

Stock Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2017-2018

Council Membership

The past year has seen a full programme of meetings, with a council meeting each month supplemented by a separate meeting to focus on planning applications. There are currently eight Parish Councillors Nick Fairman (Chairman), John Millernas (vice Chairman), Paul Fenwick, Adrian Rilstone, Sally Johnson, Sophie Porter, Paulette McAllister and Steve Jones.

This year Cllr Ian Raindle resigned due to work commitments and I would like to thank Ian for his time and hard work on the Council.

The commitment and diligence of all councillors is something for which parishioners can be proud. We work on a voluntary basis and devote a considerable amount of our spare time dealing with village matters.

The Village Environment

The Parish Council spends a considerable amount of time dealing with the upkeep of the village and maintaining and improving its appearance continues to be an important priority. Works undertaken by the Parish Council include maintenance of a number of greenswards, the car park at All Saints Church, the playground area at the Common as well as street furniture and bins.

Over the next few months the Parish Council will be undertaking improvement works to the footway between The Square and the Paddocks that has become badly potted.

Chelmsford Council has recently asked the Parish Council to take control of Hankins Wood in Swan lane and we are in the process of preparing a management plan, which will include improved public access.

Roads and Traffic

In February the Parish Council commissioned a traffic survey to review the speed of traffic passing through the village. The survey found that the total combined weekly (northbound and southbound) recorded volume was 86,196 vehicles. The average daily speed was 30.2mph.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council continues to monitor and make comments on planning applications. The number of applications before the Parish Council was again in excess of 100 during the past year.

Each application is carefully scrutinised by the Parish Council and consultation responses sent to Chelmsford City Council.

We have also reported a number suspected unauthorised development to Chelmsford City Council's enforcement officers.

Chelmsford City Council is currently working on a new Local Plan, which will shape future growth and development in Chelmsford until 2036. The new Local Plan will make provision for 14,000 homes by 2036. The City Council has not directed any of this housing growth towards Stock.

We are considering putting in place a Neighbourhood Plan to help guide new development in Stock. This plan would replace the village design statement, which Chelmsford City Council informs us now carries very little weight when they are determining planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan would take a number of years to produce and require volunteers from the village to sit on a special committee. If you are interested in being part of this NP group please contact the Clerk.

Police Matters and crime

I am pleased to confirm that the Neighbourhood watch scheme, restarted by Stock Parish Councillors is going from strength to strength. Taking advantage of the smart phone App Whatsapp, parishoners who are part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme can be informed quickly about suspicious activity around the village.

Other Matters

We will be hosting a Play in the Park event on Friday the 10th August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Play in the park is a free two hour multi-activity session for children aged 6-11 and includes sports, arts, crafts, games and free-play.

Many thanks to the Parish Councillors for their commitment throughout the year. Thanks to the Clerk who continues to provide support and information that is much appreciated. Equally Councillor Ian Grundy continues to work hard on behalf of the Parish in his duties and his support to the Parish Council is valued.

Nick Fairman
Chairman, Stock Parish Council
May 2018