

Chairman's Report 2014

In preparing my written report, I felt I should refer to last year's report and my opening paragraph last year was as follows. *"I always like to think that I am reasonably well organised and as a rule to ensure that I can attend Parish Council Meetings. By my absence this evening you will realise that my holiday plans failed to take into account the Annual Meeting and I do apologise for not being able to attend this evening"*.

As a committed Chairman, I like to think that my attendance at meetings is quite good, although clearly the annual meeting appears to be the exception!! I would therefore like to thank my Vice Chair Amin for taking the two annual meetings for the second year running.

There have been many notable achievements during the year, of which the Parish Council can be proud of their organisation and successful outcome.

The Hastoe Housing Scheme moved into the construction stage and the properties were completed towards the end of April with the first residents now moved in. (See circulated photos). The scheme has clearly been a significant achievement for the Parish council and our aim of delivering affordable housing to the village has been a resounding success. We must thank Hastoe for superbly project managing the scheme and the quality of the finished properties is a credit to all parties involved.

The continued programme of street light replacement has led to a selection of new lights in the village which has been handled smoothly by Councillor Boura.

I would like to thank the Clerk for all his efforts and also the various Councillors who have undertaken additional roles or duties.

There have been a number of other schemes which are either under way or nearing completion, including the levelling of the playing field (despite some issues), the drainage of the car park (due to be completed shortly) and the provision of a wear resistance entrance to the playing field (ongoing).

Although work commitments mean that I am unable to attend many official functions or meetings, I have attended the majority of the Parish Council Forum Meetings and found that they prove not only quite interesting but give an opportunity to appreciate the issues that other parish councils experience.

Later this year the duelling of the A11 will be completed and we are hopeful that it will reduce the traffic problems on busy summer weekends, on the Fiveways roundabout and the consequences on the local roads.

There are a number of ongoing planning matters that will require Parish Council input, including a new potential site next to the Old Dairy and the ongoing review by Forest Heath District Council on its long term planning strategy.

I am happy to stand for a fourth year as chairman when one of my objectives is to try and solve or improve the drainage on the footpath to Mildenhall over "the bridges" (see separate report).

Robert Lewis
Chairman
Monday 5th May 2014.