

**SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
2015/16**

This is my second year as Chair of Shimpling Parish Council and looking back at my report from last year there are some reoccurring themes.

The work that the parish Council doe can be seen in our minutes published on the website and in the village magazine, but notable events are as follows:

Inspired by Hartest's Neighbourhood Plan, we devised a questionnaire to gauge parishioners current feelings about matters in the village ranging from Community and Connectively to Shops and Facilities. Unfortunately we had very few replies, only 15 returns from 500 distributed, and so we have put any detailed Shimpling Neighbourhood Plan on the back burner until there is more enthusiasm from parishioners.

I cut the undergrowth back around the Coal House and at the time of writing I notice that this area needs a timely trim which I will do in the same fashion in the near future. The area underneath the chestnut trees near to the bottle banks which was taken over by brambles is now looking tidy with the grass seed taking well and now under management by Chris Cook along with other areas in the village that are mown regularly. With the help of John Shayer we have also planted some more trees around the Western and Southern edge of the play park which hopefully will give some shade in that area for generations to come. I would like to thank Babergh District Council for supplying the trees.

Various potholes have been pointed out and subsequently repaired by the Council with work done in the approach to Shimpling Street as well as Rectory Lane. I know that this is an ongoing problem so do feel free to point out your favourites to us when they arise.

The flooding in Slough Hill has almost been cured by digging of ditches and rodding of drains with a little bit of diversion into a drain.

The Parish Council donated £200 to Shimpling and Alpheton Parochial Church Council to help them with their new war memorial which was unveiled this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those on the PCC for all the hard work that they do keeping our church in such good heart.

Although there has been much debate in the Parish with regard to potential planning proposals in the village there was only one formal application which was my own in Gents Lane which I then withdrew.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our County Councillor Richard Kemp and District Councillor James Long who work tirelessly as Independant's for all of us in this village, the district and the county.

I would also like to thank your Parish Councillors, Sue Salmon, Jackie Saunders, Gerry Shrimpton and Ken Rush for all the free time they have given up to help me and your village. I would especially like to thank Trisch Jackson and Mike Tew who have recently stepped down from their roles as Councillors. They both were are real asset to the Council and we will have difficulty in replacing them which leads me onto recruitment. If there is any one who is interested in becoming a councillor please do respond to the recent adverts.

Special thanks go to our Parish Clerk, Jen O'Reilly Turner, who replaced Lucy Gregory who has worked tirelessly this year to ensure the governance of the parish Council is as it should be and

although we still have i's to dot and t's to cross, we are getting there and I would like to thank her for all the work she has put in.

That concludes my annual report.

Thank you.

John Pawsey
Chairman, Shimpling Parish Council