

Annual Meeting with the Parish April 2022 – Chairman’s Report

Welcome to tonight’s Annual Parish meeting.

During this past year we had 2 resignations from the Parish Council.

Mark Tucker in August. Mark was instrumental in the provision of improvements in the playpark and installation of the outside gym equipment on the Green.

Robert Green in January after 10 years’ service on the Parish Council. Robert made significant contributions to the Parish, particularly the campaign to save Steventon Railway Bridge and leading the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

I thank both Robert and Mark for their invaluable contributions. I also welcome our 2 new co-opted Parish Councillors’, Sheenagh Broadbent and Sylvia Pajak who are already actively getting involved.

We still have one vacancy, so if you feel like being co-opted let us know.

During these past few year’s of living with Covid the amount of walking around Steventon and neighbouring areas rose exponentially. It was therefore disappointing that one of the walking routes that was beginning to get established was disrupted by the removal of the footpath on Harding Vale.

The reasons given at the time were that if it wasn’t removed the road would not be adopted by Oxfordshire County Council and that it was a footpath to nowhere! In addition OCC argued that there was sufficient connecting foot pathways within the village in easy walking distance of a bus stop.

This highlights the fact, don’t expect to get what developers originally propose and what is granted as part of planning permission by the District Council!

We do have the threat of 2 further housing developments in Steventon: Gladman would like to build 80 houses on Abingdon Road and Gleeson who want to build 105 houses on Hanney Road. The Parish Council has objected to both developments.

The installation of Speed monitoring devices on Hanney Road and Abingdon road appears to have slowed some drivers, however there is still the few idiot’s who insist on speeding and hence, causing potential injury to pedestrians. On moving the monitors around this week it was observed that a large number of white vans entered the High Street from

Steventon Hill with speeds in excess of 50 mph!!! I would like to thank John Clark for his heroic contortionist efforts in installing the solar panels and monitors on the poles which we were installed by OCC.

I would like to thank fellow Parish Councillors for all the hard work they have done during the past year and Angela, as clerk, for all her support and advice. Thanks also go to residents who come along and take part in Public Participation, as ever they do like to keep us on our toes and take part in lively debate, an important aspect ensuring that key issues affecting the Parish are tackled.

From the endeavours of the Parish Council and volunteer's this last year some highlights to look out for are:

- Art work, funded by developers s106 contributions, installation around the village of:
 - Up to 10 bespoke Benches
 - Village map
 - Heritage trail;
- Provision of an eco-activity park;
- A 20mph speed limit in the village;
- Yellow lines to restrict parking in hazardous locations in the village;
- The long-awaited referendum on Steventon Neighbourhood Plan.

Dr Chris Wilding
Chair, Steventon Parish Council.