

WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

Firstly 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.

This year we welcome new councillor John Crossley and thank him for his input so far. Unfortunately Cllr Norman Jackson has decided not to stand again for the coming year but we thank him for his service over the years and the contribution that he has made. We will especially miss his knowledge and experience on planning matters. As you are all aware past chairman Cllr Philip Hayes passed away towards the end of last year. A memorial bench with a plaque has been ordered in his memory and it will be placed in an area within the playing fields yet to be decided. We have two vacancies for new parish councillors at the moment and it would be nice to see some younger parishioners apply for a position.

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

The playing fields, childrens playground and multi games area continue to be popular and we thank Barry for maintaining them when necessary by applying weed killer and strimming.

There has unfortunately been an act of vandalism in the playground within the last week where two pots of paint have been thrown on to the play surface and the swing seats have been wound tightly around the swing frames. This has been reported to the Police and a crime number obtained. The worst of the mess has been cleared up but the council will discuss in the meeting later whether an insurance claim is needed and the possibility of installing CCTV cameras.

During the course of the year there have been a few complaints that dogs have been allowed to foul the playing fields. We are waiting delivery of some new signage asking owners to keep dogs on leads and to clear up after them. The situation over the coming months will be monitored more strictly.

The allotments are still proving popular with most plots occupied. The Clerk and Chairman are to meet before the end of the month to produce a new allotment plan to make the sites more easily identifiable.

The problem with rats seems to be under control at present due to the regular checks by the pest control company. If residents do notice an increase in the number of rats perhaps they could report it to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

The four new garage bases have been built and they have all been rented, at present we have no vacant garage plots.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets sold out very quickly this year due to the fact that the festival organisers released the names of the headline acts much earlier than usual. We have a waiting list of applicants wanting tickets and the Chairman has asked the organisers whether they would increase the villages allocation. A poster will be placed on the noticeboard shortly, giving instruction as to how and when to pay. At time of payment we will again be asking villagers to volunteer a few hours of their time, if they don't already do so, to help with any projects and fund raisers within the village and also at The Steam Rally.

Once again I have been asked if we could provide volunteers to traffic spot during the festival. This has proved quite successful in the last two years and traffic has been reasonably fast flowing. Volunteers who carry out an 8 hour shift will be given a day ticket to the festival and the organisers will give a generous donation to the Church. Posters advertising for volunteers will be placed on the noticeboard, in the shop and within The Messenger magazine.

The Vehicle Activated Sign is still being used although it has had a bit of a rest in recent weeks due to a new software upgrade. It has had an impact in most areas where it has been sited, however, the only area still of concern is when entering the village just by the Farm Shop. The information collected is sent off to be collated so that the Police can identify any problem areas and respond by carrying out speed checks in these areas. Thank you to Cllr Paul Shepherd for moving the sign around the various sites and collecting the data when required.

Cllr. Carter is still trying to get support for traffic calming measures or a speed limit reduction on the A145 at Henham. He would appreciate as much support as possible from councillors and parishoners to strengthen his case.

The Parish Council have also been informed that new traffic calming measures will hopefully come into force on the A12. With speed reduction to 50 mph

from Henham through to Wrentham. This will hopefully have a big impact and help reduce the number of accidents along this stretch.

The Parish Council has reasonable funds at the moment mainly due to the income from the sale of Latitude tickets over recent years. Therefore, we are looking for a number of projects for these funds to be spent on. Some ideas we are working on include the possibility of a village fete in 2020. The ride on mower will need to be updated soon and the multi games area is also in need of some maintenance and attention. We welcome any new ideas that villagers may have and ask them to put them forward so they can be discussed at future meetings.

Wangford is a very active village and provides some great amenities and services. It is important to remember that the Parish Council is responsible for representing the entire village, and I encourage all residents to make their views known to us.

Chairman
Adrian Smith
Wangford With Henham Parish Council