

GERRARDS PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008-2009

This is the second year of the Parish Council elected in May 2007 with 7 new members out of the total of 12 and it is my first year as Chairman. As one of the new members I was very pleased the Peter Chapman the previous Chairman continued to make an invaluable contribution as Vice Chairman.

All members worked closely together producing results as outlined in the Reports from the Committee Chairmen.

A major project at the beginning of the year was opposing important parts of the BCC Waste Development Plan and we were pleased when Wapseys Wood was removed from the list of potential sites for an incinerator for the counties domestic waste. There is now an opportunity for the plan to be reconsidered in the light of the present economic situation and new technologies.

Tesco and Costain, their contractors, are moving ahead with repairs to the tunnel, which involves night work to avoid risk to day time rail traffic: we and SBDC continue to strive, to minimise disturbance to neighbours and to get the road clear of mud. Improvements have been made but we are not there yet. As the project was moving ahead on a projected timetable in agreement with Network Rail we supported BCC in withdrawing objections to the import of bulk fill by rail to remove a risk of it being brought in by road.

Developers for a Waitrose store and flats between Station Road and Oak End Way held an exhibition in spring 2008, which with some reservations received a positive response locally. Discussions were held with the SBDC Planning Officers and some changes were made, but agreement could not be reached and the application was withdrawn before it reached Councillors - no decision has yet been made on what the developers will do next.

The SBDC contract with Verdant for refuse collection, along with changes made by us along Packhorse Road, has made a dramatic improvement in our tidiness. We are looking to everyone involved to make our village tidier still.

Chairman David Peters

Parking has been a major issue for many years and we were please to see a major step forward by the Police (as the only people able to issue tickets for criminal offences) appointing two very effective PCSO's to spend time on parking enforcement. We are working on the possibility of increasing this work, but little more can be done unless and until BCC and SDBC introduce Civil Parking Enforcement in South Bucks.

SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP has been formed from other bodies and new Government guidance, which puts a lot more emphasis on involving communities in developing priorities and shaping local services. There is also a duty to involve local people in key decisions and an expectation that councillors, parish, district and county, as democratically elected leaders, will take on a wider governance role. It remains to be seen how this works in practice.

In GERRARDS CROSS we would like to involve more people in local issues in association with GXPC: as organisations such as the Traders Association with local retailers and service providers now Chaired by Peter Banner and the NAG Chaired by Brian Turpin, and as individuals on specific projects such as the Conservation Volunteers or on GXPC Committees,

COMMUNICATIONS have been an important issue during the year under the leadership of Madeleine May through notice boards, website, and news letters. It is also the primary purpose of this meeting and we look forward to positive ideas for the benefit of Gerrards Cross.