



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009-2010

Considerable activity continued throughout the year as outlined in the Reports of the Committee Chairmen.

The Council decided to freeze the level of the Parish Precept for the year 2010-2011 for the benefit of our residents in view of the current economic situation. This was a difficult decision as we run on a tight budget with a small Parish Office lead by our Clerk Diana Hepburn-Clark and rely heavily on the dedication of our voluntary Councillors and supporters.

Costain have moved ahead on repairs to establish a secure tunnel, after the collapse in June 2005, and are preparing to construct the Tesco store due to open by Christmas 2010. We continue to work with them to minimize the disruption and discomfort of a major construction project in the heart of the village.

Parking continues as a major issue with congestion likely to take over as more parking spaces become available.

Potholes have grown as an issue as the hard winter emphasized the poor state of our roads.

Safety, speeding and lights are big issues on which some progress has been made, but much more needs to be done.

We have maintained our position as a 'Quality Parish', which means we meet certain criteria about our operations. It can be valuable in looking for support for our activities

Ann Mitchell retired from the Council after many years of amazing work and we are delighted to have her still with our Conservation Volunteers on the Common.

We invited others to apply to join the Council and were delighted to have positive responses from several people who would have made strong Councillors. But we only had one space and having had a difficult choice were delighted to invite Paul Davison to join us on the Council, where he has already made an important contribution in heading our new Youth Project, which comes out of the Parish Plan and which he will introduce at this meeting.

We have to be alert to threats to our village, including from the high speed rail link crossing the Chiltons, revival of an incinerator in the area and delay in returning Wapseys Wood to its previous use: let's preserve the Green Belt!

The production of a new Parish Plan is an important step for our community and it is open for consultation on ideas for priorities and actions at this meeting - please contribute.

Cllr. David Peters Chairman