

First of all I would like to thank our parish councillors for all the time and effort they devote to their duties. I would like to remind you that they do this on a completely voluntary basis. I would also like to thank our Clerk – Jean for her hard work and support.

During the past year the Parish Council has been quite busy on your behalf.

The playing fields, children's playground and multi games area have received quite a bit of attention. We have now employed a handyman/gardener on a part time basis to keep the area tidy by regularly weed killing and strimming. A new bench has been positioned in the playground and a CCTV camera has been placed at the entrance of the multi games area. Since this has been in place there have been fewer problems with people not returning the key. One of the most important, but necessary jobs, has been the repair work and refurbishment to the playground. The equipment has all been updated and should be fine for a number of years. We thank the Community Council for their contribution by way of purchasing a new roundabout.

The allotments are still proving popular, however we do have a few vacant plots and are actively advertising availability. We have recently rewritten the allotment tenancy agreements to make things clearer for tenants. These will be sent out shortly. The allotment plan has also been updated and numbered marker posts will shortly be positioned for easier identification of plots. It would appear that the problem with rats has dramatically reduced since the new contractor has been making more frequent visits. If residents, whose properties back on to the allotments are experiencing a problem please notify the Parish Council.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets have all been sold. If you failed to apply in time and would like tickets please contact the Clerk as there may be some returns at a later date. A poster will be placed on the noticeboard shortly, giving instruction as to how and when to pay for the tickets. At time of payment we will again be asking villagers to volunteer a few hours of their time to help with projects within the village and also at the Steam Rally. I have recently been asked if we could provide volunteers to traffic spot during the festival, as we did last year. Volunteers who carry out an 8 hour shift will be given a day ticket and the festival organisers will give a generous donation to the Church. Posters advertising for volunteers will be on noticeboards shortly and in The Messenger.

The Parish now have a Vehicle Activated Sign which has been used in various locations around the village to try and deter speeding vehicles as this problem is a major concern to all. It would seem to be working quite well as the speeds recorded and downloaded do appear to have reduced where the sign has been positioned. There are currently three locations where the sign can be placed and a fourth location in Church Street has been identified and sent to Suffolk Highways for approval.

Wangford is a very active village, and I believe we have an excellent team working for us. I think it is important to remember that the Parish Council is responsible for representing the entire village, and I encourage all residents to make your views known to us.

Adrian Smith, Chairman Wangford with Henham Parish Council