

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Welcome to the final annual meeting of this Parish before the elections next month.

I would like to thank Cllr. D. O'Brien and Cllr. A. Piciorus who stood down as councillors during this year for their contribution to the Parish Council and to welcome Cllr. H. Loomes.

Key highlights of 2022/23

You may have noticed there is a new enclosed dog walking field by the children's play area in Thrift Road which since installation has been well used.

We are still trying to move forward with CBC regarding installing a new traffic calming scheme. With CBC not willing to show us their plans for a scheme until we give away our right for speed camera's, our local MP has been very supportive, and we are still in discussions.

We have also seen the community speed watch programme operating with great success and have seen a number of motorists issued with notices. I would like to thank Cllr. M. Boyden who has been the main driving force behind both.

The traffic speed remains a top priority for Heath & Reach Parish Council.

Bryant's Lane Sports Ground: The pavilion is leased exclusively to the Cross Fit gym, which is continuing to grow. The use of the pitch by Wavendon FC continues, who use the pitch as their home ground and are maintaining the grounds for their use.

The tennis courts are still proving very popular, and the bookings are growing well year on year.

The use of the car park from the occasional film units while using the pit, has produced some nice contributions to the councils traffic calming funds.

I would like to thank L B Silica for resurfacing the carpark.

Cemetery: The Community Payback scheme team has been carrying out great work in the Cemetery. It is now looking well-maintained and cared for, and a place our Village can be proud of.

Quarries: The Parish Council continues to work with quarry operators and Central Bedfordshire Council to try and ensure operators keep to their planning schedules.

Finances: Subject to audit, the Parish Council has again kept within budget and has been able to carry forward some reserves. The precept has remained the same for 2023/24 and will go towards the maintenance of the village – for example refurbishing the clock tower for which we are currently obtaining quotes in line the grant matching requirements along with a traffic scheme once approved.

Finally, thanks to my fellow councillors and our parish clerk for their efforts over the last twelve months. Parish Councillors are not professional politicians – we are just ordinary villagers who try to contribute to keeping Heath and Reach the attractive place it is.

If you've got a vision, an idea, or a bugbear about living in Heath and Reach, become a councillor – come and help us fix it!

Cllr Richard Thyer,
Chairman