

Chairman's Report March 2019

We have, of course, throughout this year taken care of the routine tasks such as cutting the grass, reporting pot holes, paying invoices, responding to parishioner's enquiries and commenting on planning applications. Of particular note were The Stables and the Telecoms mast on the Recreation Ground.

Ponds.

At the start of this year and during last year, the pond at Willow Corner was transformed making the centre of the village much more attractive.

During this year, the School's ponds have been similarly transformed. This was an even bigger task as they had been neglected for a long time. I am sure the whole village and the School are grateful to Bob, George and Alan and everyone who turned out to carry out this hard work.

At the end of this year it is our intention to complete the work on the other pond.

Traffic Calming.

We have been successful in obtaining funding from Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership for an assessment of our roads and their usage. We are grateful to Jane for attending the meeting at County Hall and filling in the forms, and to Cllr Ken Crofton for guidance. (see details below). The granting of this funding is a direct result of the work already carried out; the SSID, the DriveSafe scheme and the village signs.

Village Clean-up

This annual event was as successful as ever, attracting volunteers of all ages. The weather was also kind. As usual a large heap of rubbish was collected. There were numerous complementary comments on a web site called Nextdoor.co.uk.

Gravel Pits

The discussions have moved to the issues of permanent closure of the sites, particularly Bunkers, and of restoration. These discussions are ongoing, are somewhat delicate and the comments from the meeting last Thursday 21st March at County Hall indicate they are likely to take years. A number of legal and technical experts are likely to be involved. On the plus side activity appears to have ceased at Bunkers. We would like to thank George and Annie Willoughby Richards for the work they have put in this year.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of this Council, for making this an extremely successful year. We also need to thank Maggie, our Clerk for the many hours she (and David) have put in preparing agendas writing up the minutes and preparing the audit. Thanks also to David Sitwell for acting as our internal auditor. We are also grateful to Cllr Linda Haysey and Cllr Ken Crofton for their help and advice. Finally we should thank all the parishioners who have turned out to help with these projects.

Michael Wainwright

Appendix. Traffic calming.

The last year hasn't allowed for further DriveSafe speed monitoring (using the portable smiley face detector unit), due to other commitments by the volunteers, but the presence of our permanent SSID (Speed Sensory Indicator Device), has hopefully made some positive impact along Ashdene Road, as cars enter into the village from White Stubbs Lane direction.

Instead, initiatives have been taken to look at the bigger picture of speeding and inconsiderate driving on the roads of Bayford and not just within the 30 mph zones. Through DriveSafe, we were invited to attend a workshop day in October, to understand more about applying to The Police and Crime Commissioners Road Safety Fund , to bid for funding for a Feasibility Study to be undertaken of our roads and their usage.

We have recently heard our application was successful and will be progressed to the next stage. It has been agreed that funding will be allocated for a feasibility study which will be commissioned by the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership on behalf of Bayford Parish Council, who will contract independent consultants (AECOM) to undertake this survey

The study will look at the issues raised in our bid (for example - increased traffic : large vehicles using our roads; inconsiderate driving; increased incidence of accidents and speeding and then based on evidence gathered, make recommendations of how to make a change.