

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Firstly, I have to mention the passing of Jim Flux and to recognise his work for this community.

I would also like to thank all those whose efforts have helped, improved and supported both the Parish and the lives of Parishioners.

Especially I'd like to mention the volunteers who have turned out for a wide variety of causes including the Neighbourhood Plan team, the Windmill redevelopment working group members, the Speedwatch Volunteers, the Spring Clean crews, those who help maintain the green spaces, playing fields, sports facilities, allotments and monitor the footpaths, the Friends of Castle Grounds, the Snow Wardens and the countless others that have given their time and talents so freely.

I'd also like to thank Lorraine, Richard and Susan and all those who have been councillors over the last year, parish district and county, for their time and support.

In terms of parish projects, the successes over the last year include the Windmill Centre refurbishment, the installation of the fitness trail and obtaining various grants for LED lighting in the Windmill main hall and the imminent installation of four defibrillators across the parish.

The parish spring clean has demonstrated what a good job the Steward does in keeping the villages clean – well done Richard!

Plenty of effort has gone into the footpaths around the parish. Additional bins are being installed to help with both litter and dog mess. Volunteers have cut back vegetation, replace missing signs and report defects to the parish council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Turning to Clifton, the re-opening of the Duke of Cumberland's Head is a huge boon for that community and locals have also put plenty of effort into trying to improve drainage in Clifton. Consultation is underway how to repair the damage done by storm Doris and improve facilities at Welford's Piece and the new speed sign does seem to have made a difference to the speed of cars entering the village.

In Hempton the efforts of the Friends of Hempton Church should be recognised as the effort put into improvements at the Old School Room will benefit all. An increase to the grass cutting schedule has been agreed with Oxfordshire County Council for two cuts per year in the Lane. The Hempton Allotments continue to be a great success and our thanks to Derek and the others who help.

Other Deddington projects include a review of the Wimborn Close play area, one piece has been ordered and a grant becomes available later in the year which we will apply for. The Satin Lane allotments are looking good and will be open to the public later in the year. Many thanks to Lynda and the Allotment Society for the good work they do.

The Castle Grounds are looking especially good and the clearing work is making a real difference with new paths being opened, wild flowers planted and the return of swathes of bluebells thanks to ivy clearance. Well done to the Friends of Castle Grounds.

The Thames Water Angelinos trunk main is progressing, a little behind schedule, but the chance of improved water pressure for Hempton will be a welcome benefit once work is complete.

The gas main work caused traffic and parking problems for a number of weeks and the David Wilson Homes development has brought its own noise, mud and dust issues. When complete, I hope we will welcome our new neighbours into the community and the Parish Council is determined to ensure that the developer delivers all of the promised benefits. The planning group have been especially busy both with the new development and its associated infrastructure as well as all the applications we have been consulted on.

In closing, it has been a good year tinged with sadness and there is much work in progress to improve and expand public facilities across the parish.

Thank you all.

David Rogers
Chairman - Deddington Parish Council

F&GP notes for Parish Meeting.

May 2017

Though F&GP's main concern is with the financial accounts and budget control, the working group considers every development in the parish and assesses its financial implications. As many of these are covered in other working group's reports they will not all be covered here.

Accounts for the year to 31st March have just been signed off by the internal auditor. They still need to be agreed by BDO the external auditor appointed by the government.

The accounts show a shortfall of £5,614, but this after £16,175 spent on Windmill Centre renovation. (The Windmill Centre is run by the Windmill committee but the building is owned by the PC, and the Windmill committee is responsible only for routine maintenance). The renovation was paid out of revenue reserves we have built up against this very contingency, and therefore there was an operating surplus of just over £10,000 .

The total spent on the Windmill last year and the previous year came to £35,379.

Most departments showed very similar results to last year and to the budget. £1,300 was spent extending the watering system at Satin Lane, but this was offset by £867 collected by the Satin Lane Allotments Committee. The precept at £37,055 was £3,670 higher than the previous year, but showed only as a 2.4% increase in the statement to council tax payers, as Cherwell DC used a higher tax base taking in some of the houses being built at Deddington Grange.

