

## Chairman's Report - Annual Parish Assembly

10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### **Overall**

Inevitably the same issues of the volume and speed of traffic, parking, road surfaces, dog mess and litter on Berry Meadow have remained at the forefront of Council business as well as The Neighbourhood Plan of which you will hear more about this evening. However of perhaps more significance, and heralding a change for the future, is the increasingly obvious expectation for councils to fund projects themselves rather than receive county or city support. Consequently throughout the country, parish council precepts are likely to rise considerably to ensure things are done, and Twyford is no exception.

Last year it was agreed to increase the precept by 25%, £15000, to assist the repairing of the parish hall. The precept was raised a similar amount this year to enable the council to begin a sinking fund to enable it to carry out repairs and improvements at Hunter Park. Out of an annual income of nearly £90 000, of which approximately 75% is committed to the clerk's salary and necessary maintenance contracts such as the upkeep of Hunter Park, there is very little disposable income available for additions and enhancements and grants are less easy to find. So Twyford, like other councils, may find the expectation of raising funds itself to be the norm in future years and consequently residents are likely to feel the effect.

### **Parish Council**

We welcomed a new clerk, Tony Bronk, in May last year and are sad to record that he will be leaving at the end of the month. In the year that he has been parish clerk, he has made a considerable impact through his meticulous and thorough approach, much to the appreciation of the Council and, also I am sure, the public. Perhaps, in time, his link with the Council may be renewed in another capacity.

I am pleased to announce that Jo Nicolson will replace Tony. She lives in Colden Common and is well known to the Council and some villagers as she is currently the Neighbourhood Plan's administrator. So she has a good working knowledge of the village and we are delighted she will join us.

Sonia Watson has decided after a decade or more on the council that it is time to retire. She will be leaving the Council in September after kindly agreeing to assist with the new clerk's induction. She has expertly managed the Council's finances and her initiative, drive and wisdom undertaking Council work, particularly during the flooding, will be sorely missed. However she will continue her good work with the parish hall committee and no doubt contact will be maintained.

The Council is always seeking new members, in particular those with children of school age to enable it to keep in touch with the young. So the addition of Andrew Holland and Stephanie West, newcomers to the village, who joined the Council last year, was particularly pleasing. I put out a plea to you all to encourage others to come forward, Council business might be frustrating at times but never boring.

### **Traffic - Colden Common and Eastleigh Development Plans**

Last year a brief talk was given on the plans under the Eastleigh Development Scheme for 11000 houses to be built south of Twyford and there will be an update this evening. There is an expectation of 250 houses to be built in Colden Common. Hopefully you will have seen or heard of the ADD Campaign opposing the location of the houses near Fair Oak with an inadequate route to the M3 under the Allbrook rail bridge. The development in Colden Common will go ahead and if the Eastleigh plans are approved, the impact on traffic passing through Twyford will be considerable. More about it later.

A recent three week traffic survey undertaken near the Hockley Cottages, in the 40 mph zone, measuring the number and speed of vehicles heading both to and from Winchester on the B3335 produced an average of 13000 vehicles passing the point over a 24 hour day travelling at average speed of 42 mph. While there was evidence of vehicles moving at a higher speed of between of 45-50 mph in the quieter periods and some even faster, the overall average determined that it was insufficiently high to attract a camera car being deployed.

It is worth recording that the volume of traffic has grown from 10000 per day four years ago which illustrates clearly that speed is not the issue that Twyford faces, it is number and type of vehicles passing through the village on a daily basis.

### **Recreation**

Hunter Park, Berry Meadow and the Northfields play area have been well used this past year. Each has attracted residents for play, recreational activity and dog walking. Clearly they are areas appreciated by residents and outsiders. However complaints about dog mess and litter have been prevalent throughout the year. The few are destroying the pleasure for the many. The Parish Council has done all it physically can to reduce these incidents. The police have agreed to help where they can by patrolling the lock and the dog warden has visited the village on more than one occasion. The Council would greatly appreciate village support policing these areas where they can and asking people to dispose of their litter, dog or otherwise, in the nearby bins.

On a positive note, the village cricket team had a highly successful year. They earned promotion following an unbeaten season where they topped their league and not to be neglected there were many plaudits for the quality of the playing field and pitch prepared by Matt Riley.

### **Conclusion**

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank the clerk for all that he achieved during his year in office and the three councillors, Rob Humby, Richard Izard and Sue Cook whose work on our behalf this year is recognised and much appreciated.

W. Lawton  
Chairman