beginning of January and Wendy has quickly settled into the job, providing great support to myself, the Council and community.

Once again I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year and to all those who have helped in whatever way to enable us deliver our services.

Sheila Cotton

Chair

May 2022