

CHAIRMANS REPORT

My first year

With little experience and a fair bit of help I have completed a year as Chair.

There have been ups and downs though out the year and I have had to learn quickly the do's and dont's of running meetings, understanding planning, budgets and Assets.

We started my year as Chair interviewing and then employing our new Clerk, Lorna Coldwell, Lorna has settled into her new role well and I would like to thank her for her help and support.

There have been, around 16 planning applications, notably a change of use at Northend Workshops to develop a 3 bedroom property of which the PC had no objection too, a large extension at Idlecombe Farm, the PC had also had no objection too. With regard to the Application to develop craft workshops at Turville, there were quite a few villagers objecting to this application. The PC had no objections to this but we did submit conditions to be considered, which unfortunately were not considered and the application was permitted with no conditions, The PC has written to WDC asking why our conditions were not adhered too and to date we have heard nothing.

lit is fairly apparent that as a Parish Council we have very little weight with Wycombe District Council and I feel it is creating a certain amount of apathy, It is disappointing when the PC tries to make points to WDC and on the whole it seems our opinion has little influence on the outcome. We do need to be more proactive and be able to justify our thoughts to get Wycombe to listen more to our opinions, input with our comments would help our cause and when a new and contentious application comes in we should be ready to argue our case for or against so that we can support local opinion.

We need councillors to have commitment, I run my own business and a farm and have a large family, but I do find time to attend meetings respond to emails and consider planning applications, they do not take up a huge amount of my time and i feel that I have been voted on to the Parish Council by our parishioners and it is a privileged position. As Our council has only 5 councillors it is important that we ALL attend meetings and comment, If any Councillor feels that they can not fulfil the tasks required by the Parish Council, e.g. attend meetings and comment on planning applications I do ask if they would step down so that we could co opt someone that is prepared to be more pro active.

It looks like the oxfordshire part of Northend is most likely to be the first residents to receive Super fast Broadband in our Parish, yet again Turville has been bypassed. It definitely seems that those that shout the loudest get the prize. David has worked really hard to get meetings organised He had a meeting set up with Jean Teasdale BCC and Navin Sankersingh (Broadband programme Manager) on the 21st April, this was cancelled by Navin Sankersingh it seems that they are still assessing the "proposals". Jacqueline Ford (link officer for Connected Counties broadband) has promised to be in contact again in the next few weeks to rearrange this meeting. David is being updated by Rick Scammel from Northend who has sent streams of emails to everyone concerned. David has attended any meetings that come up and has really put himself out, this is what it needs and I would like to thank him for keeping us up to date with what is going on and hopefully pushing the situation forward.

The PC has decided to donate a portion of cil money to the Norhend pond, it would be great to see the pond in its former glory, much larger than it is now. Thank you to Northend residents who are getting involved and are prepared to get muddy.

There is a huge difference at Turville Heath, The Himalayan Balsam has certainly disappeared in a lot of areas and the whole situation looks more manageable. Robin Harman has used manpower, sheep and machines to clear the problem and is prepared to continue the battle with the plant with no extra cost from the PC.

There have been a couple of meetings at the Lime Avenue and much discussion about the way forward as to whether to replant with small leaf lime, which is the original bushier tree on the Avenue, a nursery is being planned for these trees at the walled garden At Turville Park.

I would like to thank the all the Councillors for being patient with me at meetings, and for their support through out the year.

And of course the public for attending meetings and taking a continuing interest in the Parish.

Alice Nuttgens

10/05/2017