

## **Chairman's Report 2012**

In my first year as Chairman, the year has flown by with many significant achievements during the year.

As always, the successful running of the Parish Council is dependent on our hard working and efficient Clerk together with those councillors who take on key areas of responsibility or provide positive input to meetings.

There have been many achievements during the year, including the allotments, which although underway as a project, during the year saw the Parish Council indirectly assist with considerable funding to help with the infrastructure and this is a resource that will provide the village with a valuable asset for many years.

The Parish Council website is now up and running and provides a great source of information on its activities and groups. Further work is required to keep the content updated and increase exposure to villages (I used the website to check the minutes for this report!).

During the year, two new Councillors joined the Parish Council. Garry at the start of the year and Kay at the end of the year and I am sure they will provide valuable input to the workings of the Council.

Although only a small point, I am pleased that we have upgraded the appearance of the peace garden, which as a prominent position in the village, had become tired.

Our affordable housing project has been progressed in the year, with the preferred site selected and a comprehensive and challenging consultation process undertaken. The project has now been agreed (except details of materials, etc, consideration) and we would hope to see construction commence towards the autumn. Further discussions will be required on the mix of housing and eligibility criteria.

Our replacement street lighting programme has continued during the year and it has been comprehensively overseen by Pamela who has provided great guidance to the Parish Council on technical, locational and funding issues. This programme will continue for a number of years until all the necessary lights have been replaced.

With the Old Dairy site now fully occupied, the Parish has enlarged considerably and it is satisfying to now have a Parish Councillor from this part of the Parish but we must be vigilant to ensure we represent their interests.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council has been prominent in supporting this event which will have a superb range of events for all ages and interests over three days and I hope you will all attend and assist with the various events.

It is always important to be forward looking and the Parish Council have various future and ongoing plans, at different stages of investigation, to include upgrades to the village green, extension of the car park, street light replacement, Hastoe affordable Housing, amongst others.

We will also see other changes altering the Parish in the future, including the dualling of the A11, redevelopment of Fiveways and changes to the working of our District Council.