

# Eltisley Parish Council Annual Report 2016 – 17

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to our Annual Parish Meeting. I normally conclude this report with a series of thanks to all who help to keep our amazing Village amazing, but this year I am reversing the order.

Firstly our clerk Jane, who is always approachable, helpful, and I know works more than her contracted hours, and has achieved a successful audit – no mean feat these days – and helped to secure over £15,000.00 of grant funding during the last year. Our County Councillor Mandy Smith, congratulations on your re-election, who again works tirelessly on our behalf in addition to her role as Vice Chairman of the County Council. Anne Pettifor, who has revamped and revitalised the Newsletter into an informative and attractive publication which keeps us all informed of local events, Richard Rodgers for his work in hosting our website, Jenny Booth for keeping a constant check on the Play Area and my long suffering wife Pat for her amazing administrative skills, and of course all those others who, often behind the scenes, rally round when the occasion demands and do what is necessary. Our Speedwatch Team deserves a special mention as their dedication, often in inclement conditions, has achieved a marked reduction in the number of speeding motorists passing through the Village.

Last May we saw a massive turnout of 15 villagers to completely re-fence the Allotments and dress the paths through the Woodland Walk and the two working parties since have helped to keep our Village pristine which in turn avoids the need to employ contractors so helping to keep the precept down.

In addition to dealing with the considerable amount of information, consultation, and legislation that issues forth from Local and National Government, finances and routine maintenance, planning applications etc. your Council has organised the introduction of a 'No Cold Calling' zone in Caxton End, the re-instatement of the bollards in Cross Path in line with the wishes of the Residents, purchased a mobile Speed Warning Sign, and continued to press for improvements to the Cambridge Road Junction with the A428, and our long campaign for a new dual carriageway seems to be coming to fruition at last.

Particular highlights for me have been the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and, as always, the Christmas lights on the Peace Tree and the Village Christmas Party.

We purchased a defibrillator which is installed at the Cade with funds from the sale of the Village Institute, and the Village Green Trust has paid grants towards repairs to the Church Tower, to Magpas, the St. Neots Museum, the insurance of the Cade building and the Newsletter.

We remain concerned for the safety of children and families walking to school because of the number of cars parked in Caxton End, and have been awarded funds as a result of a successful Minor Highways Bid to find a solution, we are currently working with Cambs Highways to that end. Although crime is low in our Village, opportunist crime is an ongoing concern and we are working closely with the police on this problem, vigilance is the key. As you know we have commissioned a new Housing Survey and await the results with interest.

In all another busy and successful year and I thank my fellow Councillors, and you, for your support.