

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
22nd MAY 2015
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

During the year further presentations and consultations on the village neighbourhood plan took place and the final plan was lodged; with Aylesbury Vale District Council in March. Further six week consultation period had to take place by AVDC and then the plan had to be agreed by an Inspector. This has now all happened with the Inspector make some minor amendments and the next step will be the Referendum in the village which will be held on the 16th July.. If the referendum is given the yes vote then I sincerely hope that it will be able to influence further developments in particular in the village for the future I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Fell, in particular, and his team for all the time and commitment spent on producing the Plan.

I am sure you are all aware of the proposed plans for the Glebe Site in Stanbridge Road . These plans have been very controversial and following the approval of the Strategic Committee of Aylesbury Vale District Council the Parish asked for them to be called in by the Minister. This was accepted and there will now be a Public Enquiry at the end of September October lasting we understand possibly two or three days. Plans for a large development on the Airfield have also been sent to AVDC and these plans have been accepted and have also been put on hold until the decision on the call in is announced.

The old Medical Centre has been a cause for great concern with the apparent lack of care by the local NHS. It has been allowed to deteriorate both internally and externally over the last few years. Despite many communications with the then PCT nothing happened but eventually pressure was put on the NHS by the Parish Council to do something with the property. After several discussions between David Truesdale and myself and representative of the NHS, the property was finally advertised. I am hopeful that following discussions someone has shown great interest in obtaining the lease and all the relevant paper work to finalise this is ongoing. I hope that it will be resolved within the next week or two.

The Day Centre is now no longer required by the County Council as a Day Centre and after discussions with the County they are keen to release the lease and hand the part that is the property of the County Council back to the Parish, This matter is now with our Solicitors and again hopefully we will be able to resolve the issue fairly soon.

On street parking has been a very contentious issue with the residents of Sheerstock for some time. The Parish Council have been working with two residents and the County Council, who are the highway authority, to try and find a solution to the problem. These discussions have gone on for longer than we would have liked but eventually we have put together a consultation paper, with the agreement and support of the County Council, residents and with the added comments from Sue Jones, our PCSO. These consultation papers have been delivered to all the roads from Sheerstock to Townside to begin with and then on to the rest of the village. We are fully aware that preventing on street parking in one area will only lead to other roads being affected. Hence the whole village being eventually included. Incidentally a large number of responses have already been received.

The County Council has over the last year gone through major changes and all the departments have been collected into four business units with the view that some parts of our responsibilities are put out to the private sector and in some cases to the Voluntary sector. One of these is the devolving of grass cutting in the 30mph limit, hedge cutting and other highway requirements to Parishes. We have agreed to take this on and will appoint a local Contractor to do the work on the highway on our behalf. We will also hope to include Aston Sandford and Kingsey to undertake to do the grass cutting on their behalf where necessary. The remaining grass cutting will be done by the County Council. I feel I should point out that we have had devolved money from the County for 2 years or more to undertake certain highway work. The first cut by the Parish has been done this week.

The County Council had divided the County up into 19 areas, known as Local Area Forums, as a move to work closer to Parishes. I am Chairman of the Haddenham Local Area Forum which includes the Parishes of Haddenham, Stone, Dinton, Ford, Upton, Cuddington, Chearsley, Long Crendon, Ickford, Worminghall, Oakley, Brill, and Shabington. The reason for this is to have better communication between the Council and Parishes and it comes with a reasonable sum of money to support local initiatives. Representatives from all the Parishes and local voluntary organisations are invited to attend.. Haddenham has had money to install kissing gates on the Wychert Way, for the feasibility study for the crossing on Woodways and for the fence around the new playing field on the Airfield. We have received the study for Woodways but do question the costings especially on the street lighting and are now waiting to discuss this further with a project Officer. This Officer will not be in post till September. We do have the required amount of funding to go ahead when we are satisfied with the quote.

There was an election for the Parish this month and was not contested. We have a new Council with one new Member Tom Newton. Two Councillors did not seek re-election, Andy Fell who has done such fantastic work on the village plan as he will now be based at RAF Markham, and Richard Moore who again did excellent work in getting the village news together. I would like to thank both of them for their support and commitment to the Council.

This year we have welcomed our new Clerk, Sue Gilbert. I think she would agree it has been a baptism of fire!! There has been so much going on resulting in a great amount of work. Sue has dealt with all of this and still kept cheerful. I don't think Sue realised that it would be so intense but she has managed superbly and I would like to say a very big thank you to her for all her support and guidance.

Margaret Aston - Chairman