

Chairmans Report 2024

When I come to write the Chairmans report it often feels a little like groundhog day and this year is no different. The work of the Council is often very tedious and extremely slow. It feels like one step forward and two steps back a lot of the time.

There has been no progress with the plan to purchase the land on Lower Green and very little progress with the Greenway Cycle route extension. We have however made some progress with the plan for the village green. Tenders are out for the tree planting and posts to prevent vehicle access. We haven't resolved the issue of what to do with the play surface but we are looking at it.

We have had a tree survey of the green and churchyard. There are some trees which require a little work but generally they are in good health. Work will be done to remove one from the corner of the churchyard and one or two other dead ash trees from the perimeter. This work is also out for tender.

We have agreed to increase the frequency of grass cuts on the green and churchyard. It looked quite scruffy in the early part of last year and we hope to improve that this season. Unfortunately, that doesn't apply to the verges through the village. Bucks Council are apparently taking part in no mow May. I imagine our first cut will be sometime in June. As we only get two cuts a year now, we can expect the village to look scruffy right through the season.

We were extremely disappointed to hear of the plans to close the school and I would like to thank my fellow councillor Jo Hooper for organising our discussion with our MP Greg Smith and with the time she spent investigating whether there were any avenues we could take to fight it. It seems very likely it will close.

We have a vacancy on the council now due to the resignation of Cllr Hilary Vitkus. I would like to thank her for her service. So, step up people. If you would like to be part of looking after the village submit your application in writing to our clerk.

Finally thank you to my fellow councillors for their input this year. We are a small village and because of that a lot of the small jobs fall to the councillors particularly Councillor Grahame Pusey who deserves special thanks for his handyman skills and bus shelter scrubbing skills! Thank you to all my fellow Councillors. It is often a thankless task, and we only get noticed when something goes wrong!

Thank you