

## **Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council Chairman's Report for April 2016-2107**

To begin with the good news: Compton Scorpion Estate has been improving the public footpaths (new sign posts and kissing gates) over the last few months north of the village. This is partly in response to the meeting between the estate manager and the parish council to deal with where we can and cannot walk. There is a map on the bus stop notice board showing the public footpaths. We have installed an additional dog bin at the top of the village which is being well-used.

Our finances are in a good state (see the website for the annual accounts) although we have not increased our precept for several years now. There will be more demands on our finances over the next few years when we need to employ a new company to mow the green and the playing field. Stan has been doing a fantastic job for quite a few years and is retiring. We will also have to look at replacing the wooden structures in the play area over the next few years – a major fund-raising task for the village!

Not so positive has been the seemingly never-ending wait for the start to building the 5 housing association houses at the end of Harolds Orchard. It has taken nearly 4 years to get to the point where the public footpath has been moved a few yards to the south and Warwickshire Highways have adopted the road and pavements of Harolds Orchard. Miracles may yet happen...

The road-works planned for Portabello crossroads (to improve safety) may start soon, having been planned to start this March.

There have been several contentious planning matters this last year. Some of the problems could possibly have been avoided if the applicants had spoken to their neighbours to explain what they were planning to do and how. We do not always respond positively or negatively to every planning application if it seems non-contentious (e.g. a conifer being removed in a garden) but if you would like us to make a comment then please contact us. We make our comments, not with reference to our particular likes or dislikes, but looking at the effect on the parish as a whole – especially visually - and considering the conservation areas.

We want this village to be a great place to move to and, more important, to stay in. There are lots of activities happening in the village from the Toddler Group, to community chickens and bees, to classes like Tai Chi, dance and

pilates in the hall, a flourishing pub, May Day, Cream Teas, the Greenfingers (gardening) club, Bio-diversity group, the Silver Club, etc.

We try to keep people informed about the parish. Email is the easiest method for us and we do deliver some material to houses with no email but, practically, we can't put every notice through doors so keep an eye on the noticeboards and feel free to contact one of the parish council or Sue Finlay, the parish clerk, if you have an issue to discuss.

Finally, my thanks to the members of the parish council for their support and work and especially to the parish clerk, Sue Finlay. Chris Saint, who has been our county councillor for many years has retired from this post and we are very grateful for all the work he has done for us.

Izzi Hazelwood

Chair of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council

May 2017