

4 Chairman's Report

Two long serving (or suffering) councillors left us this year. Jenny Parr (Conservation/highways) and Geoff Peel (Highways and Finance). We greatly appreciated all their hard work. Jenny did a lot of the leg work in preparing the proposals for some DYL's on High Ditch road.

I would like to welcome our two new Councillors, Wendy Irvin-Braben and Jennie Conroy. Both have impressive professional backgrounds and Jennie is returning to the council.

Significant new planning applications submitted the Ice Rink next to the park and ride. The PC has responded and the details are available in the May meeting minutes.

As far as the PC is aware the Marshall's Wing outline planning is still alive and moving slowly through the planning process. The key word here being slowly. If you are interested in more information there is another meeting of the Cambridge East Community Forum on the 1st June.

There has been no news from about the proposed Footbridge over the Cam by Ditton Meadows since the Consultation event back in February 2015, where we were informed of the appointment of a firm of Architects. We have been in contact with this firm requesting a further meeting to discuss traffic modelling in more detail but they were not in a position to meet up yet.

I am conscious that progress on some projects has been slow over the past year, the pavilion for example, and we need to see if we can streamline some of our more routine business to free up time at council meetings. Having been short of councillors for some time has not helped. Other bigger councils manage their bigger workloads by splitting up meetings into topics, for example Planning, Leisure, Finance. We have gone one step in this direction by splitting the Recreation ground and Parish council meetings but do not want to increase routine meetings further. As ever any proposed changes will be presented at council meetings.

No report would be complete without thanking all the volunteers who help the community throughout the year, including the gardeners who look after the war memorial, the village and cemetery tidy-ups and manning for the bumps car parking. And let's not forget Laurie and Mark for their legendary hospitality and the bacon butties at the tidy-ups.

10 Highways and Transport

As most of you will have most likely noticed the 40 mph speed limit over the old rail bridge along High Ditch was installed in January. We also took the opportunity to get the Fen Ditton village sign moved as it was restricting the view of drivers from as they pulled out from their drive. From casual observation it seems *most* drivers are sticking to the new limit.

A proposal for some DYL's on High Ditch road is still in the wings. So far we seem to have a consensus on some lines for the bend outside the new houses on the corner of High Ditch and Horningsea road. But we have not come to a conclusion on two short lengths further east, to allow traffic to pass when the north side of the road is blocked with parked cars.

11 Conservation Report

As usual we continue to have two village tidy-ups per year, one in the spring and the other in autumn. Again a bit thank you to Laurie for the refreshments and Mark for his efforts with the portable cafe.

Report on the condition of the trees in the Cemetery and around the Recreation ground has been prepared. The report has recommended a range of work including Crown Lifting, reduction and felling of dead or dying trees. There has been some discussion with neighbours to finalise the work. When it has been complete the PC will look into replacing some of the trees.

You can see the full report which is hidden in the document/reports section of the PC web site.

The Verges group is planning some maintenance work on trees along the Ditton Lane Bank in the near future.

Now we have a new conservation councillor we can continue looking into for a suitable location to re-plant the trees that did not survive along the Ditton Lane bank.

Remind everyone there is a village tidy-up this coming Saturday.