

This being my fourth Annual Report as Chairman of Avening Parish Council, I present to you the success of the Parish Council throughout this last year in its continuing aims to enhance and preserve the village of Avening.

Date 14-4-2004

Highways/Traffic Calming.

The three gateways are now complete, and we have written to the beneficiary to thank him for his generous support of this project. The decision was also taken to reinstall the new welcome village signs after long neglect and I hope the village, and the visitors to us, enjoy their appearance. Other measures the PC has supported is for the Church Lane and the School approach from the Hall end to be made one way in order to safeguard the children as they attend the village hall during school hours, again we await Highways, it is important that we look after road safety in the precincts of the School. I believe the new 30mph speed limits re-sited at Tetbury Hill along with the new reflective signage, has had a positive impact on reducing speed at that point. The PC will endeavour to keep Traffic speeds through the village under review at all times.

Further road works have been completed like the resurfacing of Woodstock Lane and various potholes around the village. You have probably noticed the subsidence at vicinity of Longford's Mill, Highways are currently assessing the problem and the PC will obviously keep it under review.

Youth Club.

I am given to understand this is now up and running and the PC has supported new equipment to the value of £300, again we wish them well in their endeavours to provide youth activities. Thanks to Peter Brown and his support staff for all their efforts.

Parish Plan

From my statement last year on this issue, in conjunction with GRCC, we have moved forward on this issue and also coupled to it the Avening Maintenance programme. These two projects along with recognition from the community of tasks needed to be done will be the fulcrum of our largest spend during 2005/6. What we need to bear in mind is the financial budgets that will be required to achieve any of the recommendations and at this stage £6000 has been earmarked. An open/public meeting will be held during this year to finalise the priorities.

Finance

The precept has been set the same as last year at £13500, I hope this will be sufficient for us to carry out the changes upgrades to our village. We will not be able to continue keeping the precept at this level as inflation will erode the values and in the end nothing will be achieved. I would like to see the rate kept at the levels of inflation so that we keep apace. Costs invariably rise and we need to monitor the situation at all times. When you look at the

amount raised it works out at pence per week. This village warrants us to ensure it does not take a retrograde step.

Bus Shelters

The PC has recommended that the bus stop in Hampton Hill be given top priority and the design style has been agreed and contractors are to be given the go-ahead. With regard to other sites we have under discussion Sandford Leaze (2) either side of the road and May`s Lane, again with help from GCC we aim to get value for money by purchasing quantity.

Website.

We have successfully launched our website and I am pleased with the feedback so far, I will keep this a brief summary as more contacts and businesses are being sought to improve the site further.

Finally

I would to take this opportunity to thank all my Councillors and Clerk for their contributions during the year. As I intimated last year I will be stepping down as Chairman, and look forward to working with my colleagues towards a beneficial 2005 / 6.

W.J.Parsons

Chairman