

## Annual Report 2016/17

The major achievement of the last year was the adoption of the public open space at Flyford Green. This was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 including a capital transfer to the Parish Council of £92,918 to invest to fund future maintenance. The maintenance until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to be funded by Bloor Homes. The Parish Council has investigated how to invest the maintenance capital with the priority being on optimising income with long term capital growth to offset inflation. An independent financial advisor has been appointed to assist our investment decision and a decision taken to invest £46,000 in the CCLA property fund. This is specifically set up as an investment vehicle for Churches, Charities, and Local Authorities. The Parish Council is considering a further recommendation from the Financial Advisor for the balance of the investment.

A Village Green working group has been established with members from the Parish Council and Flyford Flavell, including residents of Flyford Green. This has made initial recommendations to the Parish Council, some of which have been adopted and some are under further investigation.

A Christmas tree was erected on the green in December, and carol singing held. Various community activities are planned on the green this year.

A sign for Flyford Green is proposed to be funded by Arts Grant money. A specific proposal is being drawn up.

We have dealt with sixteen planning items in the past year. Three were opposed by the Parish Council. Two of the objections were refused by Wychavon and one allowed. One refusal was a further application to build 4 new houses off Bishampton Road. This went to appeal and was again refused on appeal. The other applications were supported by the Parish Council.

A complaint from two parishioners was received by the Parish Council regarding three councillors involvement in responding to a planning application. A parallel complaint was also made to Wychavon. Both Wychavon and ourselves made independent investigations, in our case by a councillor not subject to the complaint. Wychavon found no case to progress. We found no incorrect behaviour by councillors; however we recommended a change to our standing orders. This is to make it clearer to members of the public when an interest in a planning application has been declared by a councillor.

The speed of traffic on the Radford road at the edge of the village was measured at 35mph west and 32 mph east. Highways do not support specific additional measures based on these speeds. A request has been made to deploy a speed gun in this location.

Significant improvements and repairs have been carried out to Flyford Flavell church towards it being a community space as well as a place of worship. These include providing a toilet, kitchen and disabled access. The Parish Council has fully supported a section 106 grant towards conversion of the nave and provision of chairs. This has been the subject of much debate with Wychavon who have agreed

to support once an invoice is obtained. A parallel application from the Three Parishes hall was also agreed in principle, but is yet to be formally submitted.

We agreed to part fund a sign to the Three Parishes Hall and Grafton Wood.

A cyclists and walkers café has been opened at weekends in the Three Parishes hall. This has attracted complaint from a few parishioners, concerned that it may detract from local businesses. A report is awaited from the Three Parishes Hall committee.

10 tables were grant funded and supplied for use by the Flyford Social Group community events.

We have agreed to be the underwriter for a community defibrillator purchased by the Flyford Social Group.

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

There have been a significant number of minor crimes of theft and some vandalism reported over the last 12 months. This appears to have increased in our parishes versus prior years.

We have continued the Lengthsman scheme, and also held a recent litter pick.

There has been improvement to broadband speeds in some areas within our three parishes. Many areas remain extremely slow.

Libbery Lane has now had new drains installed after a 6+ year battle. Very comprehensive work has been undertaken. As it has only just completed it is too soon to confirm it is fully effective.

Water on the Bishampton Road has continued to be reported as a problem, and a local landowner has been ordered to clear their ditches.

Various potholes and road defects have been reported and a number of repairs carried out, including significant surfacing work to Grafton Lane and the lane to Grafton Church. Overgrown hedges have been reported for cutting back on the A422 and New Hill.

3 dog fouling signs and a dog wastebin have been installed in Flyford Flavell following an increased incidence of dog fouling. Initial reports suggest a reduced problem following installing the dog waste bin.

The precept was reviewed and agreed to be increased by 4.0%

David Smallcoombe and Joy Roscoe resigned as councillors in 2017. I would like to record my thanks to both for their considerable contributions over a number of years. I would like to conclude by thanking all our councillors for their valuable contributions and input, 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 are due to Richard Davey, for excellent support including chairing several meetings and our Clerk, Mark for his continued strong service.