

CHAIRMANS REPORT-2015/16

I would like to give you my report on the activities of the Parish Council during the past year.

I will begin by thanking my fellow Councillors for their efforts and support during the past year.

I would also give my own and the Councils thanks to our District Councillor Gareth Hughes and our County Councillor Richard Leppington for their help and support throughout.

We have now completed the registration of Awre Village Green with HM land registry in the name of Awre Parish Council.

Also following a commitment made last year to fund a defibrillator for Awre village this has been purchased and was installed just after Christmas. This is now operational and is sited just outside of the village hall. A training session was held with a really good turn out of members of the community.

Another commitment made last year was the re-roofing of the lychgate at Blakeney Cemetery – this has been completed along with a new coat of preservative to the timberwork and looks in much better shape for it.

The Council took on a new contractor for the grass cutting at the cemetery and we are very pleased with the work he has carried out this year.

Our thanks also to Michael Fisher for the grass cutting work he carries out around the parish. As usual he just gets on with it but always seems to do what is required at the right time.

As always we continue to work with Gloucestershire Highways on various issues throughout the Parish

At present, following a representation from parents of children at Blakeney School the Council represented by our two lady councillors – Kim Stevenson and Helen Pike are in negotiations with Highways to try and get the best possible outcome for traffic calming through Blakeney village to ensure increased safety for all and in particular the children at our school.

We support any scheme fully as I am sure you all do.

We are currently considering support for the foresters forest programme – this is a new scheme being run with the heritage lottery fund which will provide funding for a number of selected projects throughout the forest.

We are particularly interested in the possibility of creating a cycle track from Mallards Pike to Wenchford and also the renovation of the lime kilns and the construction of the salmon ladder in the village.

This year the Council has had an increased number of planning applications to deal with including several major applications.

We made several donations to local organisations during the year, which it has become our practice to do.

Once again we produced the Parish Calender, which I hope the residents of our community find useful.

I would like to thank all contributors of photographs, Richard Fellows and Bob Watters for the production of the calendar and also thank BobWatters, David Preece, Blakeney Hill Growers, and of course Richard Terry for the delivery of them.

For this year we will try and progress some outstanding projects for example – refurbishment of red telephone boxes, the same of various benches in the parish ,silt bank removal below the weir in the village and the finalisation of the Parish Emergency Plan.