



HEATH & REACH PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of Heath and Reach Parish Council

Since the last report, Terry Ellis has stood down from the Parish Council. We'd like to put on record our thanks to Terry for his substantial contribution to the Council's work – we shall miss Terry's forensic attention to detail and thoroughness. We welcome back Cllr Louise Malone, who has joined the cemetery and sports and recreation committees.

Key highlights of 2017

Cemetery: The Community Payback scheme continue their great work in the Cemetery – it is now looking well maintained and cared for. A number of old graves have been rediscovered which makes this spot well worth a visit for the amateur historian.

Sports and Recreation: The courts remain well used bringing in a steady and useful source of revenue. Last year's repairs to the trim trail have paid dividends with this facility proving popular with users. This is a free facility for the use of the village and it is good to see it busy.

The Bryants Lane car park has earned the Parish Council useful revenue as a film location. It has a cameo role in the TV series *The Crown*, a Hyundai press launch and an Agatha Christie whodunnit *The Crooked House*. We have let the playing field for a three-year term to Woburn and Wavendon Football Club, who are keen to promote football in the village.

Quarries: The Parish Council continues to work with quarry operators including the new owners at LB Silica Sand. In addition, we continue our standing role of working with Central Bedfordshire Council to ensure operators keep to their planning schedules by attending liaison / operator meetings, and to monitor any variations in planning conditions.

Highways: White and yellow lines are being repainted in parts of the village and the Zebra crossing has had a refresh. The Parish Council continues to liaise with Central Beds' highways department to ensure the road safety needs of Heath and Reach are met from an ever-diminishing budget.

Village Maintenance. This continues on a rolling programme. If there are particular jobs that need attention please could you let the Clerk know so that they can be added to the list. I would like to pay tribute to the contribution of Mark Stasiuk, who has hung up his lawn mower after many years of tending to the open areas of Heath and Reach.

I am sure like me you enjoy the changing displays of flags on Heath Green – from Remembrance Sunday to the Queen's Birthday, and even the less well-known Commonwealth Day flag! Nigel Strofton deserves our thanks for maintaining this interesting and proud tradition. We are assisting Nigel in his voluntary work by ordering a proper permanent flag pole, and you will see this on Heath Green in the next couple of weeks.

Chairman's Initials.....



Planning: The Parish Council continues to await the outcome of the application for a second wind turbine. The date for a ruling has slipped and the latest estimate for a decision is later this month (April). One pressing job is the creation of our neighbourhood plan, which will help ensure the distinct nature of Heath and Reach is preserved against the continual pressure for housing and development. This needs the widest possible engagement from people in the village – who have a vested interest in the outcome – and I am sure the planning committee will make strenuous efforts to publicise this and engage the village.

Finances: Subject to audit, the Parish Council has again kept well within budget. This careful stewardship has meant we did not have to increase the Parish Council precept, unlike a number of neighbouring authorities.

Finally, thanks to my fellow councillors and staff for their efforts over the last twelve months.

Chairman Richard Thyer.