

WIELD APM 2017

## WIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN's REPORT

1. May I begin by thanking all the volunteers in Wield who not only make this village work, but more importantly, a great place to live. By volunteers I include Members of the PC and also those from the organisations updating us this evening all of whom give freely and generously of their time.
2. May I also thank County Councillor Mark KG for his tireless support for the village, for which we are most grateful – even though I sense we have from time to time been guilty of rather taking his support and efforts for granted: the PC really is most appreciative.
3. Looking back: in addition to routine, low level but important PC activities throughout the year, there were 5 items of note:
  - a. Roads. Whilst maintenance remains an ongoing challenge, PC pressure resulted in potholes being attended to more quickly than previously, and a major win was the resurfacing of the Drove. Thanks to HCC for that.
  - b. Drainage. After considerable effort and some challenging culvert hunting, We have almost resolved the annual flooding problem at Battle Corner and in Middle Wield, with just some final ditch digging to be completed. You should know that for these road repairs and ditch clearance, rather than rely on HCC alone, we now have additional access to our own very helpful, quick response contractor.
  - c. Footpaths. Following good work by the PC, a number of nearby BOATS are gradually being improved to be useable on foot rather than needing a tank. The unexpected advantage of this upgrading is that the off-roaders who cause so much damage do not enjoy smooth tracks and thus go elsewhere.
  - d. Broadband. Despite the horrific event at the beginning of the year which had a major impact on the provider (Redraw)'s work schedule, the wireless broadband service is gradually expanding and maturing with additional routes being commissioned. There are still the odd

hiccups, but the service is generally reliable and fast. Redraw's contact details are in your copy of the W2W booklet which was distributed to every household.

e. Precept or Rates. We are pleased that for yet another year, we have been able to maintain Parish rates unchanged. One factor which helped but which we cannot perhaps rely on this coming year was a generous grant from Councillor Kemp Gee to be used to cover drainage and road repairs.

What to look forward to?

Apart from continuing efforts on Rd maint ( particularly roadside edges and passing places and completion of the drainage work where we will continue our successful self help programme, ) our big ticket item which we eagerly await is the launch of our own website. The PC like Star Trek is boldly going into the future and has recently commissioned its own website which goes live as of NOW. Apart from being a useful source of information for all, it should see a reduction in trees being cut down to produce the numerous flyers which seem to be distributed by the faithful few every other week! Communication between the PC and residents will now occur largely via this website, although we will continue to publish notices on thevthreeusual,noticeboards.

Wield GP2. We look forward to the GP on 17 June and hope that it will be well supported.

There are two other relatively minor but alas less than successful items which I should mention which have been left over from last year. Despite a promise, we have failed to deliver: 1<sup>st</sup>, notice boards ( we intended to replace the tatty notice boards although our new website reduces the pressure there) although following some high level negotiations the cricket Club have kindly agreed to share their board opposite the pub, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, we have still not yet found a suitable home for the Queens Jubilee Oak tree. Suggestion on the back of a pc please!

Otherwise it is very much business as usual.