

#### 4. Chair's report (DB). April 1st, 2026

This past month has seen an increase in concern from villagers on a series of issues.

First of all, fly tipping has become all too common along rural roads – our area included. First there is annoyance that beauty should be marred with rubbish and secondly the absence of speedy pick up of the rubbish is a huge irritant. There have been conversations and emails on this topic.

Secondly, there is the issue of potholes. Repaired ones seem to open up after more rain. Regular requests for repairs are put on Fix My Street but the list seems to be growing. The drive to Isip can be dangerous especially at speed.

Thirdly, the overly bright headlights on cars are causing anxiety amongst all age groups – the winter evening driving has been very difficult and some have simply stopped going out in the dark nights for fear of an accident.

Hopefully, these issues can be raised by our district and county councillors as concerns from residents.

I have had contact with the Neighbourhood Police regarding a homeless man sleeping in St. Marys church for three nights. He was quiet, hungry and grateful for food, safety and heat.

On day two I emailed the Neighbourhood Police regarding our concerns. Their reply window is 72 hours and they took longer than this.

Their advice was too little, too late. I had asked for a visit of concern but was told to get information from him, quite a list, and email it to the station. I felt that since their office is in Kidlington they just might have popped into the village.

I asked the officer to send my concerns about the length of time to reply and a rather weak response, up the line.

As a result, the police have reported to the vicar that they suspect the man was a victim of crime and supposedly hiding.

We are grateful to members of the community for feeding and talking with the man over three days and nights. However, the response to our request for care was unacceptable both from the church authorities and the police. Neither of these bodies formally visited the man.

Thank heavens for villagers.

Regarding communication with CDC: I am still waiting for a reply to my request for information and comments regarding Bus Shelters in a Conservation Zone and our concerns regarding missing or incorrect information in the Stoneyfield planning approval. Neither have we heard from the owner/developer on the same issue.

Finally, tonight is Susan's last meeting as a parish councillor as she is not standing in the May election. Susan has been a parish councillor as long as I have been on the council She can't remember exactly how long! But I chased the date down! She was co-opted on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014!! She has been a councillor for twelve years!!

I am aware that Susan has been active in the village much longer than that – nearly thirty years.

Susan will continue on the NP Review team and will give me advice with planning matters.

Thank you Susan from all of us. You have been a strong support, written brilliant planning comments, propelled the Neighbourhood Plan forward which has given substance to our concerns about some planning requests. You've made some superb presentations both to the village and to the council.

We will miss you but share your excitement at your new venture!

We'll have more to say at the Annual Village Meeting!