

Chairman's Review of the Year

1. Firstly my thanks to my colleagues on the PC – a very supportive and helpful group with whom it is a pleasure to work. We read much about the travails of other PC's and I am happy to report that we have experienced nothing but sensible and constructive discussion of the issues.
2. Particular thanks to our Clerk, Dee Knights. She keeps us all up to the mark and makes sure we cover everything on the agenda and that actions are followed up. Our auditor expressed his specific congratulations on the state of our books of account.
3. I guess the big news of the year is the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - a. Formally made on 23rd March. That means it is now statutorily a part of SCDC's Local Plan and must be consulted when planning applications come forward.
 - b. A huge thank you to the Working Group (Eric, Sue, James, Chris, Colin, and Fiona) for all their support.
 - c. The Plan is not a magic bullet. We will still have to argue the case and we may not always win. But it does create a basis for the future and we are one of the first small villages in Suffolk to achieve this.
 - d. Our plan is different to larger town plans. Because we are a rural village we do not have to set land aside for development and that means we can concentrate on the landscape and the other features that make Great Bealings what it is. The success of the Plan will be as much in your hands as it is in the hands of the Parish Council. You own it, you said what you thought was important, and you need to tell us when there are things we need to look at.
4. Planning applications. 14 were received in the year to 31/12/16, of which 6 were in relation to Wood Barn Cottages (of which 3 refer to the same proposed barn conversion). Other than the WBC applications all were approved. Of the 6 in relation to WBC, all were refused and 4 of those went to appeal. Two of those appeals have been dismissed and two are still pending. We were also consulted on 2 applications regarding Fynn Bridge Barn in Little Bealings.
5. Defibrillator. Thanks to Colin Hedgley's support we have been able to get funding to install a defibrillator here in the village hall and we now have the estimates so we need to agree exactly

where it will go. The PC will be discussing this at the meeting following this annual meeting. We will arrange for training in due course and would be happy to include volunteers in that process.

6. Emergency Plan. I am very grateful to Anthony Sheppard who has written and produced a plan which we can use if the village is struck by fire, flood, aircraft, storm, or other disaster. The plan is lodged with SCDC and is on our website. Basically it is a list of people who can help and a list of contact numbers. If you would like to be one of the volunteers, please let us know.
7. Wind Farm. The work on this large national infrastructure project will start quite soon, when the archaeological works have been completed. You will have seen the blue markers where some roads are to be widened to create passing places, and where the access points are to be built. The crossing point on the river has also now been marked out. Sadly we tried to arrange a cross-parish effort to negotiate a contribution to a community fund with Scottish Power but our neighbours were not interested so we have set up a liaison group on our own. You are encouraged to contact us if you have any concerns. You may have come to the recent rather unsatisfactory presentation by SP, as a result of which we hope to arrange a future presentation which we will co-chair so as to try and keep a bit closer to the script. If you have any questions now I would be happy to try and answer them. I have to say that as a result of keeping in touch with SP on a sensible basis we have a good relationship with their representatives and we have evidence that they will listen to well-made and realistic concerns.
8. Boot Street Bridge. You will be aware that the bridge has now been repaired and we are in discussion with SCC about what traffic measures we might get them to put in place. We want your views:
 - a. Priority from W'bridge
 - b. Priority from Ipswich
 - c. Speed limit extended to Rosery Lane
 - d. Any combination of the above.
9. Northern Bypass. This is a matter of continuing concern and the temperature is gradually increasing as the developments north of Ipswich start to be built. We can do little at this stage other than be alert to the issue, however the windfarm pipeline is in our favour, making it harder to build a road over the top of

it, and in addition we have the Plan which has a wealth of evidence supporting it in terms of the value of this valley landscape and the flora and fauna to be found here. Having said all that, it has been on the horizon for as long as I can remember and I suspect that the money required will keep it at arms length for a while yet. However I am not complacent and we should keep a close eye on any announcements.

10. Contribution to Fynn Lark News. The PC has agreed to increase our contribution to this important cross-benefice magazine. We all tend to think in terms of the internet these days but not everybody uses it as a matter of course and the mag fulfills an important role.
11. Parish Care initiative. We have agreed to work with the PCC and are waiting for their proposal as to how this should work. If anyone would like to be involved, please let us know.
12. Look forward to 2018 - Beacons of Light project on 11th November in Melissa Proctor's field at the top of Kiln Lane. We hope to arrange a BarBQ, music etc.