

## Chairmans Report 2024/25

It's been another busy year for the Parish Council and here's a short report on some of the work that's been going on in the village.

Pond – We obtained a Pride of Place grant to carry out some work in this area of the village. This helped us to buy a new bench made of recycled plastic to replace the wooden one that fell apart. We also carried out some tree pruning, general clearance of the bank and cut the reeds back to a manageable level. The pond information board was also taken away and given a total refurb

Play Area-Some of the play equipment is starting to show signs of wear and tear. The roller had to be removed due to a broken top bar and the stepping posts are about to be removed due to some of them splitting. The old see saw was removed and has been replaced with a new one and we hope to replace some of the lost pieces of equipment as and when funds are available.

The back perimeter fence has once again been the subject of vandalism with a number of posts being kicked off twice which is disappointing. Screwing them back on is a job we could do without. If passers by could keep an eye out it would be appreciated.

Sports Field and Pavilion- We have continued to make some improvements to the building with some electric heating, loft insulation and some new curtains. It still needs updating in some areas but is now a much improved facility to what it was and is available to hire at reasonable rates. We have also installed a new defibrillator, which was purchased with match funding, to replace a much older style model.

Newmarket Cricket Club are now entering their third season at the ground and continue to develop their club. This includes a ladies team which proved popular last year and the juniors which they are encouraging by visiting the local schools. We wish them well for the new season.

Potholes- One piece of positive news on this subject was the resurfacing of the traffic calming area at Old Maids Corner which had needed doing for a few years. Whilst we cannot take much credit for this, it was good to see it done. We hope that the same could be said for the state of the road going out of Dullingham towards Newmarket. As we have mentioned before, the only way to complain is on the Cambs County Council website under the report a highways problem heading.

That along with possibly a letter to our MP may help bring the much needed works forward as it is a dangerous stretch of road at the moment, particularly in the dark.

Volunteering- Our thanks go out to the two ladies who spent a day cutting back, clearing out and sprucing up the picnic tables at the Millenium garden. It was much appreciated.

Thankyou very much to all the people involved in the time consuming task of setting up the village speedwatch group. This has not proved to be a straightforward thing to achieve.

Also a big thankyou to our Station adopters who are continuing to do marvellous work down at our lovely station. They have gained some sort of notoriety with local media, popping up here and there in papers and tv articles. It can get overlooked as it's somewhat detached from the village but please go and have a look when you have a spare moment.

Thanks also to local councillor James Lay for providing a free defibrillator training evening at the sports pavilion. Run by East Anglian Air Ambulance, it was well attended and most informative.

If anyone would like to help out in a voluntary capacity at any time in any way please get in touch.

Farewell and Hello- May we take this opportunity to thank Sarah Mardon, who has retired from the PC, for all her good work, particularly on footpaths and the environment. She will be sadly missed. On the plus side we welcome new councillors Simon Park and Julie Murden and we have another application pending which should bring us up to full strength once more.

Finally a big thankyou to my fellow Councillors for all their hard work throughout the year and particularly our Clerk, Karen who has the job of keeping us on track.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming year.