

Hopton Castle Parish Meeting – 2018/19 Chair's Annual Report

This past year has seen progress on a number of issues our meetings have been concerned with. We have, in partnership with the Community Heartbeat Trust, installed and opened our village defibrillator through local fund raising and a grant from the National Lottery. As a result we now have a facility which will make us all a little safer. This was a team effort with a lot of participation by residents in deciding how to proceed with this project. I would however, like in particular to acknowledge the contributions of Ted Laidlar for his work in restoring the telephone box which houses the defibrillator and Dennis Wright for his work in organising the fundraising events which kick started the project.

We have undertaken improvements works to the village environment through further planting of daffodil bulbs, which have looked magnificent. We have also worked to find an appropriate way of undertaking maintenance of the stream that runs through the village so that we comply with the relevant environmental standards. Both have contributed to an improved look for the village and thanks to the residents who volunteered to do this work. Thanks are also due to Neville Rollason for maintaining the verges.

We have contributed to relevant public consultations by raising objections to the proposed building of Chicken Sheds at Hopton Heath (although unfortunately these plans have been approved) and submitting views to the Future Fit Programme on the plans for our local hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford.

We continue to publish relevant information on our website (<https://hoptoncastleparish.wordpress.com>) and facebook page and hopefully these will allow more active participation in village affairs by our residents.

Some of our activities, especially the installation of the defibrillator, means that we have had to raise a precept for the first time in many years. This means a little more formality than we have been used to in terms of some of the reporting to our meetings. However, it does mean we are investing modest amounts to improving life in the village.

We have a few issues that still remain unresolved including greater participation in monitoring and commenting on the arrangements for the cycling events in Hopton Woods. Hopefully a meeting can take place shortly with the relevant parties. Repairs to the stream retaining wall and to our roads are taking longer than we would wish.

Jane Stirling stood down as the Clerk to the Parish Meeting in January. I would like to express my thanks, on behalf of the Village, to Jane for undertaking this role so diligently for a number of years.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the officers and committee for their help and support throughout the year.

Jon Allen
29th April 2019