



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2015

This has been election time, and that has included the parish council. Like most local parishes, no actual voting took place in Whitley because the six candidates proposed were one less than the seven positions available and so all were elected unopposed. Returning councillors Kath Walton, Frank Blackburn, John Watson and myself, Simon Humphrey, are now joined by new members Sarah Cole and Phillip Broadhurst. Sue White and Jack Davie are both leaving the parish council, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the immense commitment and enthusiasm they have given to parish business, and this community, for many years.

A most significant event this year in Whitley was the visit and Open Forum meeting by the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, Julia Mulligan. Road safety and speeding traffic are repeatedly highlighted as major concerns for residents here and the PC is committed to trying to address these issues. The council are also contributing to, and monitoring the consultation for the Selby Plan, the most important strategic planning document for this area. The amount of housing development in Whitley, as well as the long term future of the village envelope and the status of the surrounding Greenbelt, will be determined by the implementation of the Selby Plan. Our regular activities are progressing well, such as maintenance of the play areas and Daffodil Park, and we are now overseeing grass cutting along the A19 and other verges in the village. The village allotments continue to thrive and provide a community hub, and the fuel co-operative is still attracting new members. The website provides local updated information, which is supported by these newsletters.

The PC has raised the precept this year, but I believe the council continues to act prudently and responsibly with its funds, which is confirmed by external audit of the accounts.

In 2006, Whitley produced a Parish Plan, and many of the objectives set out in it have been achieved. Now that we have a newly elected council, a new vision for the future of the community might be undertaken. Clearly, this village will continue to develop, and the parish council should be central to determining the future for Whitley.

A final thanks to my fellow councillors, clerk Keith Leppingwell, and everyone who contributes to this community.

Simon Humphrey

Chair