

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS APRIL 2020

I finish my second year as Chair of the Parish Council in the extreme unprecedented conditions resulting from restrictions placed on the community by the Covid-19 outbreak. This has prevented the PC from meeting since February and has led to the cancelling of our Annual Parish Meeting and postponement of the Parish Council Elections which were to be held on the 7th May.

During in the year, I have been supported by my fellow Councillors who have shown real commitment to their roles. I thank them for the additional time spent representing the Parish Council at meetings, training courses and working on behalf of the Community. We have maintained a full stable Council this year without any resignations.

My thanks also go to our Parish Clerk, Jane, who has ensured that the Council has carried out the tasks appropriately and has given guidance and support to all the Councillors, especially me, when required.

Throughout the year our meetings have been regularly attended by County Councillor Jim Bland and by District Councillor Kevin Holmes and I thank them both for their continued help, advice and support.

Despite our submission with suggested changes the Community Governance Review has not brought any adjustments to the Parish boundaries.

The LDNPA Local Plan which has now been submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination and awaits approval and adoption. Meanwhile, SLDC have commenced the review of the update of the SLDC Local Plan although this will likely be delayed due to the current crisis. Helsington Parish stands within both Authorities.

The Councillors have remained very active in working towards delivering the Community Led Action Plan. The Housing Working Party are continuing to consult with other agencies to produce a Housing Needs Survey whilst progress has been made on Road Safety and Sustainable Environment Issues.

I would also like to mention the hard work that has gone into developing the Community Orchard for the benefit of all of the Parish, my thanks goes to all the volunteers and I wish them a bumper harvest.

With the support of SLDC & District Councillor Kevin Holmes' Grant Funding we were able to provide new tree planting on Dobdale Hill.

Our Parish Council notice board was moved to the Village Hall and I hope that this has improved the accessibility and visibility of information.

Finally, there are various on-going matters that are worthy of mention:-

- Road Safety to the junction outside the Wheatsheaf is still a concern and a subject of consultation with Authorities in an attempt to achieve some improvement.
- Potholes and poor road resurfacing is a perennial problem where we are competing for resources that are in short supply
- Reports of Anti-Social behaviour are being dealt by the Police and should be reported when witnessed.

On behalf of all the Parish Councillors, we wish you a safe and secure return to Normality soon.