



Chairman's Annual Report 2021/2022

Thank you all for joining us this evening, we really appreciate it.

We have all continued to move through unprecedented times when face masks became the norm and words such as lockdown and social distancing fell into common use. When putting this report together, it gave me time to reflect on what we as a community achieved, it was tremendous, so much goodwill and practical help were offered to those most needing it, well done South Wonston.

Amid all the challenges, the Parish Council continued its work for the community making sure bills were paid, accounts maintained, planning applications reviewed, Pavilion and Recreation action plans worked on to ensure our lovely facilities are kept in tip top condition.

Temporary legislation also allowed our meetings to take place remotely until 6 May 2021 with many residents joining us on Zoom either to speak during the public session or even just to observe proceedings.

June 2021 saw the return of face to face meetings, the first outside the Pavilion, thank goodness it was summer.

I am most fortunate in having knowledgeable and supportive colleagues, Parish Councillors, our Clerk and Caretaker and confident that we have a good understanding of the needs of the Parish and will work together to ensure that we meet the requirements put forward to the best of our ability.

We also work in close collaboration with colleagues in WCC, HCC, the Worthy Down Camp and other agencies.

Climate change, Cllr. Selby is leading the way for the Parish Council and has written to key people whom may be able to join a future meeting to take things forward.

We met Nickey Turner who is involved in recycling schemes and thanks to her we have a far better understanding of what can be done to help inform people of the need to recycle and how best to support the cause, we have placed additional recycling bins in the Pavilion car park.

With regard to parish business, our priority spend once again has been the maintenance of the Pavilion, the Recreation Ground, the Children's Play Area, refurbishment of the Tennis Court and general maintenance of all our amenities. Recently, we installed 3 covered shelters by the Pavilion which have proved to be very popular, it's great to see folks enjoying their time outside, there is a real buzz about the place. We will continue to enhance our facilities during the coming months.

Just over a year ago we applied for and were given 100 tree saplings from the Wildlife trust which was wonderful but we then realised that we would need to find some expert knowledge and help to plant them.

We advertised for a Tree Warden and were so lucky that 2 volunteers offered their help, Lesley MacKinnon and Paul Wyeth. I cannot thank them enough, they drew up plans of where the trees should be planted and last year supervised the planting of the lovely daffodils and wild flowers we see in the recreation ground today. They have also provided us with knowledgeable responses to planning application requests concerning protected trees in the village.

Local Plan Review – Winchester City Council is in the process of updating its Local Plan for housing development up to 2039.

There has been a “Call for Sites” as part of this process and several possibilities were put forward by landowners from within this Parish, these are known as SHELAA sites. (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment)

Winchester City Council have allocated South Wonston 50 new houses, this is still very much under review and subject to the validity and suitability of each SHELAA site. We have already advised Strategic Planning that all sites have no clear access and would need significant changes to amenities and infrastructure. In addition, that we would not support any changes to the settlement boundary. More detailed work is underway and with your residents' input it will no doubt strengthen our case.

The Parish Council at the March meeting approved the need to begin work on a new village design statement.

Why do we need a new one? It is a document that describes the distinctive characteristics of the locality, and provides design guidance to influence future development and improve the qualities of the area and is a supplementary document to a Local Plan.

This is a document owned by the residents of South Wonston. If you would like to have an influence over the future look of the village jot down some ideas to give us, email them or even better put your name down to become part of the working party.

You are probably aware that we have distributed a survey to each household which will also provide us with ideas that we can use for the new VDS.

If you are interested in joining us, please let us know, we have 2 vacancies at the moment and Rachael, Clerk to the Parish Council will be happy to provide you with a pack of information this evening or if you would like to email her.

We have one new Councillor who joined us in March, Cllr. Phil Oram.

We were sorry to lose Cllr John Cooper who has now resigned.

Thank you once again for your time.

Thanks to Nicky Leyton we have a fabulous event to look forward to the “Queens Jubilee”

Nicky's enthusiasm has ensured that it will be such a memorable day, I would like to thank her for all her hard work to get this organised.