

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH AGM MAY 2024

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. I am grateful to all Councillors who have given up their valuable time serving the residents of the villages of Flempton and Hengrave; to lobby for and to facilitate improvements where possible.

Can I also record my thanks to Christine Mason, who has served as Clerk to the Parish for many years and who leaves us to serve on other Councils, with our very best wishes.

As always, we are very ably supported by District Councillor Susan Glossop and County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger who have provided valuable grants to the Parish Council during the year.

During the year, the Council committed to spending on new village entrance gates which we hope will act as a deterrent against vehicle speeding, and I am grateful to those volunteers who maintain the VAS Systems in both Hengrave and Flempton. The Parish Council was also pleased to fund a new Bus Stop on the road to Mildenhall meeting the current legal requirements for accessibility to all.

We have also offered support to the residents of the burnt-out cottages on both sites in Hengrave. It has been a desperate situation for all concerned and the Parish Council convened two very constructive resident's forums for each site. I am pleased to report that a resolution is in sight once new development plans for the two sites can be agreed.

We were delighted to support the placement of a new commemorative bench in honour of our late Queen, on the village green in Flempton. It has been a splendid addition to the village green. I can further report that the track around the green will shortly be refurbished, and the significant rebuild of the Old Greyhound Pub will also be completed soon.

We were also pleased to provide every household in the parish with a commemorative tin of biscuits to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Parish Council works alongside other local Parishes to work for improved water quality in the River Lark and its tributaries; it also works to lobby for improvements in road safety and road condition as well as doing our best to manage the fallout from A14 road diversions. These subjects are undoubtedly work in progress.

Finally, the Council continues to liaise with the local Diocese to maintain and improve the condition of St Catherine's Churchyard.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Chairman at this year's Annual Meeting, but I remain committed to the village. There are a number of areas we need to continue to work on and we have made good progress to date.

Andrew Speed
Chairman
Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council