

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2018/19

I am pleased to present this report to you at the end of my time as a Councillor and Chairman. I was elected on to the Parish Council 12 years ago and I have felt privileged to be part of this Council but have decided that it is now the time to stand down. I know that the new Councillors will continue to work to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents and I wish them well for the coming four years.

I would like to thank all those who have served on the Council during the last four-years and thank them for their commitment and hard work in trying to achieve the best that they could for the Parish.

Sadly, Mrs Jennie Forbes had to stand down in January this year for personal reasons and we thank her most sincerely for her work as Vice Chair, a role which she undertook in a supportive and professional manner.

Over the last year we have continued to meet with the Local Highway Authority and although there are some further works required, we are pleased that the reconstruction and resurfacing works have been completed.

Building work continues at Clock Field and homes are now being sold. There has been disruption, probably a little more than expected due to parking issues but then it has been a very difficult site to develop so some problems were to be expected. The highway works planned for the development did cause disruptions and problems for some but the end result is to a high standard. We were delighted that WSCC refused permission for the work to be done over three months and insisted that it must be completed in the six weeks of the school summer holiday period.

The Neighbourhood Plan is being used by the Council and MSDC in relation to all planning applications. Discussions are taking place with Paddockhurst Estate with regard to the development of Old Vicarage Field and Old Estate Yard as detailed in the Neighbourhood Plan. This development will provide homes and a car park to serve the village. Hopefully a planning application can be submitted to MSDC this year with work commencing in 2020.

We continue to discuss our Village Enhancement Scheme with West Sussex Highways and some progress is being made. The Council is now pursuing the final works required in order to be able to implement the 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village. This means the provision of a mini-roundabout at the junction of Church Road and Paddockhurst Road with some new footway and crossing points for pedestrians. There will also be a small build-out on East Street by the recreation ground giving a speed reducing feature of each of the four roads. Bringing as much as possible of the Village Enhancement Scheme to fruition remains a very high priority for the Council.

During the past year we have continued to maintain Withypitts Pond with the help of Councillors and residents to whom we are extremely grateful. Further work is to be carried out, at no cost to the Council, to clear the reeds. Work to eradicate Japanese knotweed around the pond has also been arranged.

A "Village Litter Picking" day has now been established as an annual event and we hope that residents will assist by filling a black sack or two of litter from the area around them. Details will be published in the Parish News at the appropriate time.

We were delighted to present the Civic Award to Reverend Canon David Tickner in recognition of his hard work and the help and support he gives to the Village. We also nominated Mr Martyn Mason for the Mid Sussex Community Service Award.

Our thanks go to WSCC Public Rights of Way Residents' Services for the excellent work carried out on the footpath between Turners Hill and Crawley Down. The surface is now flat and even and the walk between the villages is a lot quicker.

Additional grass cutting continues to be undertaken on the verge on North Street which is used as a 'footpath' and also the verge on East Street. In addition, the hedge on East Street is being cut annually to keep the footpath clear. This work is funded by the Parish in addition to any grass cutting carried out by WSCC.

Work is still being carried out to ensure we comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations including a new fully compliant website which we hope will be operational very soon.

The Council remains pro-active in its dealings with both Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council attending numerous meetings and conferences and commenting on consultation documents from them and from Government. When doing so, our main priority is always to put forward the needs of Turners Hill.

Our successful Cluster Meetings continue to be held on a regular basis. These meetings allow us to share information and discuss current issues with our neighbouring Councils of East Grinstead, Worth, West Hoathly, Ardingly, Ashurst Wood and Balcombe. A Speed Indicator Device has been purchased by those Councils involved with the Cluster Group and it will be seen around the villages during the year. We hope that it reminds motorists throughout the area to keep to the speed limit!

We continue to deal with all the normal issues such as:

- Planning applications – of which there have been several of importance to residents!
- Donations to St. Leonard's Church for the upkeep of the Church Yard; the Parish News which allows us to share information with residents as well as grants for village organisations.
- The provision of a Mobile Refuse Freighter and Garden Waste Freighter four times a year at The Ark and Turners Hill Park which we know is much appreciated and well used.
- Management, maintenance and letting of The Ark.
- Managing the letting of the court and football pitch on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council

We would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Our Clerk and RFO who provide an excellent service to the Council and residents.

- Mr Cameron Bellisio and Mr Hugh Bellisio for their time as Stewards and we would like to thank our current Stewards Mr Michael Keeler and Mr Martyn Mason.
- Mrs Ann Bolt for all her hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Enhancement Scheme and for supporting the Clerk and RFO.
- Mr Bruce Forbes for his support as our District Councillor.
- Worth Horticultural Society for judging the Best Kept Allotment competition.
- Mr Tony Cocklin and Mrs Thelma Mason for co-ordinating Speed Watch and Mr Jonathan Pratt for dealing with the Speed Safety signs and Speed Indicator Device around the Village.
- Mrs Jennie Forbes for organising and collating the Museum documents and displays.
- Mr Cox for supplying skips for Bike Ride day.
- The Paddockhurst Estate for supplying the Village Christmas tree annually.
- Turners Hill Parish News for allowing us to use the magazine to keep you informed throughout the year.
- Mr Jarvis for his assistance in moving grit around the village in order to maintain a full supply for residents during bad weather.
- Those residents who regularly attend Parish Council meetings. We are very grateful for their interest, support and encouragement and would love to see more residents coming for part or all of the meeting.