

Eltisley Parish Council Annual Report 2015 – 16

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to our Annual Parish Meeting. This is the 10th report I have presented to this meeting and I thought that it might be interesting to look back on previous years.

Not surprisingly, there is a common theme as the Council's main task is to maintain and improve your Village whilst dealing with County and District Councils, complying with legislation and planning issues. But in 2006 the decision was made to conduct a Village Survey and produce a Parish Plan, and that has been guiding our ambitions and actions since the Plan was produced. The Plan was updated in 2013 and the views and wishes of the Parishioners had not changed.

Many parishes have produced plans but, apparently, having completed them then lost interest along the way. Your Council have persisted and almost completed the tasks set us. Examples of our achievements, from the fairly mundane to the very significant, are the provision of more litter and dog waste bins, improved play and sports equipment, regular maintenance of the Village Green, trees and Pocket Park, and, more importantly, the successful sale of the Village Institute and the refurbishment of The Cade.

The only outstanding items are the safety of the children and families walking to and from School, provision of affordable housing in the Village, and improvements to the A428. On that particular issue we hope to meet soon to discuss the plans for a new dual carriageway from the Caxton Gibbet to the Black Cat, work on which is due to begin in 2020.

Plans are being submitted for the change of use to residential of the Institute, and The Cade refurbishment and storage facility are completed. Our thanks go to the Cade Management Committee for their hard work over the past 5 years, and particularly John Pettifor, who as Chairman has steered the project from the beginning. The Parish Council, as Trustees, have undertaken to be responsible for the fabric of the building and so the future of The Cade is secure.

Our thanks also go to Anne Pettifor for her work on the Six Villages Newsletter, which is most valuable to the Council for keeping Parishioners informed, and to Richard Rogers for hosting and maintaining the Village Website.

Speedwatch, I believe, has been a great success, and, together with the new portable speed warning sign, a significant reduction in the number of speeding offenders is being achieved.

The important drain that runs alongside the Allotments has been dug out thanks to Martin Lines, the Allotments have been re-fenced and the Pocket Park and Woodland Walk are pristine.

I believe another busy and successful year, and I thank my fellow Councillors on your behalf, our County Councillor Mandy Smith and our diligent and helpful Clerk, Jane, and not forgetting my right hand girl Pat for all her help.