



## Appledore Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2016 – 2017

The council has settled in to its routine highways business, and logged dozens of potholes and overseen several highways works in the main drag. Cllr Wilkinson and Hennig work tirelessly to improve the highways for both residents and commercial business. A further two salt bins were acquired and all three are now in situ with old salt bags having been removed. Two new noticeboards for Heathside and Appledore Stores were acquired and installed. The original council noticeboard has been fully restored by Mr. Mundy and has been moved forward to a more prominent position. All that is left is to add a new header stating that this board is dedicated to local events and information. Last years' traffic issues from events and cycle races through the village should have been reduced as a result of the council being in contact with organisers. Community Speed Watch has been put on hold for the moment, while the council takes time to review other strategies to reduce speeding through the village. Whilst doing so the council is also considering all larger highways projects with the aim of prioritizing them bearing in mind feasibility and cost. The solicitors for Court Lodge car park and residential development gave an informal presentation on the plans and the council agreed in principle to the scheme.

During the year, we have reviewed around 30 planning applications, in the main small extensions but there have been two larger proposals: Magpie Farm and 1 The Street. The council takes its role seriously and is very mindful of the environment and historic side of the village. Recently it expressed its concerns with regard to the removal of trees with protection orders. Ashford Borough Council has published its proposed plans for commercial and residential development in the area for up to 2030. The council owned field was marked as an agreed residential development site. Whilst awaiting the plan to progress through the various stages to final completion, the council obtained Ashford Borough Council's agreement to carry out a housing needs survey (at no cost to Appledore).

In the last year, there have been 3 short presentations at the start of council meetings. Lauren Niven briefed those present on Resilience Planning, which aims to make communities fit to help themselves in an emergency while awaiting the national emergency services. Cllr Jenkins has been leading this and a basic draft of a resilience plan is ready. Romney Marsh Partnership provided a presentation on their work assisting Marsh businesses to expand and create more jobs. Mr. Rivers, a First Responder, gave an explanation of how to use a defibrillator. Following on from that, the parish council were donated two by The Kent Fire and Rescue Service. These are to be installed on the Public Conveniences and in the red K6 telephone box, which the council agreed to adopt back in October.

In May, Mrs. Gray, A.K.A. Bev, was taken on permanently as cleaner for the Public Toilets and the council has received many compliments about its cleanliness. Since the donation boxes were put up about 6 months ago, the council has received nearly £500. We would now like to redecorate the facility and replace the exterior doors.

Whilst all this has been happening the council has been dealing with housekeeping issues. A new payroll provider and internal auditor have been contracted. Policies on health and safety, grievance procedure, disciplinary procedure, grants, media and communications have been agreed and updated financial regulations to suit the council have been put in place. Furthermore, councillors have attended many seminars, forums and meetings relating to all the issues the council has to deal with. Last but not least the new website is being put to good use.

So, all in all, I think it has been a very productive year and look forward to the next 12 months. So, thank you everyone for all your contributions.