

Chairman's Report.

Good Evening All and Welcome.

As is usual, this has been a mixed year of failure and success.

I will start with the failures. Most to do with Highways. The poor state of the road at the A140 junction is being monitored! We are attempting to increase the distance of the 30mph speed limit along All Saints Rd to the A140, this could be helped by the addition of more houses being built in this area.

The pedestrian path down Flordon Rd is not fit for its purpose; we are trying but as Highways are happy with it, I suspect we won't get anywhere.

The other village problem we keep trying to help with is the parking outside the school and the speed of the traffic going past the school. I appreciate this is a problem for lots of schools but that doesn't help us!

The planning applications are still coming in, but far fewer than last year.

The good news.

Work has started on Lilley's Wood, thanks to a volunteer group headed by William Barnes. My thanks to him for taking this on and running with it. It is hoped there will be an open day for this in June.

The ditch that ran alongside the Village Hall has been piped, allowing for a flat surface. This makes access for cutting the hedge far easier. It is hoped to cover the area with grass seed. The path that runs alongside this 'ditch' into Blacksmith's Field was cracking badly. DAB has resurfaced this free of charge. We will see if the new surface is an improvement. It certainly provides an excellent, safe scooter run and learning-to-ride-a-bike track.

The bench on All Saints Green has been resited, hopefully it will now be free of bird droppings and useable. Unfortunately a branch of a tree came down on the Green. This resulted in the total loss of the tree but a replacement has been planted.

The front car park at the Village Hall will hopefully be resurfaced this year.

One big asset for the village is Blacksmith's Field. It is an excellent play area and once again, thanks to Mr Barnes for his planned cutting, a beautiful area for wildflowers. Hopefully we can keep the dog poo at bay! My thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their input and work over the year, particularly Paul Scully for his footpath work, Jan Palmer for Blacksmith's Field and Hugo Craggs for all the daffodils he planted. They made a beautiful display this Spring.

Last but not least my thanks to the Parish Clerk, Jennie Blackburn, for keeping us on the straight and narrow for another year and without her knowledge and expertise, life would be far more difficult.

Sue Haynes.

Chair, Creeting St Mary Parish Council