

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO STRETTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH – THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017

People

This report covers the last twelve months and, as in previous years, it is characterised by change. Sadly, Pippa Atkin, Peter Ransome-Jones and Lee Overton felt they could no longer serve as councillors but I am delighted that Peter still does a sterling job as StrettonVillage.com Webmaster. Moreover, the village must thank Emma Chan for her editorial efforts on the Village Newsletter and we give a warm welcome to Jo Haywood as her replacement. Jo is a professional communicator for Hinchingsbrooke & Peterborough Hospital and brings her media experience and great energy to the role.

Pippa was replaced as a parish councillor by Gideon Visser and Peter by Greg Harker, both of whom have already contributed enormously to the decision-making process. Furthermore, as no group of villagers has requested an election to replace Lee Overton, there will be important co-option decisions to be made over the next few weeks. For now, suffice to say that we already have a very promising volunteer for consideration.

At this stage, thanks are due to Cliff Bacon, who, as well as advising Sally Skyrme, our Parish Clerk, has also volunteered to act as Internal Auditor for the annual accounts, which will be presented in the next month or so. Thanks also to Sally who, despite living in Leicester and having a lot on her plate, has served us well in her first year. It is also very important to thank Nick Begy who, as our Ward Member at the County Council, has represented us manfully over the year and regularly attends our meetings; as does PC Laurie Appleton, whose regular crime updates are invaluable, keeping us well-informed as they invariably do. Thanks are also due to my excellent Deputy Chairman, John Leefe, whose wise counsel and admirable litter-picking leadership contributes enormously to our community and to Brian Lester, who brings his great understanding of rural affairs to the table.

Places

To spread yet more light on the subject, Rutland County Council has replaced all the old street-light bulbs with LED filaments, which are very much cheaper to run, and steady progress is being made towards the formulation of a Community Plan. This involves looking at all aspects of the village environment and facilities for our residents. For example, as well as enhancing the landscape by planting more attractive trees, strategies are being formulated to reduce road noise and air pollution, control excessive speeding and make the population safer by the availability of cardiac defibrillators and stricter control over dog-fouling.

Neighbourhood Watch's (NHW) John McCarthy is also heading up a small working group to put together a Community Response Plan in the event of, for example: total electrical power or mains water failure to the village; excessive snow-fall or severe flooding, or the response to a series of catastrophic traffic accidents on the Great

North Road. Thanks are also due more generally to John and his wife Sue for their valuable contribution to our safety and security through our NHW.

The views of all village residents would be welcome on all the above topics, as well as any additional suggestions or concerns you may wish to raise. In that vein, all villagers are reminded that your Parish Council meets every two months, usually at the Jackson Stops at 8pm on a Thursday, and everyone is welcome. Agenda items are posted on the village website as well as on the noticeboards in the Bus Shelter on Manor Road and on Stocken Hall Road.

I close my report by wishing all residents a blissful summer in this historic and lovely location.

Richard Foster
Chairman