

Beyton Parish Council **Chairman`s Report**

As we come the end of my first year as Chairman, I can reflect and say that Beyton Parish Council has been quite successful in its achievements without attaining anything earth shattering. Evolution in my opinion is always preferred to revolution.

This time last year we were pretty much a fledgling group that needed to learn on the job. I`m sure that we made some errors along the way but with the help and guidance from previous Chairmen and our senior Councillors Penny Otton, Derrick Haley and Esther Jewson there has not been any major catastrophe- at least as far as I know ! But, as some say “ If you can keep your head whilst all around you are losing theirs, then you don`t understand the severity of the problem “ who knows ?

I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who have served so admirably on the Parish Council over the past twelve months, Mark Bloomfield, Sue Harris, Ellen Kirkby, Grant Lockhart-White, Peggy Orsler, Adele Pope and our Clerk, Pat Lamb.

We set ourselves a number of objectives for the year and somewhat surprisingly many were achieved, notably improving safety on our village roads, preventing flooding at the north end of The Green, addressing the risk assessment comments on the play equipment, adding new larger goal posts and increasing the number of dog poo boxes. Additionally, we supplied funds to support the refurbishment of the village hall, what a beautiful job was done. We continued to build closer alliances with the 6th Form College, engaged with Suffolk Wild Life for the environmentally friendly cutting of the stream banks and of course arranging two well attended clean-up days. I think that we did a pretty sensible job regarding planning applications, especially the rejection of the concrete breaking plant application in Tostock, on this one we received tremendous support from our fellow Parishioners. There should be a special mention here to Colin Kennedy who completed all parts of the jigsaw by securing a confirmation from Mrs Jo Lloyd, Monitoring Officer of Suffolk County Council that Kier had found an alternative site and that there would be no further applications for such work on the Tostock site.

Enough of the past; we still have a lot more to do in the coming year as follows:

Village Green Lease.

As many of you know securing a follow on lease has been an ongoing topic for several years. There are several things we would like to address on The Green such as tidying the edge alongside the one way street as well as off road parking. We met recently with our solicitors and are now waiting for their advice as to how to approach the Landlord on this subject.

Flooding in the Village

I am pleased to say that following the stream clearing by Suffolk Highways along Thurston Road last autumn there has been no flooding at the north end of The Green, unfortunately the same cannot be said for Drinkstone Road and Quaker Lane which did not have the same attention. The key to reducing the risk of flooding would appear to be preventative maintenance. Our intention is to meet with the responsible engineers of Suffolk Highways during the summer period to be better prepared for the winter rather than wait until there is an emergency.

Emergency Plan for Beyton

This is an initiative by Suffolk County Council and the Environmental Agency, to allow local communities and the emergency services to work closely together to facilitate speedy responses if the need arises. The function of the local community is to identify people in the village who can lend support, for example someone with a tractor, or a chain saw or simply willing to keep an eye out for vulnerable people. We are seeking the help from anyone in the village who feels that they may like to take an active part in this.

Defibrillator

Following many months of discussions between the Beyton Village Association, Thurston Community College in Beyton and Beyton Parish Council, we have applied to the Lottery Fund for money to purchase a defibrillator to be sited in the phone box on The Green. If all goes well the project will be completed by the end of August.

Affordable Housing

We hear so often that local people, especially the young and old cannot afford to live in the communities they have been bought up in, to this end Adele Pope has volunteered to work together with the appropriate authorities to see what Beyton can offer.

Play Equipment Inspection and Risk Assessment.

Following last year's successful inspection of the village green, there were

no corrective actions identified only a few minor points to take care of or monitor, none the less we have arranged for a further inspection later this year. By the way all minor points from the last inspection have been attended to and my thanks go to Adele, Peggy Orsler and Andrew Maynard for their help.

Road Safety

Final point on our action list, however, the most important. The Speed Watch team continue to do a splendid job and would always welcome more volunteers, if anyone is up for this please contact Ian Marshall on 271314. The Speed Watch team and the Parish Council will try to find ways to fund a Vehicle Activates Sign (VAS) for use on strategic routes through the village.

Suffolk County Council has issued its summer grass and verge cutting program, the A and B roads will be cut twice in the season, the first will commence on the 2nd of May and the next on the 11th of July, each campaign will take two weeks. The C roads in Beyton are scheduled for the week commencing 13th of June. For more details please visit the website www.suffolk.gov.uk/grasscutting

Financing

The maybe an element of cost attached to some of the things that we would like to achieve which could result in the Parish Council requesting an increase in Council Tax funding for 2017/18, however, this would be against the backdrop of no increases during the past two years.

HM The Queen`s 90th Birthday celebrations

Beyton celebrated this once in a lifetime event on the 21st of April with a splendid party consisting of champagne, birthday cake, fireworks and of course the bonfire beacon which was lit by our own two 1927 celebrities Mrs Muriel Clarke and Mr Jack Maydom. Both Muriel and Jack served for many years on the Parish Council, how fitting for them both to be honoured guests on this occasion.

The party was jointly funded by the BVA and BPC. Thanks must go to the entire BVA committee for their organising skills and specially to Trish (fabulous cake), Andy for his usual bonfire skills and Steve for his usual pyromaniac display.

The evening could not have been possible without the generosity of Margaret Hooper who made her field available for the occasion. Ironically, if the celebration would have been next year, I think that Margaret would have been the one lighting the fire.

The event on the 21st of April was only the start of the celebrations, no doubt the BVA will have something special for us during the village fayre on the weekend of June 11th

Wishing you all a very happy and enjoyable summer

Graham Jones May 2016