

## **Ferring Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2025**

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:

Just a few achievements for the past 12 months to mention...

**Village Green Public Conveniences Refurbishment** - Ferring Parish Council in conjunction with Arun District Council has completed an extensive refurbishment of the public conveniences on the village green. The public conveniences provides an accessible toilet cubicle and a range of four individual gender-neutral cubicles including an ambulant disabled cubicle. Thank you to Arun District Council for their support with this project.

**VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Ferring Parish Council and Ferring Village Hall joined forces to organise three day event to celebrate the anniversary. The events were: V E Day Commemorative Tea Party, Film afternoon / evening and VE Day Craft Market with 30 local craft stalls.

**Buses Shelters Replacement** - The Parish Council is pleased to advise that the three metal bus shelters have been replaced at the following locations; Goring Way left going East just past Sea Lane, Opposite the village green outside Charity shop/Andalucia and North side of the railway line.

**Bus Shelter Professional Advertisement Boards** - The Parish Council own all of the bus shelters in the village, most of them are to service a bus route with a couple strategically located at certain points for residents to use whilst waiting for the trains to pass through.

The wooden bus shelters at the following locations; Village Green opposite Greystoke Road, Village Green opposite the Co-op, end of Ocean Drive, Pantiles and Langbury Lane have all recently been treated and painted.

Following the painting and to keep the bus shelters in good order, the Parish Council has fitted lockable noticeboards at three of the bus shelters, two at the Village Green and one at south end of Ocean Drive.

**Defibrillators (AED's) in the Village** – Back in 2016, Ferring Parish Council installed a Defibrillator (AED) at the village hall on the side wall to the steps to the Club Room. In 2024, the Parish Council worked with the Bluebird Café to install a further Defibrillator (AED) at the café.

There are now a number of Defibrillators (AED's) within the village. The Full location list can be found on our website [Community - Ferring Parish Council](#).

**CPR & AED Familiarisation Sessions** - Late 2024, Ferring Parish Council held two free of charge CPR & AED familiarisation sessions in the Village Hall. This was a popular event and the session was provided by an excellent Trainer from Secamb. The Parish Council is hoping to arrange further sessions in 2025.

**Warren Pond** - Residents can now enjoy watching the wild life at Warren Pond which sits at the corner of The Warren and Florida Road in South Ferring. A re-development programme is now underway to both improve this site as a wildlife habitat and as a viewing area for local residents. It is expected that the programme will stretch over several years as trees and plants are replaced and the health of the habitat is monitored and improved.

An information board has been installed which explains that the pond and its surrounds remain one of the very few truly wild and unspoilt locations in the village. It shows the site with plants, birds, pond life, animals, moths and butterflies.

In addition, part of a high fence has been removed and replaced with a lower fence which adds a further viewing aspect to the pond without disturbing the resident wildlife and a professional survey to establish the wildlife within the pond has taken place.

Warren Pond is owned and maintained by Ferring Parish Council, with assistance from Ferring Conservation Group.

**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 during the warmer months.

**Tennis Court Maintenance** - Further to the new fencing installed in 2023, it was noted that there are areas of the courts in need of some maintenance, the top surface of the tarmac on the north-east end of one of the courts is beginning to fail. Work to repair the court and also treat both courts to provide a better finish and longevity of the court surface will commence May 2025, weather permitting. In recent years there has been various works at the tennis courts including resurfacing in 2014, clean and repaint 2020 and the installation of new fencing in 2023. Any maintenance to the tennis courts is self-funded from income derived from Tennis Club annual subscriptions and court usage charges.

**Fun with the Out and About Project** – Due to the success of the 'out and about' project over many years, Ferring Parish Council has arranged for Freedom Leisure to return to the village with the project this summer. The project provides free weekly activities for youngsters on the village green including face painting, art and craft, general games and a bouncy castle subject to the weather conditions. The sessions run every Tuesday morning through the school summer holiday.

**Parish Council Events** - Both the Remembrance Day Service and Christmas Events 2024 (in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee) were well attended by the community.

### **Devolution**

This Government is committed to resetting the relationship with local and regional government with the move from two-tier areas to a Unitary Authority structure of Mayoral Strategic Authorities with Mayoral Authority to oversee county-wide strategy.

Mayors will have strong new powers over housing, planning, transport, energy, skills, employment support and more, backed up with integrated and consolidated funding.

Unitary Councils to replace County and District Councils, Proposed delivery date is 2028.

Ferring Parish Council will continue to keep residents informed via our own communication channels.

Chairman, Councillor Clare Royal