



**Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - Chairman's Report**  
**14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The council continues steadily on with its daily work, whilst taking on more responsibilities, and planning for the future sustainability of Appledore's residents.

On the highways front Charles and Helen have to be commended for not despairing when dealing with these issues. One of these being of the necked amenity lamp posts. After a lengthy struggle with the Borough and a report on safety, they replaced all the necked ones and upgraded them to LED lamps. Ashford Borough Council decided not to pass on the management costs to the parish council. Charles and Helen have continued to make sure that the highways are in good order. Working closely with Aspire, the new inhouse landscaping contractors, the verges at the entrances to the village have been spruced up and kept in check. Those around Old Way have had new turf, and few posts have been installed to deter people from parking on them. The refurbishment of the curbs in the street continues. Mr and Mrs Ward have to be thanked for paying for half the cost of refurbishing the Appledore Invicta road sign at the canal bridge.

Success with inconsiderate parking has been mixed. Thanks to Steve Adlam of Kenardington Road for moving his cars that were parked on the roadside. There has been some improvement with parking on the Methodist Chapel forecourt. The Community Warden helped with the removal of the French car that had taken up residency in the village hall car park. Unfortunately, as a resident's letter highlighted, there are still considerable parking and speeding issues between the village hall and the Black Lion. The results of the route study, carried out in September, are eagerly awaited as it is hoped that they may provide some solutions. The parish has also benefited from dropped curbs at Heathside and new road name signs.

Helen Hennig has set up the Friends of Appledore Train Station which aims to enhance the experience of travellers using it. Borough Cllr Mick Burgess has provided some financial support, so no doubt we will soon see some improvements.

During the year, the council as a whole has continued to comment on behalf of the parish on planning applications. Although there have not been as many as last year, we have seen some bigger developments going through. After several applications, approval was given to build on the land next to Prospect House. Court Lodge Road continued its rocky path to completion, the houses are now built and new residents added to the village.

In the background to of all these applications the Local Plan 2030 has moved into its last stage with the plan going to the Secretary of State's Inspector in December. The council's field along with that of the Dr. Julian Colledge have gone forward as an approved site for residential development. It is expected that the plan will be formalised by the autumn of this year. However, the council believe that developing the field sooner rather than later will ensure that we have a greater chance of a development that provides what Appledore needs, with more affordable and starter homes. Following consultation with the public, in March, the council voted to sell the field to Hasting Redevelopment Limited subject to contract. Money from the sale of the council field has to be spent on capital projects. Discussions are already underway on how and what to do with it. This includes considering the acquisition of a heritage centre which is part of the current no. 1 the Street planning application and/or the creation of a community centre. "Thanks" must be expressed to Chris Vane for the work he has put in to get the council to this point. Work will be ongoing for some time more as the council has yet to sign on the dotted line.

Dereck Winter took on being council representative on the recreation ground committee and he will be kept busy liaising with them regarding projects to be funded from the proceeds of the sale of the council field.

Lyndsey Jenkins is working in exactly the same way with the village hall. Additionally, she has progressed the resilience plan with a parish magazine article outlining how residents can help themselves and others in an emergency.

Last September, we had a young councillor, Jasmin Keller, who unfortunately from our point of view, moved away and was no longer able to continue. We have to thank Dr. Julian Colledge for filling the vacancy. It was a great shame that he was unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances. Roger Hiskey stepped into the breach in January, and is coping admirably with being thrown in at the deep end.

Last but not least, the toilets had been maintained whilst awaiting an opportunity to refurbish the facility. This may happen sooner than originally thought. The toilets continue to be well kept by Beverley Gray with her husband Duncan carrying out small repair jobs inside. Having said that, it has to be said that the conveniences are only as good as they are as a result of all the effort that has been put into them by Helen Hennig. With that we would like thank her.

Tom Hennessy continues his good work litter picking around Appledore.

Finally, I would like to thank the councillors for all their hard work, and the public, for their continued support at the meetings, throughout the year.