

Chairman's Report 2017.

Well another year has gone by and as I sit to write my second Chairman's Report, I reflect on what has been a successful year in many ways, but there are always things that we would like to improve, but as they say "Rome wasn't built in a day".

During the year repairs have been carried out to the play equipment and we are slowly changing the timber posts etc. to a compound which have a far longer life expectancy but the cost is a great deal more. A working party was arranged to clear the weeds from the play area and thanks must go to all who helped on the day with special thanks to Michael & Sarah Millwards daughter who supplied the tea, coffee and biscuits. An application has been made to the Tesco Bags Of Help fund for new chippings for the whole of the play area the result of which we should be informed of within the next four months and we hope this will be successful.

The Chittlehampton and Umberleigh Chronicle is now being printed professionally in colour which is a vast improvement and the collator that the Council supplied for the production of the magazine has been moved to South Molton but will still be available in an emergency.

Problems have been ongoing with Woodlands Bridge following the repairs that somehow turned it into a rather large hump and we are attempting to have permanent warning signage added either side of the bridge.

Concerns have been raised regarding the speed of vehicles through the village, especially down Hillhead, in an attempt to slow vehicles this years TAP fund was used in conjunction with Atherington to purchase signs saying "Please Drive Carefully Though Our Village" these have now been installed under the Chittlehampton signs on all six entrances to the village. The benches and pots from last years TAP fund have been installed at the stocks and the lower part of the square.

Another reported problem with the speed of vehicles is past the school and over the railway bridge at Umberleigh, several meetings have taken place at the site and Rose and I attended with the police to monitor the situation, several people were stopped and warned by the officers. Suggestions have been made to help alleviate the problem and these have been put to highways.

The Parish Council are very concerned about the proposed changes to our local hospital services. We have been in contact with many interested parties registering our objections and we have the full support of Peter Heaton-Jones MP, we will continue to object to any changes.

The Standing Orders for the Parish Council have been updated and were adopted by the Council at the February meeting.

I must again thank Councillor Richard Edgell and Councillor Walter White for their continued support from their grants and would like to congratulate Richard on his re-election as our County Councillor.

Also of course to all of my fellow Councillor's with special thanks to Councillor Howard Hooper for all of his hard work on planning over the last year and very special thanks to Rose our wonderful Parish Clerk without whom I would be completely lost.

Let's hope the next year will be as successful.

Martin Ives.
Chairman.