

# **Chappel Parish Council. 14th June 2021**

## **Ward Councillor's Report**

### **1. General**

I look forward to meeting you all face-to-face albeit at a social distance in the play area! Wakes Colne PC met successfully in the Hall last week and it was good to meet in this way again. Discussion is less stilted, more inclusive. with less risk of technical problems halting proceedings!

This welcome move recognises the improvement in the pandemic situation and the success of the vaccination programme. Let us hope the further easing of restrictions will take place as planned later in the month and that the recent doubling of cases nationally will be contained.

### **2. Local Plan**

The Inspector completed his examination of Pt 2 of the Plan and will decide in the next month or so whether he finds it sound or if changes will have to be made.

### **3. Flooding**

Despite chasing, I have yet to hear from the Environment Agency as to whether they can advise on, and possibly pay for movable flood barriers to protect the shop/Post Office. I have therefore tried emailing an officer I have been told covers our local area. Hope for some response. I am hugely disappointed in the EA for their inability to follow up their initial acknowledgement.

### **4. Elections**

The local elections on 6th May saw Darius Laws elected to replace Christopher Arnold in the Rural North ward. He is a former Leader of the Conservative Group in Colchester. He

like Christopher will work mainly in the central parishes of the ward around Great Horkesley. I shall continue working in the western parishes as before.

I welcome Lewis Barber on his election as our County Councillor for the Constable Division to replace Anne Brown. He covers Rural North and several other parishes, such as West Bergholt, Eight Ash Green, Aldham and Marks Tey.

The election has also seen a change in the Borough Council administration in Colchester. Although there was little change in most wards, the 3 Highwoods Independent members decided to support the Conservative who, with 23 members, are by far the largest group, Lib Dems having 12 seats, Labour 11 and Greens 2. This is the first time for 13 years that a Conservative led administration will provide the new Leader, Paul Dundas, who was elected by 1 vote at the AGM held for the first time in Charter Hall last Wednesday where sufficient space allowed for social distancing. Once again it was good to meet together once again, albeit well spaced apart!

Paul has chosen his Cabinet of 6 members, which include Beverley Oxford recognising this is a coalition. Darius is the new portfolio holder for economy, business and heritage.

I hope to see you at your meeting on Monday when I will try to answer your questions.

**Peter Chillingworth**

**10th June 21**