

# Chairman's Annual Report 2018

Welcome everyone to this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

As last year we will be having a more informal discussion with the community groups available for you to catch up with and chat to during the refreshment break. After the break we will have an update on the Community-Led Plan followed by the Open Forum where you can ask questions of your councillors. If there are any that cannot be answered, we will take contact details and come back to you.

2017/18 has been another busy year with more projects being undertaken and the usual council business being transacted.

## FINANCE

The precept for 2018-9 has been set at £103,228 meaning that the average Band D property will have an increase of £2.70 or 3.79% compared to the equivalent charge for 2017/18. Longstanton Parish Council have taken into account the new residents of Northstowe. When the situation with their council has been confirmed, should there be a separate council, their Precept will have to be handed over – this has been taken into consideration and will be set aside.

Longstanton Parish Council has continued to support village groups throughout the year including part funding the hire for Rainbow Baby Group, Music Madness and Little Leprechauns. This has been extended to LDHS from April 2018. Funding has also been made available to SJ Judo Club and the Longstanton Village Market.

## HIGHWAYS & COUNTY COUNCIL

Longstanton Parish Council has worked closely with County Council and in particular County Councillor Hudson over the last year.

**Parking** continues to cause concerns for residents on the High Street generally but more regularly we are receiving concerns about parking outside the Co-op. As promised at the last meeting, Longstanton Parish Council has revisited the idea of double yellow lines outside the Co-Op. I am able to confirm that the order has been made and the application is at 'public consultation' stage.

The **airfield road** continues spark debate but it has been recently confirmed that a temporary closure will be in place from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 until December 2019. It is unlikely that this road will ever be opened again but there will be provision for walkers, cyclists and horses. Unfortunately, the new local road (running alongside the A14) between Longstanton and Oakington will not be in place until 2019.

**Change of speed limits and new village gateways** for Home Farm Road, School Lane, and Hattons Road were applied for back in 2016 and installed during 2017.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

I would like to put on record our thanks to District Cllr Riley for all the hard work he has done on behalf of the parish in his role as District Councillor as he steps down in May this year. Your help, advice and support has been appreciated.

As you may be aware, and I am sure District Cllr Riley will confirm in his report, there will be 2 councillors covering Longstanton, Northstowe and Oakington & Westwick. We look forward to working with the newly elected District Councillors.

## PLANNING/CONSULTATIONS

Planning applications for consideration by the parish have increased again this year. With the high number of planning applications received, the parish council now holds an extra planning meeting on the last Monday of the month if required. Please keep an eye on the website for up to date information.

The application to build 9 homes on Mills Lane has gone to the Planning Inspectorate following recommendation for refusal by Longstanton Parish Council and ultimately refusal from the planning authority, SCDC. We await the outcome with interest and perhaps a little trepidation.

## Northstowe

Northstowe is now in full swing. There are currently 84 dwellings occupied across 4 sites (Bloor, Linden Homes, Bovis Homes and Taylor Wimpey).

Earlier this year, Longstanton Parish Council suggested that SCDC delay their Community Governance Review for 12 months, meaning that Longstanton Parish Council would continue to look after the residents of Northstowe as the population grows 'organically'.

Longstanton Parish Council continues to be represented at the Northstowe Community Forum meetings which are held quarterly. The potential dewatering of the Kingfisher pond and other village ponds continues to be of concern to the parish council. We are supporting local residents in trying to find out if this is simply due to lack of rainfall or something more serious.

#### **OTHER WORK**

**Home Farm** phase 2 roads are still not adopted. You may be aware that this has been ongoing for some time. However, it is felt that this is now coming towards a conclusion with the additional bonus that the Central Open Space will be handed to the Parish Council in the process. This means that the parish council can look at providing the approved play area on this space and will maintain in line with the rest of the open spaces the council currently provides.

The Grass cutting and maintenance of public open spaces in the village was put out to tender last year and after much deliberation the contract was awarded to Brookfield Groundcare for a further 3 years.

We were visited in July 2017 by representatives from the village of Sassenay in France who feel they have a close connection with Longstanton. Within their village they have a memorial to the airmen who lost their lives when shot down on a bombing run to target the Breda factories in Milan. The Lancaster took off from Oakington Airfield on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1943. These Sassenay residents have extended an invitation to any Longstanton resident who wishes to visit them on 15<sup>th</sup> August when they hold a memorial service for these airmen.

We have supported a few residents who have managed to set up a **community village market** on the Village Green. The first two of which have been held earlier this year. It seems to be well attended and we hope it will continue to prove useful for residents.

Our clerk arranged the first **Longstanton Living Advent Calendar** in 2017. Again, this proved to be well received with 27 homes and businesses taking part, and it is hoped that more residents will get involved this year.

The **Christmas Light Switch On** was well attended again last year. It is hoped to include the village market in the celebrations this year and the parish council has agreed to install a permanent power supply meaning that generators will not be required, neither will the climbing of the streetlight to plug the lights in.

We are introducing a new event this summer, with an **Open-Air Cinema** with associated entertainment. Though details are still to be finalised, there will be the screening of 'The Greatest Showman' on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Tickets available from next week.

The **Youth Council** have had an interesting year with a team bonding trip to Swavesey Village College and a trip to Cambourne to look at their play areas to provide feedback to the designers for Phase 1 of Northstowe. They held their first Picnic in the Park last year with our MP Heidi Allen also attending who was very enthusiastic about their activities and invited them to the Houses of Parliament. The trip was held in November with visits to both the House of Commons and the House of Lords with a knowledgeable guide who extended their tour by approximately 30minutes. Their next picnic is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June on the Recreation Ground. They have, as requested by the parish council, set up a youth club which is held every Tuesday at the Village Institute. Numbers vary with attendees between 7 or 18 but it is still more than those who attended the bus.

Our clerk has passed (with merit) her first year working towards a Level 4, Higher Education Certificate in Community Governance. We wish her well for this year.

As in previous years, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Smith for all his hard work on the websites over the last 12 months.

***Cllr John Street, Chairman***