



H A D D E N H A M
P a r i s h C o u n c i l

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Chair's Report 2018-19

Mr Truesdale presented a resume of the Council year 2018/19.

The Parish Council has had an extremely busy year with a number of projects ongoing which will improve the facilities of Haddenham.

List of projects from this year and ongoing:

Projects ongoing

- **New Football Pitches at Airfield site**
The new football pitches should be ready soon to be handed over from Cala Homes. There is line marking to undertake and a comprehensive maintenance schedule to keep the pitches in good condition. It is great to see the different pitch sizes which will cater for both adult and junior teams. The Pavilion has been through planning and we are working with PCMS to agree a tender to build.
- **New Mini Tennis Courts**
Two new mini courts which are great for young children and more elderly players who do not wish to use a full court.
- **Scotsgrove 40mph speed limit review**
Reducing the speed limit along this part of the A418
- **Station – commuter parking**
Ongoing dialogue with residents and Bucks County Council to tackle the problem of commuter parking along Sheerstock and the surrounding roads.
- **Cricket ground / Burial Ground at Aston Road**
Draft ideas for the new Cricket pavilion and layout of the burial ground have been tentatively started. Both will need planning permission and we won't be in a position to move further forward with this until we receive the land from Dandara.
- **Cycleway to Thame.**
It is still the ambition of the Council to work with local groups / authorities to create a cycleway to Thame.
- **Remarking of Woodways carpark and bollards**
Much better use of the car park now it has been properly laid out. Bollards to protect the adjacent pavement along the side of the recreation ground.

The Council has also spent a significant amount of time managing its assets.

Higher Tier Councils

Biggest change is the formation of new Unitary Authority to happen in May 2020. Four District Councils are being merged into one Local Authority called Buckinghamshire Council.

- The Parish Council operates in a context of significant financial pressures on higher tier councils, Police and other services. Far more is expected to be done for less and there have been massive budget cut-backs and withdrawal of rate support grant.
- The draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) allocates 1,000 new homes for Haddenham. Most of these are expected to be delivered in the next 5 years, rather than spread out over the plan period to 2033. This will mean a huge influx of people with higher demands on local services.
- There is currently a consultation on a change to the National Planning Policy Framework standard methodology to assess housing need. The implication for Aylesbury Vale is 50% more may be needed. Haddenham is a strategic settlement so that could mean another 500 homes.
- The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is proposing a new expressway in an arc between Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford (CaMKOx). Associated with this could be 1 million homes, 4 new towns and the east-west railway.
- We are waiting for the selection of the route of the expressway, and of the three options the southerly route would run just north of Haddenham along the A418 then dip south and across to Aylesbury. The decision on the route is expected soon.
- The NIC invited entries to a concept design competition for development in the arc. The Fletcher Priest entry focussed on Haddenham & Thame area. There are a lot of people spending time looking at delivering new homes in this area.
- The VALP has been submitted to the Inspectorate for examination however, Aylesbury Vale will have to review the plan within 2-5 years after its adoption due to the aforementioned changes. This will be government driven, not by the districts.

Customer demand

- There is an increased demand for delivery of public services. This is time consuming and resource intensive.
- Parish Councils are more accessible now than higher tier councils so more and more is expected, but often the Parish Council can only redirect to a higher council. Hopefully this will become easier when we have the new unitary authority.

Asset management

- For a village of its size Haddenham has many assets and more are coming.
- The Parish Council is introducing processes for surveying, planning and budgeting.
- Programmed management of: streetlights; trees; ponds; premises; play grounds; sports ground; open spaces; registered village greens; devolved responsibilities
- Utilisation of S106 funding to improve the play equipment at Sheerstock, Banks Park new playground opened in February 2019

- The Churchyard has been closed for burials and maintenance responsibility passed from the Church to the Parish Council. This has proved quite challenging as inspection of the boundary walls and lychgate has identified a significant amount of work is needed, which will cost in the region of £100,000
- Preparing to adopt new assets: open spaces at the big development sites; sports pitches; play grounds; 2 pavilions to build; burial ground; possible car park

Growth and Communications

- We need to be responding to the growth agenda. Should there be a review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)? We have spoken to AVDC and BCC Highways Officers and would have to think creatively about growth options. Residents may see this as a threat. We could easily find that everything changes again with outside influence from the expressway, and a possible new settlement, which would negate any work done on a revised NP.
- Newcomers to the village will need to be welcomed, there will potentially be new talent and energy to tap into.
- There are growing demands on the Parish Council services and a need to improve access to the PC office and availability of service. The existing room is not secure for lone working and there is inefficiency due to the lack of available separate meeting space.
- Communications have been improved with a new electronic newsletter and new web-site; and publication of the village guide. Use of Facebook has allowed the Council to quickly disseminate information alongside our Latest News (on our website)