

4. Chair's reports. April 5th 2023

Good evening,

I'd like to begin with an update on Oxfordshire NP Association. As you know I was asked to join the Executive and there I have come across a vast wealth of experience with a passion for planning plus a range of analytical skills. Current work is presenting a submission to the Government's Select Committee on Planning and the role of NPs in the planning process. There are suggestions that: NPs should be considered statutory consultees in respect of planning applications, should be seen a quicker to respond to local need and to rising issues such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and building regulations. We are encouraged to be forward looking and fearless in our proposed policies.

Secondly let's focus on the range of work being done in the village – the litter pick was amazing and involved villagers, the weir clearance has made excellent progress, the duck pond has been made secure from collapse on the edges, the speed watch group has been very active and their report indicate that some individuals choose to ignore the speed limits - for example on Tues 28th of March, on Church Lane from 4pm -5.30 pm there was a total of 299 vehicles going east with 53 of them reported for speeds of 26-32 mph including a land rover pulling a flatbed trailer at 32 mph. We will continue to monitor the speeds but the camera has gone to Islip for the month of April.

The Oak Tree path issue is moving forward with the near completion of the new path behind the tree. It is wonderful to see villagers using it. The situation with regards to the demolition of the original path will be discussed in the agenda and there is a willingness to see this job completed.

The Gigaclear project is underway with sightings of their work crew in the village – even this morning. We invited them to the Annual Parish meeting to be held this month but they have an event elsewhere. We will ask them to arrange on late May for villagers. I would prefer a bespoke presentation so that we can see specific plans for our village. Communication could be better as crossed wires have caused issues with some folk particularly on Knowle Lane.

As mentioned the Annual Village Meeting has been advertised for April 18th in the village hall. For the benefit of new councillors, this is not the AGM for the Parish Council. Rather it is an annual opportunity to share what is going on in the village. We have tried different models from having groups in the village make a presentation to a speaker on the Oxford Cambridge Arc. This year Susan will be speaking on the breadth of development in our area of Oxfordshire and the potential impact this will have on traffic flow, 'green Oxfordshire'.

This could be an opportunity for new councillors to meet the public and chat about what is important in people's minds. This is not a mandatory meeting on our schedule but your support would be appreciated.

We have a busy agenda so let's proceed.