

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 6th MAY 2021

It has been a very difficult year with many challenges during the lockdown periods with virtual meetings becoming the normal method of carrying out the parish council's business. We have risen to these challenges whilst adhering to government guidelines in relation to our meeting and managing our assets in particular play areas in our managed open space areas.

We welcomed new councillors Vanessa Roach & Paul Thorpe who have settled well in to their roles of councillors providing a new positive vibe to our meeting with enthusiasm, we also welcomed back Fatima Mitchell who has served as a parish councillor up to the last election it is good to have her back and involved in Parish hall matters. The parish has seen two major applications submitted to Medway Council, the first being a residential scheme for 72 homes in Upnor which was well opposed by a group called "Keep Upnor Green" their voice was strong which we were pleased to support by making a strong objection to Medway Council who in turn listened to the strength of local objection and refused planning permission for the proposed development. The second application was a hybrid development for a new secondary school, restoration of a grade one listed barn for use as a wedding and conference venue with ancillary bedroom facilities. To make the development viable it was also proposed to construct 181 homes. Whilst the parish council could support the renovation of the Barn and understood the requirement of a new secondary school we objected to the development of such a number of homes together with the impact on the highway network.

The parish council continued work on the ecological project at Wainscott Field whilst progress has been slow due to the pandemic, we are making head way with ecological surveys being currently undertaken to establish the population of protected species on site to provide a base on which we can look to make the area an attractive environmental location for both residents and educational value for our school children.

Our major project the ensuing year is to commence preparation of a neighbourhood plan for FXPC which once adopted will be the blueprint for FXPC in relation to development, environment , Highways and Community Facilities by setting out our parish needs to protect and enhance our area.

We also hope to secure a new POS area in Schooner Walk from Taylor Wimpey which will include a new children's play area with modern equipment.

Finally I would like to thank Roxanna & Emma for all their hard work this year during what has been an unprecedented period in all our lives and to thank all the councillors for supporting the work that our parish council undertakes on behalf of our parishioners