

Walton Parish Council - Chairman's Report: May 2019

Looking back over my statement last year it is very positive to reflect how much we have achieved this year, exceeding our own targets in terms of delivering projects but also delivering them to the highest of standards and involving more and more residents of the village. The Parish Council is now a galvanised team, each with a role to play and the improvement in which we are able to communicate our ambitions and achievements via regular newsletters is a real success.

I am also very pleased that we have a much closer working relationship with the Village Hall which we will develop further over the coming months and I was delighted to welcome Rev Nick Morgan to a number of Village meetings, his enthusiasm to create a strong working relationship with the church is very encouraging.

Last year we promised a new playground; this was delivered on time, on budget with additional trees, commemorative benches and further strengthened our working relationship with Leeds City Council. The Neighbourhood Plan was not only adopted, but is held in high regard, nominated for a national award and shortlisted as one of the best plans in the country. It should give us all great encouragement that this plan now forms the basis of a road map of how the village can develop over the next decade, in line with what you as parishioners want to see.

The delivery of a circular foot path around the village, the implementation of speed restrictions, preliminary work enabling us to deliver some new housing aimed at satisfying local needs and a project to celebrate Walton's history are now all live projects that we are working on.

However it's the social cohesion of the village that gives me the greatest pleasure! Our village workdays go from strength to strength, achieving great work, but also bringing people outside into the fresh air, chatting and generally having fun. The Bonfire night event was the first, of I hope many occasions where villagers and friends can socialise and enjoy each other's company, delivered by the combined efforts of the Parish Council and the Village Hall. I am sure a summer event will prove just as popular.

Crime in the village remains negligible, our accounts are robust and we do have real ambition to continue to work for you as a village to make Walton and even better place to live.

My thanks must be extended to all the Parish Councillors and the team involved in delivering the Parish Plan. In addition Helena Buck has continued to be superb in her position as Clerk, ensuring we run efficiently under ever increasing legislation, but most of all thank you to everybody who takes an interest, it is always a pleasure to take feedback, especially positive feedback!

I look forward to a busy, productive but most of all happy and healthy year ahead.

David Aspland
David Aspland, Chairman, Walton Parish Council.