Interest on bonds at £4,459 was £734 lower than the previous year due to extremely low rates being paid at the moment, and indeed difficulty in finding sufficient places to put our money and still remain within the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit of £85,000 for any one bond.

General spending on Environment was below budget in the year. Expenditure here tends to reflect the incidence of issues which need to be addressed.

During the year we received a grant of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund which was spent on the fitness trail at the Windmill and both entries taken through the Capital account.

The Balance Sheet shows £374,000 invested in bonds and an unusually high figure of £163,000 in the Barclays current account. A bond has been bought for £85,000 since the year end.

The Balance Sheet shows a capital fund of £481,075. This is money which came to the parish many years ago, and is ring fenced for spending on capital items. It cannot be used for routine expenditure, but the interest on the money invested (very much more in the past than today) is used to provide services in the parish.

We have a policy to maintain at least £25,000 if not more in the Current Account and the balance at the end last year was £41,500.

Two personal items.

Jim Flux was a member of the F&GP working group the whole time I have been involved with it. The fact that acted as treasurer for the Windmill Committee made his presence even more valuable, and we will miss his contribution.

Our thanks also to John Suckling who has stood down as honorary internal auditor after many years. Other arrangements have had to be made.

BBW 7.5.17

Highways and Transport. Annual Parish Meeting 10.5.17

Members = M Cox; J Higham; H Oldfield, D Rogers.

The group has met **every month** over the past year and meet on a Sunday prior to the meeting on the following Wednesday – all member have expressed a desire to remain on the H&TWG however one member is willing to swap leaving 3 members which is sufficient to continue the work of this group.

As lead I want to say and highlight = Especial thanks to Helen who is a prolific worker in all areas of Parish council Work particularly transport and of course **David**.

Transport – Helen to do?

I have documented some thoughts.

Commet bus – leaflets sent to all homes via DN – than them for their co-operation.

Changes in bus schedule. **The future** use of S106 money and hopes for ½ hrly service to Oxford.

Re routing buses when events are held.

Highways – continued support from OCC / CDC Arash and Bryn – many thanks for their help and support. Many site visits and face to face meetings with Parishioners have been made throughout the Parish over the last year.

Ongoing issues with Parking but as recently stated little we can do about this other than send on complaints to appropriate bodies. Fix my street a good site for parishioners to use.

Speed monitoring/ speed watch – TVP liaison has come to a standstill at this time – equipment failure and new equipment had to be approved and purchased. Re-started.

Monitoring of VAS instillation in Clifton confirms that vehicles are slowing down on entering the village .

Traffic lights a joint meeting took place regarding the timing of the phasing and future timings when the new school field site has been built and occupied. In evitable hold ups occur when more than 3

vehicles are waiting to turn right from Banbury into Hempton rd. This will continue to be monitored. This area continues to be a high accident injury site.

Windmill and Windmill Close car park – after years of negotiation and meetings finally responsibility and accountability of these areas has been accepted by CDC and the surfaces have been replaced. Further damage has been averted by negotiation with the bin Lorries.

Schoolfield Site. The working group has been active in making suggestions and following up (David!) in the ongoing traffic and highway issues such as a pedestrian pathway.

Pot holes – some dissatisfaction but the best that can be achieved at this time with cash strapped OCC.

OALC – member of executive committee – all relevant information filtered and sent to the appropriate group.

Deddington Parish Council Transport Report, 2016-2017

Last summer Oxfordshire County Council stopped subsidising county bus services as part of their overall package of cuts. For Deddington parish this meant the loss of the 90, which ran one day a week to Upper Heyford via Hempton and Deddington; the 81 which ran on three days a week to Bicester via Clifton and Deddington, and a little add-on to the S4 service which ran between Deddington and the Bartons.

The Dial-a-Ride service was also cancelled.

At the same time, all administrative services to the regular Parish Transport Representative meetings were ended. The parish preventatives carry on, providing their own minute-takers etc.

