

Chair's Report

The first item we need to mention is the removal of the concrete pathway under the oak tree at the top of North Lane. Thirty-five tons of concrete was removed and the roots were treated, nutrients were added to special soil all around them and then a final layer of top soil that is seeded. Great care was taken by the Milestone team who were often on their hands and knees hand digging. There was some controversy over the decision to use a small digger to break up the concrete but at no time did it run over exposed roots. I took photos of the work and daily visited and talked with the crew. This is a huge achievement by our team and I know we all feel a great relief.

There has been further vandalism in the village. Several youths entered the field opposite Milestone Lane and smashed up a trailer which was used as an office. They then turned on the car nearby and repeatedly hit the windshield and jumped on the roof and hood make huge dents. Interestingly enough, they returned to the field the next evening and the police were quietly waiting for them and took them off for interviews. We don't know the outcome of this yet but are hoping to get some info from the Neighbourhood Police.

I did file an Incident Report on the vandalism in the playground and have since been in touch with the police about it. Further nonsense was noted in the form of writing and carving on playground equipment. I've spoken quietly with a couple of parents and have also stopped to chat with the young people who lounge around the equipment most days.

The Chair's group met early last week and there is clearly some tension regarding housing allocation (at times seen as not-appropriate), the high refusal rate for appeals in Cherwell, the continuing saga of trying to get paid s106 money from OCC and the lack of communication from the person in charge. More than one parish is involved in a fund defense project which we will discuss later in the agenda. The Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Executive group met via zoom earlier today and similar concerns re: housing in the area was expressed. A number of parishes are quickly writing a NP in the hope of managing "the right houses in the right place".

I done a trial run of knocking on doors and greeting not-so-new people as well very new folk. The reception has been very friendly although in one or two cases, I believe they thought I was electioneering, with my lanyard and my clipboard. I've been putting together a page for each of you with some blanks for unknown people. I'll send it to you as soon as they are ready – something always interferes. The aim is to welcome newcomers and to ask those for whom we have no information if we can add their email address to the pc mailing list – for the occasional important notice. I managed to add five new families!!!

We have a busy agenda so we we'll move on to it now.

Diane. April 2nd, 2025