

Ferring Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2023

As we come to the end of another Council year, I would firstly like to thank my fellow Councillors for their continued commitment and dedication in working to deliver the best outcomes for the village and to be the representatives of our vibrant community. Without the huge efforts put in by individual Councillors the day-to-day business simply could not be carried out.

In addition, the Clerk and Administrative Assistant have maintained that key link between the Council and the Community. They are the public face of the council and provide a huge range of support and guidance/help to residents

The Parish Council and its Committees have managed to deliver on a number of fronts and also develop plans for potential future enhancements and improvements to the village.

The Parish Council continue to engage and build relationships with the various organisations in the village to work together for the benefit of the community. Some of the key achievements and challenges are as follows:

Planning and Licensing

Over the past year there has been a surge in planning applications with a total 124 applications that have been reviewed in the 12 months to 31st March 2023.

Within the Village, many traditional style dwellings are being redeveloped in terms of both scale and style along with an increase in back garden development proposals and increasingly attempts to re-designate agricultural / horticultural land to commercial / industrial and residential.

There is a renewed onslaught of applications being submitted to develop our green spaces (generally referred to as the Angmering - Worthing gap (north of the A259), the northern and southern gaps (east of the Ferring) and the Ferring /Kingston gap) by developers attempting to capitalise on Arun and Worthing housing target shortfalls. Any such development proposals of the green field spaces are actively being challenged by your Parish Council both independently and in coalition with neighbouring parish councils, conservation and community groups.

General Parish Issues & Parish Facilities & Projects Committees

Beach Litter - Much work has been done engaging with Arun District Council (ADC) to ensure there are sufficient litter/dog waste bins along the Patterson's Walk. ADC continue to provide extra bins and collections especially during the warmer months.

New Telescope - Residents may have seen the newly installed telescope along Patterson's Walk Promenade.

In 2022, the Parish Council applied for funding via Rampion for a community project. As part of the scoping of the project, discussions with Rampion identified the potential for them to sponsor a community telescope to aid viewing of wildlife and the Windfarm as they have at 6 other locations along the coast.

Warren Pond - A retired West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) Ranger has kindly provided The Parish Council & Conservation Group a comprehensive report assessing the pond and there is an 'actions bullet list' which will be looked at in detail. Relevant work will be arranged, alongside a new Information Board

Parking – Parking in the village centre continues to be a concern for both residents and business owners. The Parish Council continue to look at options available to alleviate the parking.

Parish Council Events - Both the Remembrance Day Service and Christmas Event (in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee) were well attended by the community.

As a result of matters raised at Council Committees, a projects working group was formed to look at developing a process for reviewing and initiating projects around the village to enhance and improve the amenities. Work continues to refine and prioritise the proposals and details of these projects and their status can be found within the Parish Facilities & Projects minutes available on our Website under the meetings tab.

Looking Forward

Having reflected on the achievements of the past year, I would also like to look forward to the next 12 months.

The Parish Council is engaging with ADC to work in collaboration on projects to refurbish and improve the public conveniences and play equipment on the Village Green as part of their capital investment programme for this financial year and to review the potential to enhance the public conveniences near the beach for the next financial year.

King Charles III Coronation 6th May 2023 – To mark the Coronation, the Parish Council will be installing a 'village clock' and an associated plaque. The clock will be located on the front of the Village Hall.

Village Signage – it is hoped that in the next few months that the newly refurbished village sign will be reinstated and that new gateway signs will be installed at the three main entrances to the village. The Parish Council are working with WSCC with regards to gaining the correct permission licenses before the installation can commence.

We will also be reviewing other potential projects and engaging with residents and businesses to understand the needs and desires of the community in enhancing the amenities.

Following the Parish Elections that were held on May 4th, the Parish Council has vacancies for six councillors. This shortage of Councillors makes it very difficult for the Parish Council to take on the projects that improve and enhance our village.

It is a very rewarding and worthwhile role that ensures the community you live in is kept clean, the local environment is protected and enhanced and popular events such as the Christmas lights switch on actually take place.

Chairman, Councillor Clare Royal