

Chair's Report – June 7th, 2023

So much has happened since our last meeting, in particular, the coronation of King Charles III. The PC worked with a small group of villagers to produce a parade and picnic that will be remembered as quite an event. In fact, the entire weekend was amazing and by the end of it I think we all felt we had been part of a wonderful nationwide celebration. Can I give special thanks to Councillors Susan, Tracy, John and Ben for their tremendous efforts which varied from weeks of baking and freezing, to buying and erecting a craft tent, bbq assistance and to John who always is there to get us out of a jam with a toolbox full of wonderful things! His assistance with the ice cream freezer was so helpful and helped make the warm day perfect for adults and children alike. We also had a great team of bbq experts, a vintage car owner and driver plus a village wagon pulled by a tractor. It is worth congratulating ourselves for making this happen so our vision of a village celebration that included children and young people playing on our field could be achieved.

Looking forward, I wanted to share some local projects and pressure groups that may be of interest. Firstly, there is the Hedgehog Highway Project run by a group of HedgehogsRus. Since they first began their campaign more than 60 councils have signed up across the nation – many more are needed to make a significant difference to the hedgehog population.

Secondly, the Council to Protect Rural England has set up a Rooftop Solar project that aims to get 60% of the solar panels wanted in the UK on rooftops. I've sent the link through to the Parish Council whatsapp page. This leaves room for small projects but clearly is an attempt to avoid the West Botley Solar Farm – biggest in Europe- proposal.

Thirdly, there is a group called Oxford City and Surrounding Areas Local Representative Group – a lobby and action group to try to manage development in the area.

Lastly, there is the StoptheArc Group- a carry on from the previous lobby group which grew from the Stop the Expressway Group in which we were early founders of the 'movement'.

It is important to keep up with what these groups are doing, read their research and listen to their concerns.

If anyone is interested in any of these groups, please speak to either Susan or myself.

Thanks,