

CHAIRS REPORT 2017 WELCOME EVERYONE

They say time flies when you're having fun?

We have as a PC strived to do our best for our village over the last twelve months we have constantly worked on the normal day to day issues which arrive on our agenda from planning to tree pruning, from parking to just been here for our community and we hope to be able to continue our support for all in our village. We said last year we would like to improve the look and feel of our community and embarked on two main projects to help with this.

The planting of flower beds round the village and refurbishment of the pond area plus a scheme to refurbish the children's play area, while one has, I'm sure you agree, been very successful and transformed the look of our village the other has proved more difficult to make to bring to fruition however we are very near the finishing line as regards funding and hopefully we can see the results soon and I would like to thank everyone involved, for all the work and time they have put in so far.

We have now got the defibrillator moved to its permanent home in the old telephone box and a local resident has come forward to help keep it looking clean and tidy; the village notice boards are now up and been used thanks to the generosity of NLC who kindly granted us the funds to purchase them and the new village signs will, hopefully, make a much welcomed appearance soon.. The PC has continued its support of the Low Villages newspaper which helps keep us in touch with our neighbours with regularly updates and news from all the Low villages. We have also kept our membership of The Low Villages Forum which gives us a platform to express our views and concerns to a wider audience and helps to put together projects which cover the low villages one of which is a local tourism/walks map for the low village's area which will of course feature SF. We have kept our close relationship with our partners in the village from the local farmers and businesses to the volunteers who contribute so much to our

community and of course Cemex who continue to help and support us and keep a much appreciated "open door" for us.

There has also been a considerable amount of time spent in various meetings with the EA over our flood defenses for the Sluice area. Progress has been slow and difficult but it is being made and this will continue to be one of our main concerns over the coming year.

In closing I would just like to address the members of our PC.

firstly to take this opportunity to thank Louise for all the work she puts into keeping us all on the right side of local politics and to offer my congratulations to her on passing her SILCA qualifications.

And secondly our councilors

The reality of being a parish councilor is in the main a very mundane job and at times seems to be a constant stream of petty details and red tape, however without people like yourselves getting involved and being prepared to spend time to improve and guide small communities like ours we would not be able to make the progress I feel our village has made over the last few years, so on behalf of our village may I say thank you to those you serve on our parish council.

I look forward, hopefully, to working with you all over the next year.

Roy

Chair SFPC