

Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council 21st May 2024

This is the second report I have had to write as Chairman of Stoodleigh Parish Council. We have had many issues to address in the past 12 months, some of which are still ongoing.

Planning:- We have been involved in many planning issues, the most contentious being Shadow ponds or the Old Saw Mill . A great number of concerns were voiced by parishioners which we have put forward to MDDC.

In all planning requests and concerns we do our best as a parish council to look at every case objectively and to proceed as a collective accordingly.

Footpaths & Bridleways:- Sharon Davey our footpath and bridle way officer has not been well, and consequently has not been on the scene due to the treatment she is currently undergoing. As a council, we all wish her a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with her and her family. I would like to thank her for her continued enthusiasm to stay on the parish council. Sharon has always done a good job in her role and we all look forward to her return.

We are delighted with the news that MDDC have given official bridle way status to the track running from Shilhay through to the Dryhill road.

Playground:- Some new equipment is possibly due over the next year or so as some of it is showing signs of wear and tear, which is a good thing because that means it is being used. Many thanks to John Widdowson for all his efforts and work time he has put into the playground to keep it as it is, and also to the contractors, the Berrys, who as always have done an excellent job keeping it tidy with the hedge trimming and the grass cutting.

Defibrillator:-

The defibrillator has been called into use a couple of times, but very sadly on one occasion to no avail. It was absolutely tragic that a visiting cricketer had a heart attack, but could not be saved despite valiant efforts. Our deepest sympathy goes to his friends and family. I think we were all very sorry to hear this incredibly sad news . The defibrillator is now up and running again in case of another emergency, our thanks to John Widdowson for undertaking this. John has also organised a defib training session, which was well attended, and another is due to take place on the 22nd May.

Stoodleigh Inn:-

Lizzie at the Stoodleigh Inn has worked very hard yet again providing all sorts of entertainment, including a pub trip which has become very popular for the locals, hosting charity events, and fundraisers for the church and cricket club. Also, of course, just running a good local pub where you are always made welcome. I know many holiday makers visiting the area who have commented that the pub is one of the many highlights of their stay, while visiting or staying in Stoodleigh, so a huge thank you to both Lizzie and Mike for their continued efforts.

Church:-

The Church PC recently held an auction of pledges, which I hear was a great success, and in the Autumn, their ever-popular Harvest Supper and skittles evening.....it's amazing how competitive we can be! There is a lot of work behind the scenes to keep our beautiful church in order, and to fund raise in an ever more difficult economic climate, so our thanks to all the members of the Church Committee.

The Garden Club:-

This little club carries out all of the replanting on Stoodleigh drive, that we enjoy throughout the early months of spring. It's a thankless task I'm sure, but we all enjoy the results, the snowdrops and daffodils are always a welcome sight. The tubs at Kissing Gates are beautiful too. Shirley keeps us up to date on the contents of the Swap Box, the old telephone box at Hill Crest. The garden club puts on many visits throughout the year.

Community:-

The community email, Stoodleigh Web, has continued to be a real asset, and an extremely valuable means of communication throughout the parish, thanks to Geraldine and her team for keeping this updated. There is also a Face Book page, "Stoodleigh Post", for any interesting snippets of news or photographs, anyone in the parish is welcome to join this group. There is also a very popular Whatsapp group for day to day things from lost pets, to trees across the road and other traffic issues.