

## **Walton Parish Council - Chairman's Report: May 2017**

I am pleased to report that in my first full year as Chairman the Parish Council has established a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere for delivering schemes which I hope has started to percolate to all residents in the village.

### New Councillors

Two new councillors have been co-opted onto the council over the last 12 months, Brodie Clark and Stephen Sharp who have made valued contributions to various projects. The council has remained at full membership throughout the year.

### Parish Clerk

I am also delighted to confirm the permanent appointment of Helena Buck who is an excellent addition. Her input has been key to continuing to review and manage the robust systems we have in place, ensuring the probity and efficiency of Walton Parish Council.

### Defibrillator Project

The first of the projects delivered in the 2016/17 period was the installation of the defibrillator at the Fox and Hounds. My thanks go to Camilla Smith and Stephen Sharp for delivering and organising the funding of this essential addition to the village.

### The Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council established an independent working party to re-institute the draft plan, so diligently created by my predecessor Randall Brown. Thanks to Chris Johnson, Melvyn Wood, Richard Prudhoe, Brodie Clark, Stephen Sharp and Teresa Walker. Due to their efforts we now have a new, revised, exciting plan. The relationship established with Leeds City Council has been superb and will serve us well into the future. Grants have also been utilised to ensure that the costs have been covered and our limited precept used to maximum effect.

### Cycle Path

After 15 years the cycle path has been delivered which is a superb and already well used asset for the village. My thanks go to Edward and the Simpson family for allowing us to lease the land and to Stephen Sharp and others for their diligence in delivering the project, it really was a full team effort. The project was only possible due to grant awards, a contribution from HSBC and a loan from PSBR. Again, thanks to David Taylor, Mark Wake and all involved in arranging the financial aspects of the scheme.

### New Website

A full review of the website has been undertaken and we look forward to launching a new, comprehensive, user-friendly site in the next few months. Thanks go to Mark Wake for his efforts in this regard.

### Police Matters

I am hugely encouraged that crime levels in the village remain extremely low. However, I would encourage all residents to continue to be vigilant at all times.

### The Year Ahead

As Chairman I am determined to establish even more efficient systems to ensure that we can continue to deliver positive projects within the village over the next 12 months and beyond. Focus this year will be on increased communication and creating a more approachable council that can act efficiently on behalf of its residents.

Walton is blessed with a superb Village Hall facility, Church, Cricket Club and public house and I would hope that we can all continue to use and value these assets. Only by working together and using these facilities can we ensure they thrive in the modern age. Thanks must also go to those villagers who tirelessly support these assets and I am sure they would all accept additional support if parishioners were mindful to assist.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a working document outlining aspirations in relation to footpaths, traffic mitigation and public transport, all of which will be addressed in the coming year.

Finally, it is with regret that I recently received the resignation of Camilla Smith after 7 years of great service. Her input will be greatly missed. However, on a more positive note, many thanks to all who have been involved in creating a year of great positive progress for our village.

David Aspland  
Chairman