

## **Chairmans Report 2017.**

This year has once again involved all Councillors in various roles and time in attendance at meetings and I would like to thank them for their efforts. The following is a short reprise of the year's activity.

Yatesbury pond is now looking in very much better order and its management achieves a balance of conservation and tidiness thanks to the efforts of Paul Ricketts and Paul Weston.

The Parish Steward system has been reintroduced by Wiltshire Council and Bill Jennings has been active on our designated days. Any requirements for work to be reported to Barbara .

An Emergency Planning system has been introduced by Wiltshire Council and we have been working with Calne Town Council to update information and contacts. This will be ongoing and developed to cover the local area .

Rural roads continue to be high on the agenda. Potholes, drainage and overruns on the verges reported to the council are logged and the Highways department will endeavour to meet and identify the problems but have limited resources.

Following much discussion the 20 mph limit has been integrated within Cherhill, and we have worked with highways to minimise the amount of signage and road markings. Thanks to David Evans who has steered this project.

Speeding on the A4 and the avenue in Yatesbury have been highlighted and we are hoping to arrange a Metrocount to collate statistics that would justify a community Speed Watch group to be set up.

We are represented on the Calne Area Transport Group highways forum in Calne. Thanks to Simon who attends and reports back to us .

A4 Tourist route ongoing discussions and progress has led to the formation of the "Great West Way" Group which now covers a route from Bristol to London. A recent presentation by John Skinner confirmed that this has the backing of "Visit England", a substantial government funding source. Thanks to Sabine for her involvement in representing Cherhill.

Tommy Croker Playing Field. The Parish Council continues to support this well used facility. We are grateful to John Ashcroft for his stewardship and maintenance of the field and would encourage people to join the committee.

The Countryside Forum met earlier in the year. Richard Broadhead from Wiltshire Council attended and a very full discussion of the Wiltshire Council position on Byways identified a need for cooperation between Landowners and the limited funds that are available to his department. This has been quite successful and a number of access routes have been cut back using farm resources thanks to Mike Wilkins. A working party was also helped with hand clearance work in Yatesbury .

White Horse. In October it was decided to carry out a preliminary clean and grass cut and the volunteers from the access group carried out this activity. In April this year we then completed the biannual rechalking with 14 tonnes of fresh chalk. This work was coordinated along with local scout organisations and attracted helpers from far and wide. Good weather and a willing workforce completed the task efficiently on St. Georges Day.

We have continued raising our concern regarding the condition of the Monument and understand that this has now been added to the "At Risk " register by English Heritage which may attract a more urgent restoration project.

Councillors attended a meeting at the Yatesbury Hangers to raise points concerning their development and were able to meet the owner and planning officials. It is hoped that this project proceeds to enhance and preserve the RAF connection to Yatesbury.

Broadband at Yatesbury is being promoted by the village and Martin Purslow is involved with some of the discussions with providers.

Following notification of a successful bid for match funding from Calne Area Board for two defibrillators, it is proposed to site one in Yatesbury, possibly in the redundant phone box, and the second in Cherhill; the site to be confirmed.

We are sorry to report that Sabine Orton and Barry Seed have decided to retire due to other commitments and we thank them for their work on the Parish Council. Barry has been our contact with the School as well as our computer expert.

We are however pleased to welcome John Cavanagh to our team following the recent local Government election and we still have a vacancy for co-option in Cherhill Ward.

Finally I would like to confirm our thanks to Barbara for her work as Clerk to the council. Her contacts with Officers and staff at Calne Town and Wiltshire Council are invaluable. We are so pleased that both she and Harold are on the mend.

David Grafton .