



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2014

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment made by my fellow councillors and clerk Keith Leppingwell in supporting the Parish Council and community of Whitley, and thank everyone for conducting the various activities and obligations in such a professional and effective way.

The PC can be satisfied that our community projects continue to be well supported.

- The Daffodil Park has seen social events as well as everyday use by residents and with new shrub planting is beginning to mature into a delightful and valuable open space.
- Our other play areas are also regularly monitored, and with residents support we can maintain and improve them for many years.
- The Allotment Association continues to thrive behind Whitefield Lane.
- We have also supported the implementation of fuel co-operatives in Whitley. In a location where we are very unlikely ever to have a mains gas supply, this has been a great success, and I must thank resident John White, along with Cllr. John Watson for their efforts in making this happen.
- The community website continues to be maintained and updated regularly and which we promote, along with much other local information, in the village newsletters.

A major concern continues to be road safety and traffic along the A19 and we work and communicate where possible to mitigate this problem, support and inform local residents, and raise these issues via planning, police, district and county channels.

Financially, the PC maintains a fair level of precept (local council tax) with no increase this year, a responsible control of funds, and a clean bill of health from external auditors.

Whitley continues to grow and we are fast approaching 500 dwellings in this community. As a result, in my opinion this village has been very short changed with regard to supporting infrastructure and community developments. Much smaller villages in this area have community halls, large scale sports facilities, better traffic management and transport services and many other things that make for a thriving, vibrant rural community. Whitley is a popular and attractive village and I believe a major future objective of this PC should be to try to redress this imbalance.

Whitley Parish Council continues to achieve much and maintains a business-like and responsible approach to getting things done as well as representing, and involving, the community.

Once again, thanks to everyone who supports Whitley Parish Council

Simon Humphrey

Chair