

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2018

THIS REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Thank you for coming along this evening and supporting both Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Councils.

The Role of Chappel Parish Council:

Represent the views of residents
Liaise with both Essex County and Colchester Borough Councils
Receive Planning Applications and comment on them to CBC – 16 received, mostly extensions. Local Plan consultation very relevant this year.
Maintain the children's play area
Maintain the Allotments, Parish Field, the Sports Field
Maintain public areas through the work of our volunteer – litter pickers, bin emptiers
Arrange grass and hedge cutting by Contractors (JPB and Jonathan Doe)
Arrange maintenance of the track through Barron & Son in conjunction with MGT
Monitor and maintain the footpath network – strimming and cutting back (PROW)
Reinstatement of finger posts, new bridge at Oak Road beside Observatory Cottage
Maintain the Parish Council Website and Facebook page through Helen our Clerk
Make Grants to the Chappel Church, Village Hall and First Responder Group
Keep residents informed through articles in the Village Reporter

We were pleased to welcome Bruce Knights as a new Councillor in September last year. He has since been very active attending the North Essex Garden Communities Briefing, bringing back Undiscovered Chappel and Wakes Colne competition in the Village Reporter and heading the ongoing project for a new War Memorial.

Community Speed Watch – Patrick will give his report shortly. May I thank Patrick and his team of volunteers for their continued work and keeping us all updated at Parish Councils meeting and through the Village Reporter.

Broadband Service - may I publically thank Kern Herskind-Nightingale for all his work on this project. He has produced leaflets, posters; he has distributed information and spoken both at Parish Council meetings and to residents on their doorsteps; he has kept us informed through emails and articles. We keep our hopes up for fibre broadband on the Colchester side of the viaduct.

The Play Area - installation of the monkey bars and teen shelter was completed in July by Proludic and have proved very popular. Our latest project is having the wooden surround renewed. We would like to thank Wakes Colne Parish Council for their donation towards upkeep of the Play Equipment.

World War II Heritage Walking Trail from the Station around the village was finally completed and launched on 13th March. The information board has been erected by the bridge on the play area side of the River Colne and leaflets are available in The Shop and at the Station. There are also some here this evening – please help yourselves and spread the word.

Guest Speakers – we have welcomed representatives from Colchester Zone Wardens, Colchester District Neighbourhood Watch, Colchester Borough Council and Rural Community Council of Essex this last year.

Essex County Councillor Anne Brown has been a visitor and our Borough Councillor Peter Chillingworth attends our monthly meetings.

Training – Code of Conduct for councillors and EALC training has been undertaken.

Helen has attended Data Protection and Election procedures course. She also attends the Clerks Forum run by Colchester Borough Council.

Ongoing Projects - LED lighting – we are currently requesting how the electricity bill from CBC is calculated. It is agreed currently not to make further changes.

Data Projection – new rules come into force on 25th May. Helen and I have been working on Policies and these are to be discussed at our meeting next week.

WW1 Commemoration – Beacon lighting on MG

Local Highway Panel –application for vehicle activated signs on A1124 – update awaited

During this last year Nick and I attended the opening of the Thompson Education Centre at EARM – if you have not visited I really recommend you pop up.

As a Council we have dealt with parking problems around Rose Green and on A1124, flooding outside Bridgewick Cottages, Enforcement issues with regard to Planning matters, graffiti in the Pillbox under the viaduct, undertaking Annual Inspection of Council Assets, applications to Local Highway Panel for speed reduction in The Street and Swan Street.

Much work is undertaken on a daily/weekly basis so that information is available at our monthly meetings or residents questions and requests can be answered as quickly as possible. To Helen our clerk whose work throughout the year is invaluable for ensuring Council affairs are kept in order and that we operate efficiently and professionally. Congratulations and thanks to Helen for the Council receiving an excellent Internal Auditors report again this year.

To all those residents who work as volunteers – Cathy and Jim Beard (bridge cleaning, sign washing, emptying bins, litter picking and much more). To Penny, Jan and Moyna our litter picking ladies. To all who help with any job when asked. Our village would be very different without the many voluntary hours councillors and residents give.

I would like to convey my personal thanks to Peter, Nick, Tony, Amber, Patrick, Bruce your Chappel Parish Councillors for their commitment, dedication and support.

Susan Chamley

9th May 2018