

Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting

May 2023

Good evening, everyone.

I would normally remind parishioner' of what the council have been doing during the past year. However, in this instance I feel it more prudent for the meeting to be used to discuss significant matters on the horizon that could impact the parish.

In brief, we have been fighting unlawful, and poor quality, development issues, which we have felt detrimental to the parish environment. The Statkraft battery station, adjacent to the existing substation, which was subsequently approved.

We have also expressed our deep concern at the way the planning department deal with retrospective applications.

Flooding remains an issue, with recent problems on Astwood Lane near Winfields, which were caused by blocked highway drains. This despite our requests that they be cleared before the flooding and the delay in dealing with the surface water.

Similarly, traffic matters persist, again despite relentless efforts of the parish council. As a result, a new working party be formed to try once more to convince the Highways Authority to undertake works to reduce traffic speeds.

Briefly, traffic surveys on the B4090 indicate a speed of 34 mph, deemed unsafe for community watch by the safer road's partnership.

Astwood Lane has speeds of 45 mph indicated, again deemed unsafe for community watch by the safer road's partnership.

The installed chicanes have had the effect of reducing speeds, but these are the trial installation for WCC, and we are not yet able for them to be installed on Astwood Lane

Traffic enforcement is being undertaken on both roads.

On the more positive side

The PC supported the Queens Jubilee, represented the parish on her passing, and supported the Kings coronation.

The long-awaited new Parish web site is up and running, many thanks to Tim Smith for all his assistance with the old site, and a new parish council facebook page will go online very shortly. Hopefully, this will encourage parishioners to let the council know of problems, rather than enter often ill-advised discussion on external pages.

Feckenham in bloom is now under way under the guidance of councillor Guise, you may have noticed the trees planted along Astwood Lane. New "village gates" are also to be installed funded by the PC, the village shop, and divisional funding through Councillor Craig Warhurst

We were sad to lose Slade Arthur as parish councillor due to family reasons. Slade did much work with the highway's authority looking into measures to reduce speed difficulties.

The existing members stood for renewal and were elected unopposed.

Subsequently the empty seat was advertised, and only one application received. Rob Oaten will, therefore be co opted to the council at the right time. We appreciate a younger parishioner finding the time to assist with matters occurring in the future years.

Alan Smith

Chair Feckenham Parish Council