

Parish Council Chairman's Report 2007

This last year it has been an honour to serve as Chairman for another year, this is the fourth time I have presented a report and as I said last year, it does not get any easier.

I am certain that we now have some of the best Councillors we have had for some time with most of you being very active not only in your role as Parish Councillor, but in many other aspects of village life.

Far too often it is evident that whenever you attend any event in the village, it is the same dedicated core that seem to organise and run most of them.

Whilst out canvassing for the recent elections, it was with almost monotonous regularity that the same comment, "somebody should do" was made, but, when asked if they would help, the same answer "Oh, I am too busy to do that sort of thing!"

Well, you do find time and the village is a better place for it.

As always we have had a few changes in Councillors, Stan Phipps retired for personal reasons and Clive Rickhards has returned.

Thanks to Stan for his service on the Council, I am sure that Bob Yarwood from the County Council's street lighting department, breathed a huge sigh of relief when he found that Stan was not going to hound him until he repaired the light outside Mrs. Jones house!

Another thank you to Ann Wade who unfortunately was on holiday when the nominations for the election had to be in and is therefore unable to continue. However even though she may not be a Parish Councillor, I am certain that she will continue to give support wherever she is needed. I would ask that we write to Ann and thank her for her service and perhaps send a bunch of flowers? Ann is another one of the "hard core" of village life and I am sure we have not seen the last of her.

Welcome to Gordon Noke, our new Councillor. Gordon I hope you find your time on the Parish Council as rewarding as I do, and if you have the same effect as you have had on the Village Hall Committee I am certain Studley will benefit.

May I also formally welcome Mike Weddell as our new District Councillor and record our thanks to Tony Cronin who has represented Studley extremely well during his time on the District Council?

The last twelve months have seen some notable achievements, work has started on the skate park and should be completed in the near future. I have been practicing on my skateboard for the official opening but I would rather be on a pair of skis.

We have given permission to the Bowls and Tennis Clubs to develop their facilities, supported the new Allotment Association in their plans and given support to other groups wherever we were able to do so. The Studley at Christmas event was another success and our Christmas Lights are really brightening up the village.

We have had the completed report from Action Studley that will help to secure funding for further work. Thank you to them.

Studley Improvement Partnership have been making a real impact on improving the village, bringing all levels of local authorities to task to formulate an action plan. That work will have far reaching effects that will benefit the whole of the village.

The Parish Appraisal has been completed and a Parish Plan prepared, this will go for adoption by the District Council and will be a very powerful tool to assist us with ongoing improvements to the village and in controlling unsatisfactory development. This has been a mammoth task and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Dot Mitchell and Hazel Wright for their work on this project.

Our newsletter has continued and is well received by every household in the village thanks to the work of Jim and his team of volunteers. Thank you Jim.

Just like one of the firework displays taking place at the castle, I have saved the loudest bangs to the end. The two biggest decisions that affect the village are the revocation of the bypass and the granting of planning permission for the Co-op site. Both will have a massive effect on the environment within the village and will require careful monitoring, but can be used to our benefit if we work with the authorities overseeing them. This is not the forum to go into detail on either as we could take up a whole evening on each, but we must continue to fight for what is best for the village.

We are continuing in our drive to become a Quality Parish Council that I hope will be completed this year but this will require everyone of us to attend some formal training. In our next meeting we have a list from WALC of briefing events and I urge all of you to attend at least one. There is always something new to learn and anyone who says they do not need training is probably not doing the job correctly!

Next week sees our first Annual Village Meeting, which I would ask you get as many people to attend and give their views on what we should be doing.

Once this meeting is finished we should then formulate our Work Plan for the future, setting our agenda for the next twelve months and beyond. This will also enable us to carry out our Staff Appraisals, something else required as part of the Quality process.

In closing I must record my thanks to the Police for their work, the new policing strategy seems to be working but I think it will be quite some time before we get effective 24 hour presence in Studley. Also to the officers at both District and County Council who seem to have finally found where Studley is and realised that we are in Warwickshire and actually say they like coming here.

Last thank you goes to our Clerk and her assistant for putting up with us and to you for putting up with me.

Thank you.

Paul Beaman.