

**Fornham St Martin - cum - St Genevieve Parish Council
Chairman's Report for year ending 2015**

The Parish Council

There has been a hectic end to our business year with the proposed plans for The West Suffolk operational HUB at Hollow Farm, with its potentially far reaching effect on village life going forward and particular emphasis to the Barton Hill area. As of writing indications are that The Borough Council is beginning to realise that the plans and the location are totally inappropriate. Much has been written elsewhere but the Parish Council is determined to support residents in their fight to stop this unwanted intrusion. A lesson clearly learnt from the last few weeks is that the extra emphasis and recourses that have been brought to bare by the three Parish Councils working together sharing thoughts and plans to the benefit of all residents. My sincere thanks to Philip Reeve from Great Barton and to Howard Quayle from Fornham All Saints for their help and support.

Other Business

The much discussed widening and improvements to the path from Barton Hill to The Rectory has still not been started and is a major frustration to councillors. We have been assured however that the monies for the work are granted and readily available. The drawings for the work have been prioritised and this should expedite its completion.

Speeding

The Parish Council together with considerable financial help from the Borough Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger is in the process of purchasing and introducing our own flashing speed sign. Residents might recall the experiment that was introduced last year at three locations in the village. Positive feedback on the signs effectiveness was received both from this village and others in the experiment. The flashing signs will be used at the same three locations on a rota basis which should give much improved awareness of the speed limits within the village.

Retirement

One of our long serving councillors Catherine Buxton has decided to retire from the Parish Council this year. She has served for 17 years on the council and has contributed enormously to its effectiveness and to the village generally. Catherine also looks after the planters in the village which always enhance the village scene.

As already advised in the recent Bugle Nigel Pitcher has also decided to retire after 13 year as our clerk. Nigel has been a stalwart in providing enormous support to me personally and to all the councillors. Nigel has also been a clerk elsewhere for over 25 years so he really has earned his retirement. I would like to thank them both personally for their dedication and wise input to business throughout their time on the Parish Council. They will both be genuinely missed by all of us.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Mr Paul MacLachlan as our new Clerk. Paul has considerable experience of the role and is extremely well qualified. We look forward to working with him from July 1st 2015.

In Conclusion

I wish to thank all councillors for their efforts and contributions to council business and for giving up their free time so generously. My thanks must also go to Rebecca Hopfensperger for her professional advice and guidance and her generous financial assistance to Village projects throughout the year. My thanks on everyone's behalf go to "The Bugle" editors Su and Pat Brooklyn for continuing to produce our bi monthly village newsletter in such a professional way, also to the team who give up their free time to deliver a copy to all households and to our litter picker David Hoggett who keeps our village litter free. Furthermore our appreciation must go to Valerie Seaman who manages our Village website so effectively.

I also believe it is very important to recognise the many people from within the village who contribute so much to village life, welfare and activities. They are too numerous to mention, but all contribute enormously to making the village such a great place to live. The community spirit has always been very evident in Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve and it has recently been reinforced by all the campaigning regarding the proposed waste HUB. Fornham is a great place to live lets keep it that way.

Michael Collier, Chairman.