A partial replacement service has been introduced - the Comet service. Some of OCC's fleet of mini-buses used for transporting school children are available for hire during their down-time between around 9.30 am and 2.30pm. Some parishes are using it, say for a weekly shopping trip for a group of villagers. It's not clear yet how successful the service is, or whether it will be expanded to cover evenings and school holidays.

Leaflets concerning the Comet service were distributed to every house in Deddington parish - thanks to those who helped with the distribution: Cllrs Don Anderson and Jonathan Watts.

Deddington parish council has considered running a community bus of its own but has rejected the idea because of the difficulty in finding drivers and the likely poor take-up since we do have the Stagecoach-run S4 Oxford to Banbury service.

This service has been improved to half-hourly between Deddington and Banbury, and there is a possibility - if the S106 contribution of some £85,000 is forthcoming from the David Wilson Homes School Ground development as promised - that Stagecoach will make the Deddington to Oxford stretch of the S4 route half-hourly as well, at least on a trial basis.

On farmers' market days and the three-day spell when there is a fair in the Market Place, the S4 stops in the High Street rather than divert into the Market Place. Cllr James Reeve plans to publicise this when the fair is coming to town.

Trains: the Marylebone / Bicester / Oxford Parkway service has now been extended to Oxford City station.

Neighbourhood Planning Report

This year has seen the culmination of the policy writing element of the Neighbourhood Planning activity as the feedback from the community was reflected in the 'Emerging Policies' that were shown to the community at the last drop in event. These changes had to be carefully couched in a way that maintained consistency with the existing Cherwell District Council (CDC) Local Plan. This plan was due to be revised and published some months so we paused so our plan so it could be modified to take into account any subtle changes, but the publication has been repeatedly delayed so we decided to carry on regardless. The group has had three meetings with CDC since then giving them first sight of the emerging plan and it has been well received and we expect that few changes will be requested by CDC when formal submission starts later this year

During the last 12 months however the Steering Group became aware of a number of issues affecting planning matters that have gained a national profile that many of the Steering Committee thought should be reflected in our plan. These matters were the failure to require developers to make the development infrastructure (roads and play areas for example) available for adoption and maintenance by the local authority. If the roads are not of a statutory standard OCC will not adopt and not maintain them and CDC have a policy of NOT sending refuse collection vehicles down those roads meaning residents will have to wheel their bins out to the adopted highway. This could look interesting!!!. Also some neighbouring developments have play equipment not adopted by the local authority so maintenance is paid for by the residents and this has led some (not all) residents expressing concern (or worse) that non-resident children should not play there, thus creating an 'apartheid' where school friends cannot play together unless they all live there.

Secondly the practice of developers not granting freehold title to the home owners but granting leasehold title only. Many of this will recognise this concept if we have owned a flat as this is standard practice and paying ground rent is an obligation. If it was not the case who owns the land the flats are built on and who has responsibility for the maintenance of the roof? Leasehold is an established way of resolving this and sharing maintenance responsibilities and having a body responsible for the management of the building, who charge a management fee.

For houses however this is not commonly the case and the hazard the team were keen to avoid is the ownership of the land and thus the lease being sold on to a financial institution who see the ground rent as an ever appreciating asset. They may also charge for permission in changes to the use of that land should an extension be planned or other improvements and we see this as a blight on ownership that could penalise people not fully informed or advised during purchase. Remember these people will be our neighbours.

CDC thought these were reasonable concerns so supported us in seeking the essential evidence so we can include countermeasures in the plan. Therefore, so to help safeguard these folk about to join our corner of loveliness we asked you in the 'Two More Questions' survey recently what you thought. I'm delighted to say that 32% of you responded that was seen as a good effort – so thanks and the evidence you provided is currently being analysed so the controls can properly be incorporated. Next steps are hopefully... June - approval by DPC, July submit to CDC for initial comments, August - receive and respond to CDC comments, November formal public consultation (that's with you lot...) February we respond to this feedback and make any changes required. March

we submit to the External examiner – this has taken 9 months before, then make the changed the examiner wants to see, formal PC sign off the a ballot at the end of 2018. I know this seems like a long time but it's the game we have to play, so very many thanks for your assistance.