

Easton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

Our Role on the Parish Council is to look after the interests of the village as a whole, to maintain certain services for the benefit of the community as well as representing the village to outside agencies.

The Parish Councillors. The Parish Council election took place two years ago. The Councillors are now Richard Burton, Steve Thomason, Phil Trussell, Clive Wood and myself. We are elected for a period of four years and complete our second year now.

The Queens 90th Birthday. To celebrate this special event the Parish Council distributed commemorative coins to all young people under the age of 21 in the village.

The Roads and Road Safety. We continue to press the County Council to repair pot holes in the roads. They are more cash limited than ever before but we do draw matters to their attention and repairs do get done even if it takes time. In an attempt to make for safer roads in the village, we arranged for the County Council to put in new signs with 30mph clearly marked. The roads have been marked with 30mph signs and repeater signs are put in at intervals. The new 'gateways' at both ends of the village make motorists aware that they are entering a settlement and I hope will encourage them to keep to the limit as they travel through our village. I am grateful to Phil Trussell for all the work he has put into this matter.

Footpaths. The wet summer last year meant that many local footpaths are in poor order and in particular Hartham Street (the by-way between our village and Grafham) is almost unwalkable, having been badly rutted by motorcyclists and four wheel drive vehicles. The County Council has increased the length of closure orders to protect them in wet weather. There have been a number of access issues to certain footpaths but we hope that thanks to help from the District and County Council they have been resolved.

Flood Prevention. The brook was cleaned out in the autumn by the Alconbury and Ellington drainage board to allow quick flow during times of heavy rainfall.

Grass cutting. We are grateful to Anthony Abbs for his maintenance of village verges and to Derek Jolly who has cut the grass on the Playing Field.

The Playing Field. The climbing ladder has been repaired and is now safe. The broken rope bridge has been taken down. We have ordered a fresh supply of bark to provide a safe base for the equipment. We had a professional firm to assess the trees in the playing field for safety. We intend to follow their recommendations and much of the necessary work will be done 'in-house'. I am grateful to Steve Thomason who made a plan of all the trees on a very wet and cold Sunday on November!

Planning Matters. We continue to be consulted by the District Council on planning matters and we do our best to look carefully at all planning applications and to represent the views of people in the village as best we can. We only have the power to comment and do not have a 'final say' on planning matters – that power is reserved to the District Council.

Residents. Once again I would like to thank all those who either individually or in groups make a contribution to the appearance and to the social life of the village.

