Chairman's Report

Annual Parish Assembly 2016

Atworth has once again been busy with new initiatives, active organisations, clubs and classes, retaining participants and welcoming new members. We are all fortunate to live in such a lively community.

I will start by recording my thanks to Terry Chivers, our Wiltshire councillor and Area Board member. Over the past year he has given a wealth of help, advice and information.

I would like to thank WI for being an excellent village caretaker, maintaining our benches, and keeping the village litter free.

During July and August I spoke with 250 residents on their doorsteps and gained their signatures in support of improvements to the visibility of the pedestrian crossing. I also met with our MP Michelle Donelan who also gave us her support. With this I went to CATG and the Area Board and asked for a grant towards brighter Halo lights. The scheme is currently under public consultation, but hopefully it will be implemented very soon.

Our Parish Plan has been reviewed with an updated copy delivered to everyone. It is effectively a way of ensuring that we move forward as a community, taking on new initiatives. My thanks go to John Polhill for all his work in leading the steering group on this.

No cold calling zones were established in Atworth. This means that cold calling is prohibited in these areas, and the Police can be called to deal with callers. I met with almost everyone in Mead Park, Chapel Rise and Fleetwood Rise, to see if they supported this scheme. Signage is evident at the entrances and inside the zones.

We have a flood plan in place with all Councillors being flood wardens. Due to this, we received Area Board funding towards a Flooding and Emergency Planning equipment storage container which will be sited on the Atworth Business Park next month. We will be starting on our village emergency action plan in the coming year.

We have requested dropped kerbs at Mead Park and Nursery Close/Chapel Rise. We have an increase of wheel chair users, mobility scooter users, as well as pushchairs users who need easier access through the village.

There was a new Transparency Code of Practice for local councils which we embraced and is evident on the web site.

Defibrillator training continued throughout the year with St Johns Ambulance. The feedback is excellent and no one is rushed. There is plenty of time to have a go. It will probably be held annually from now on.

I made a kneeler for the Parish Church in cross stitch showing the Parish Council logo. I started it in 2011, put it down and picked it up five years later.

On the downside:

Speeding traffic, heavy traffic, and weight of traffic continue to create problems at times for Atworth. A demonstration against speeding traffic was held in the summer by villagers, which some of our councillors supported. We are requesting a metro count in Bradford Road to see if a 20mph zone along here should be established.

We might have access to sessions of a Speed Indicating device, to be used along the Bath Road. It is dependent on the results of recent metro counts, but ours were last done in 2011 so we have asked for this exercise to be repeated.

Yellow lines at Mead Park and the entrance to Bradford Road, and also a 30mph roundel at the far end of Bradford Road, were requested some months ago but have been delayed due to WC contractor problems. We understand that this will be addressed over the next few months.

Finally, I welcome my new Parish Clerk Phil McMullen who will commence next month. I am looking forward to working with him, and I am confident that he will be an asset to this Council.

Effie Gale-Sides

Chairman