

Annual Report 2014/15

The past year has had the substantial number of 20 planning applications. Most of these have been supported by the Parish Council, though a few have been opposed; specifically 2 new builds off the Radford Road and a development of 4 houses off Bishampton Road. Both of these have been refused by Wychavon and the application for 4 houses has recently been refused on appeal.

The Bloor Homes site at Flyford Green has progressed such that the building is nearly complete and about half the houses are now occupied. The final legal purchase of the public open space by the Parish Council is just awaiting the legal completion, which is imminent. Landscaping should take place this year, and preliminary enquiries have started into potential play equipment and other opportunities.

The Parish Council has agreed in principle to purchase the Swale to the east of Flyford Green. This is in order to ensure it is properly maintained in perpetuity. This would be for the sum of £1 and would come with a £10,000 financial settlement to cover future maintenance. This is awaiting the final contract and acceptance by the Parish Council, once all the terms and liabilities are clear.

There have been further developments regarding the Chicken Farm applications adjacent to North Piddle. A larger proposal has been refused by Wychavon and also on appeal. The planners finally seem to have realised the scale of the applications; namely that this is effectively industrial development and would be very visually intrusive. Neither application has obtained environmental approval. The Environment Agency does seem to have recognised the levels of environmental threat and is asking for a more robust management plan before they give their approval.

The Parish Council duly made a formal complaint to Wychavon Planning regarding the way they had approached the planning application for Orchard bungalow. We held a constructive meeting with recognition that some of the Wychavon policies had not been applied in this case. We are still progressing a breach of the granted planning regarding removal of part of the hedge to the property.

The South Worcestershire development plan has continued to progress and is now recognised as containing an adequate housing land supply. This removes a ground of appeal for speculative developers applying for new housing outside the designated allocation. There is a further consultation stage in progress but no further building land is currently identified in our parishes.

The Flyford war Memorial was restored in 2014 with some support from the Parish Council. The project was recently commended in a Wychavon award ceremony.

Planning continues for the Flyford Church community space, again with encouragement from the Parish Council.

We made several rate relief grants for local businesses that support our community.

We have continued the Lengthsman scheme, and Alan Farnsworth continues to give very good service to our community.

We progressed a number of road and footpath issues during the year. The majority have been resolved or made positive progress. Drainage on Libbery lane is the major outstanding issue. The only real progress in 4 years is eliminating a mains water leak as the source of the problem.

I would like to conclude with my personal thanks; firstly to a number of councillors who have just retired from the council. They are Martin Bailey, Steve Bailey, Di Johnson, David Smallcombe, and Jeannie Smith. Between them there are many decades of excellent service to our community and I wish them all very well. Thank you to all our continuing councillors for their valuable contributions and input. My thanks go to Rob Adams and Linda Robinson for their continued strong support at County and Wychavon, and to Gayle Rowe for her service as Footpath officer. Particular thanks to our Clerk Mark, who continues to give support way beyond any obligation.