



Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Day reported that over the past year the Parish Council has continued with the normal duties on behalf of the electorate.

Looking at all planning applications for development in the parish and opposing those applications which are not appropriate has been the job of our planning committee under Cllr Ann Blatherwick's chairmanship.

Our Environment and Leisure committee has looked after our regular events which consumes an enormous amount of time and effort under Cllr Jennifer Taylor's chairmanship, whilst the Finance and Resources committee under Cllr Robert Jones' chairmanship has continued to make sure all financial matters are within financial regulation.

Our newest committee, the Community Centre Committee, under Cllr Carol Davis's chairmanship has been very busy dealing with the existing hall and with the ongoing development of the new centre which is now approaching the planning application stage.

The 10th Garden Safari was held in June, visitor numbers were again down due to the weather conditions prior to and the weather forecast for the day. £1,556 was raised on the day, half of which went to McMillan Cancer Care and the rest went into our Community Projects fund. A BBQ was held for those who opened their gardens and a representative from McMillan Cancer Care attended to collect their cheque. Our thanks to Cllr Andy Harvey and Sabine for hosting the event and for all those who contributed on the day.

The Fun Day held in August was again a great success with an excellent turnout £2,721 was raised on the day with half being donated to Strode Park Foundation and the rest going into community projects. A cheque presentation afternoon was held in December. All parish volunteers were invited and a cheque was presented to Strode Park.

The children's party was held again in early December and some 60 parish children attended. Shout Disco, Pip the Clown and Father Christmas all helped to wear out the children and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to all those who helped with another success.

After nearly 5 years the allotments site in Ford Road is, at last, open for business and the first plots are being cultivated. There are a few plots still available and interested parties should contact the Herne & Broomfield Allotments Society who run the site on the PC's behalf.

The underpass mural in Mill Lane has now been completed on both sides.

The Council continues its opposition to the Strode Farm proposals and will continue to fight against this development until the last. Our objections are mainly threefold.

First the lack of infrastructure. From what has been shown so far the traffic management proposals are woefully short of acceptable with the so called Herne Relief Road more of a fantasy than a genuine proposal. School place provision falls into this category with no one convinced that KCC figures show the current provision as being enough for the next ten years.

Next is the loss of identity for Herne Village which will simply disappear into a large homogenous mass with Herne and Broomfield, Herne Bay and Greenhill being indistinguishable one from the other.

Our third area of concern is the lack of sufficient long term employment opportunities in the immediate area, meaning that most of the new residents will be commuting to work in Canterbury or further afield making the already horrendous traffic movement through the village even worse without a reasonable alternative being in place from the start.

I am sad to report the resignation from the council of Councillor Andrew Brealy. He has been a councillor since May 2007 and has been an enthusiastic supporter of all that the council has been involved in. He has always been honourable and honest in all his dealings with the PC and his loss from the council will be noticed and missed.

On a personal note, this has been my 5th year as chairman of the council and it will also be my last. I have now moved beyond the council boundary and although I am still eligible to stand for election living within 3 miles of the parish, I strongly feel that making decisions about the way the precept is spent and about matters which will impact on electors whilst not being affected either financially or any other way myself it would be wholly inappropriate for me to continue as a parish councillor. I will continue in position until the next election in May 2015 and will be happy to act in an advisory capacity for that period but I will not be offering myself as a candidate for the chairmanship in May this year.

I would like to thank all councillors whose acceptance of the authority of the chair have made the job of chairman a much easier one than could have been the case and I wish my successor my best wishes for an equally enjoyable period of office.

I would like to thank our clerk Monica for her support over the last 5 years and hope she would also give the same support to the new chairman.

Cllr Tony Day
4 April 2014