

THANKS TO –

First of all I want to thank a number of people.

- All my fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.
- Catherine, our clerk, for the professionalism, knowledge and effectiveness that she brings to the PC.
- Terry Clements our county councillor.
- Angela Rushen our borough councillor.
- Our police officer who regularly attends our meetings.
- James Carr, our tree warden.
- Steve Butt, our footpaths warden.
- Andy Parrett, who is now developing and managing our website.
- Rod Jackson, for his valuable support in originally setting up and managing the website.
- Judy and David Carter for gathering articles, editing and printing the Hawstead Journal and also to their team of volunteers who deliver the journals around the village. I'd also like to thank those villagers who put forward articles, and also those who have made a financial contribution to the cost of producing the journal.
- Charlie Riggall, for continuing to keep Hawstead's roads and verges so free of litter.
- And last, but by no means least, I'd like to thank those all those villagers who come along to our PC meetings. They are not always exciting although I suspect they are sometimes unintentionally entertaining! Thank you for your support and please continue to come along.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The primary function of the PC is to oversee and manage the affairs of Hawstead.

This includes regular maintenance all around our beautiful village, looking after our three village greens, our footpaths and the Millennium field. All this work is, of course, on-going throughout the year.

Just highlighting some of our achievements over the year-

We now have a re-surfaced village hall car park

We now have SEBC cutting the greens

We now have new oak notice boards

We have two new benches on order.

There are new signs around the green about dog fouling.

We have new Xmas tree lights.

The new goal posts for the mown area to the north of the play area will be erected shortly so that young people can play ball games.

Your PC is trusted by you all to manage and wisely spend your money.

As Catherine has said we are in a **healthy financial position** with about £20k in the bank at the end of our financial year.

I'm pleased our overall **precept** has remained the same for the past three years.

The PC believes that effective **communication** is very important.

Our **website** has been radically improved this year and again thanks to Henry, Andy and Rod for everything they have done to develop it. If you haven't had a look at it recently I'd urge you to do so.

Also if you are not yet on the village **email distribution list** please ask to be added to it. This will give you information on the PC's activities.

The **Hawstead Journal** continues to make an important contribution to village life, keeping everyone informed of forthcoming events and providing a forum for the sharing of information.

We are constantly reviewing our village **roads**. Potholes are an issue from time to time and so are signposts. Some new signposts have been put in place around the village and we are awaiting more.

We continually review the issue of **speeding**. We are about to begin a village speed watch campaign which we expect will make a considerable impact on reducing speeding.

We have dealt with a number of **planning applications** throughout the year and we have dealt with these in an unbiased and professional way.

WHAT ARE OUR PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Our priority is to continue to manage the village's affairs in the most cost-effective way possible.

We are very aware that we are spending public money – your money – and must do this in the most responsible and prudent way.

Our focus this coming year will also be to look at some of the more neglected areas of village woodland, such as along Bells Lane, some of the overgrown road verges and our triangular traffic islands.

We will continue to improve communications with the village. We plan to develop the bi-monthly coffee mornings to become more of a community event. Please do support these.

You may not be aware that 2014 is the 120th anniversary of Hawstead Parish Council.

The issues back in 1894 were very much the same as they are today with the parish council discussing how best to manage the greens, footpaths and footbridges. Some things don't change!

This present PC has now been in place for 3 years so we have all gained valuable experience as councillors.

All of us are looking forward to the forthcoming year and its challenges!

Thank you all for listening.

John West