

Appendix A

Chairman's Report May 2019

In May last year, we welcomed a new parish councillor, Malcolm Gordon, who was co-opted following the election and in March 2019 we said goodbye to, Sylvia Sullivan, our "temporary" parish clerk for the past 5 years. Many thanks to Sylvia and a warm welcome to Rod Kerr, who steps back into the role.

The parish council has had 3 overriding issues hanging over it in the last year:
A428 upgrade, Oxford –Cambridge rail route and the threat of development at the Garden Centre.

A428 upgrade: Although the consultation was back in 2017, it was not until March this year that we finally had the decision: the Northern (Orange) route was chosen and the threat was lifted from Waresley.

Oxford to Cambridge Railway: Last September we became aware of a potential threat in the shape of the E-W railway, with one proposed route coming through Waresley and we agreed to support the CamBedRailRoad proposal, which linked St Neots to Cambridge, and avoided Waresley. However the non-statutory consultation, when it came, did not include the CBRR route and showed route corridors rather than precise paths, which meant that Waresley was potentially threatened by 2 routes (B and E). We therefore felt we had to support route A, the Southern, least intrusive route. We are still awaiting the decision.

Garden Centre Development: In December last year, a development company hosted a pre-application meeting in Waresley, with plans for a number of houses between the Garden Centre and Eltisle Rd. The parish council opposed the scheme, as did many residents and we informed the developers that Waresley had been ruled out of the District Council's call for sites, as we were a small settlement, which did not fulfil the conditions for reasonable sustainability. The District Council backed us up on this. The developers cancelled a further meeting in Waresley, without explanation and we have not heard from them since.

Ditch along Gransden Rd: After much negotiation, Cllr John Archer was able to get this ditch properly dug out, with help from a team of volunteers. Many thanks to all.

Local Highways Improvement Initiative: John Archer succeeded with our bid for a 40 mph buffer zone on the B1040 at either entrance to the village. The parish council will pay a small percentage of this and the County Council funds the rest. An informal consultation by Highways on this is still open.

Old churchyard: Trees: David Morgan organised tree surgery on the trees, which was completed in May. The plan had been originally to spread the payment over 2 years, but delays meant that this was not possible.

Old churchyard Wall: After a long struggle to find a suitable contractor, Malcolm Gordon succeeded in getting the wall repaired.

Greensand Ridge Gateway Project: Malcolm also involved us with the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership from whom we are hoping to get "Greensand Ridge" signs for the entrances to the Village, though County Council fees are proving a stumbling block at present. This contact resulted in a visit from GCLP personnel and we recently hosted a "Repton Day" event for their Greensand Country Festival.

Defibrillator: Malcolm's other project has been to encourage the acquisition of a defibrillator for the village, to be placed in the old phone box. Details are still under discussion.