

Chiseldon Parish Council
CHAIRMANS REPORT 2017 – 2018

Good evening, I am Cllr Caroline Brady, and Chair of Chiseldon parish Council.

I will provide a short overview of the work of the council and how its structure has changed over the last year.

Following my update, each Committee Chair will report on the specific activity undertaken by their committee over the last year.

The work of the Parish Council continues to increase in both levels of complexity and responsibility. In response, the Parish Council carried out a number of changes in 2017 designed to achieve a greater level of efficiency, accelerate change and deliver a track record of continuous improvement. Areas impacted by these changes include the Council's committee structure, its financial administration and the management of its assets

Council's Committee Structure

The Parish Council has established 3 main committee's by merging key areas of responsibility undertaken by the previous 5 committees.

The first of these committees is the EGPA (Environment, General Purpose and Amenities).

The EGPA committee combines the previous environment and recreation committee.

The EGPA responsibility includes, the overall management of grass, verge and hedge maintenance, Parish Council Buildings and land, recreation and sports facilities and community safety. This last area, of community safety covers policing issues & the safety of our vulnerable and elderly residents in the community.

Cllrs Rawlings our EGPA chair will shortly update you on the work this committee has carried out this year.

The second of our sub committee's is Finance. This committee has taken on a broader remit. In addition to managing the budgets of the Parish Council, it also has responsibility for 3rd party contracts the Parish Council take on, as well as responsibility for staff management. At present this covers pay and conditions for our Parish Clerk.

Cllr Harris, the Chair of Finance will shortly update you on the 2017 financial activity and the steps we have taken to improve our financial reporting and administration.

Our 3rd sub-Committee is responsible for Planning , Transport Development & Highways

In 2016 we transferred all highways & transport issues from the Environment committee to a new highways committee. Last year we merged the highways & transport with the planning committee as many of the concerns and issues are linked.

Parish Council membership

During 2017 the composition of the Council changed

We welcomed 4 new Councillors; Andrew McDonald, Ian Henderson, Michelle Harris, Matt Clark. Whilst accepting resignations from John Martin, Jane Beaumont, David West. We would like to repeat our thanks and appreciation for all the hard work and the contribution our outgoing Cllrs have made to the Parish over their period of tenure.

I would also like to thank each of our Parish Councillors for the time and effort they devote to their duties on a completely voluntary basis. Each Cllr shares a passionate concern for the well being of the Parish, always having the best interests of the community at heart.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council however, would not function without the pivotal role of the Parish Clerk. We were very happy to welcome Clair Wilkinson as our new Parish Clerk at the beginning of 2016 . She has now been with us for over 2 years, a period that has seen significant change and growing complexity to the role of the Parish Clerk.

In addition to the responsibilities transferred from the Borough Council to the Parish, Clair manages the day-to-day administration of a number of significant 3rd party contracts negotiated and agreed by the Parish Council to deliver environmental and maintenance services on behalf of the Parish.

Very shortly Clair will also, along with a number of Parish Cllrs tackle some of the most complex data protection legislation that has impacted the UK for sometime.

It is very clear how important Clair has become , not only to the smooth running of the parish council and her support to the Cllrs but in particular to the wider Parish Community. Appreciation and recognition is frequently reported by our parish residents as a result of the support and help she carries out both in her work and as a caring member of this community.

Ward Councillors

Our final thanks and gratitude is extended to our Ward Councillors – Cllr Gary Sumner, Cllr Fionuala Foley and Cllr Eric Shaw. Following Cllr Shaw decision to step down and the recent election we welcome our new ward representative for Chiseldon & Lawn , Cllr Brian Mattock . We look forward to working with Cllr Mattock over the coming year

Collectively our Ward Cllrs provide ongoing support through their attendance at our Council meetings and holding monthly surgeries in the Parish, facilitating requests for help both from the Parish Council and also directly from residents.

Residents Feedback

I would now like to turn the attention towards the importance of residents feedback. At the beginning of this meeting you were asked to provide feedback and prioritise 6 highways /transport issues for this Parish.

Whilst public consultations are a great way for the Parish Council to obtain resident feedback and we will arrange more of these sessions over the course of this year, we have opportunities on a more regular basis for residents to share their views with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council holds a meeting on the second Monday of every month at the Recreation Hall. If that is not convenient we have 3 sub-committee meetings. All of these meetings are open to the public. Our Parish Clerk will always publish the dates and times of these meetings along with the agenda for each meeting through our web site, on the face book site or posted on the notice boards. Our Ward Cllrs also hold a surgery on the first Saturday of each month at the memorial hall. If you cannot however get to these meetings you can always email /telephone our clerk or visit her during office hours. Whilst the local Facebook site is a helpful medium for sharing issues it isn't run by the Parish council and there isn't any guarantee urgent concerns will reach us.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our local businesses for their continued support and sponsorship of community activity. Such as the 2 new defibrillators installed at the Calley hall and Cameo Hairdressers – our thanks to both establishments for offering the use of their premises and to the Calley memorial trust for going 50/50 to fund the equipment.

A second example of local businesses stepping up to help the community is during the annual litter pick. This year the Chiseldon House Hotel, Calley Arms, Bakers Arms, the Patriot Arms and the Plough all offered to provide free refreshments to our volunteers. All Build our grounds work contractors collected all the rubbish during the litter pick and remove it free of charge.

Our thanks and appreciation of course goes to all the volunteers who came out this year to help with the event, particularly as the original date was postponed thanks to the 'beast from the east' – but in spite of these delays the community rallied and showed a great example of civic pride.

As the detailed work of the Parish Council is driven from the committee level. You will now hear a report from each Committee Chair on the activity their committee has undertaken over the last year. You will also hear from Cllr David Hill, who will provide an annual summary of the changes that have impacted local transport services.

Thank you for listening.

Councillor Caroline Brady

Chairman of Chiseldon Parish Council – May 2018