

## **Chairman's Report 2008-9**

### **Flyford Flavell, Grafton Flyford & North Piddle Parish Council**

#### **Planning**

We have had a quiet year for planning applications with 8 applications dealt with. This included a significant amount of direct correspondence relating to a reserved matters application for Home Farm Nurseries. This has not yet been determined by the District Authority. In addition enforcement action over a planning breach at Little Acre is still being vigorously progressed with the District Authority.

We have made further inputs to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and to the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy. These have now moved on to the later stages of the overall consultation process including open public hearings.

#### **Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan was formally adopted by the Parish Council as an agenda for action at the AGM in May 2008. We agreed four initial priorities of: - Village Design Statement; Parish Web Site; Flood Alleviation; and Traffic Management.

#### **Village Design Statement**

Some progress has been made on this with the formation of a working group and the involvement of an external consultant. A proposal has been developed for a workshop to be held with parishioners in the autumn. This will capture the architectural characteristics of our parishes and then enable these to be documented in a Village Design Statement.

#### **Parish Website**

This was identified as a priority in the Parish Plan and we have now set up our own website [www.theflyfords.co.uk](http://www.theflyfords.co.uk). This currently contains a lot of information about the parishes, plus Parish Council information including agendas and minutes of meetings.

#### **Flood Alleviation**

Improved drainage schemes have been prepared by the District Council for each of the 3 parishes, with consultation and input from the Parish Council. A number of ditches have been cleared by local landowners, and drains and gullies have been cleared. This should reduce the severity of further floods. Some of the identified work is still outstanding, which will require District or County funding. The timing of this will depend on budget relative to priority. Our flood problems are less severe than a number of other parishes therefore we are not in the first group of priorities.

#### **Traffic Management**

The approach to traffic management in Flyford Flavell has been agreed with the school and highways. Minimal progress towards implementation has been made so far due to funding constraints and priority. The Parish Council are also exploring the

sharing of a traffic activated speed reminder sign to be shared with Rous Lench and neighbouring parishes.

### **Highways and Footpaths**

More progress has been made on our footpaths which are generally in a very good condition. A few stiles have been identified which need action and the local landowners have been approached to resolve the problems.

Peter Dodgson has continued to give excellent support to the community as both Footpath Officer and our Tree warden.

The Lengthsman scheme continued with Alan Farnsworth doing good work involving verge cutting, clearing back overgrown trees and hedges, maintaining grips and gullies and clearing ragwort.

We carried out 2 more litter picks during the year although unfortunately a grant was not available this year due to Wychavon cost cutting.

A number of road improvements have been carried out including a considerable amount of resurfacing work on the lanes and pothole repairs. This means the roads generally are in a better condition than for many years though some specific problems still remain.

### **Precept**

We agreed no increase in Precept.

### **Councillors**

We have had a record number of resignations this year with councillors citing pressure on their time as the main factor. I would like to thank Elisabeth Ince; Mark Shalom; Andrew Short and Simon Bowyer for their numerous contributions and significant service to the community. I would also like to welcome David Smallcombe to the Council. We are currently in process to appoint new councillors for the 3 most recent resignations.

### **General Issues**

We have continued to support Neighbourhood Watch. Waste recycling has been implemented throughout the 3 Parishes from October 2008 and some local implementation problems followed up.

### **Thanks**

I would like to thank:- all the Parish Councillors for their many constructive contributions and involvement in the Parish Council; Andrew Short for his support as Vice Chairman; Peter Dodgson for his work on footpaths and as Tree Warden; Linda Robinson and Rob Adams for their continuing input and help in progressing District and County actions. Special thanks are also due again to Mark Broughton-Taylor for his enthusiastic service as our Clerk.

David Waide May 2009