

L.P.C.Chairman's Report 2022-2023.

I would like to welcome James Murphy and Andrew Poppleton to the Parish Council. James is our representative on the Village Hall Committee ,and, as Andrew is the Church Treasurer , we have helpful links to other community groups.

Village Appearance.

My thanks to Adams & Watt for the very high standard in grass cutting and general maintenance . I was particularly grateful for their quick response in replacing the gate from Spinney Close to the main road after a gale had ripped it out, since the absence of a gate there is dangerous. They have installed a new kissing gate on the east side of the playing field which improves access. It is good that the Church has engaged them for the churchyard, which has looked enchanting this spring.

The donation of a bench for the east side of the playing field catches the evening sun and is much appreciated. Some very effective repairs to the entrance to the playing field from the churchyard were undertaken by Messrs Bunney and Hales .Thank you .

Thank you to all those who took part in our two cleanup sessions. Keeping the litter under control deposited by passing traffic is a continual battle. I was very impressed by the efforts of Messrs. Bowman and Spillane up at the Liddinton crossroads- it took a SBC van to remove their collection. And both the Street trough and Jubilee Gardens have enhanced the village .

The Allotments.

On behalf of the Parish Council these are being administered , with much hard graft on her part, by Cllr. Lauren Hyatt. At least six plots are now in use. It is exciting seeing a community activity brought back to life rather being allowed to wither away from neglect. But there is still room for others to join: please contact Laura Evans for details. It remains the PC's preference than it should be run by a committee of allotment holders answerable to the PC, but in the absence of willing participants, the burden falls on Lauren for the time being with the PC's full support behind her.

Road Safety.

We now have speed monitors installed at both ends of the village. The east end one has been placed further away from the pedestrian crossing to allow motorists more time to adjust speed. The data suggests that both monitors are helping to some degree, whilst the west one is perhaps the more effective. We hope to place a third monitor opposite Hillside cottages.

The Main Road and Relations with SBC.

This remains unsatisfactory. We have been repeatedly told that Main Road issues , which under the Transfer Agreement remain the responsibility of SBC ,should be brokered via the Ward Councillor. Let me give an example . Although he had told the PC that removing the detritus burying the kerb on the main road - a SBC responsibility - could not be done without Liddington paying , we did persuade SBC to sweep it. The trouble was the sweeper left 80% of it still in place ensuring that the drain covers remained blocked! Earlier the Ward Councillor, with his party political hat on, was eager to pronounce at LPC meetings that maintenance (which has not been transferred to us) could not be done because of cost, but more recently with Liddington's request to meet Highways and himself to examine the issues, he was suddenly unable to mediate in such matters . LPC was not invited to the meeting between Highways and himself to examine Liddington road issues. Rather he informed me that LPC should contact SBC directly . Confused? I think its called politics. So much for open dialogue between different levels of local government.

Liddington Hill Tree Clump and Hillfort Millennium Viewing Platform.

Some months ago following a meeting with the tree clump owner, we wrote to the same with

modest proposals to try to prevent the site being spoilt by inappropriate use. To date we have have not heard back.

Our first grant application for the platform replacement was unsuccessful, but following advise, we have reapplied to a different funding body and are awaiting its response. Many thanks to Barbara Aftelak for endless form filling not once but twice.

Communication.

A new Parish Council noticeboard has been moved from the Old Post Office wall to Spinney Green. There is also a noticeboard in Badbury Park on the Green with the fine oak tree for our residents there. All the information posted on these noticeboards can be found on our website - **liddington.org**

Suggestions have been made recently for updating the website and the PC is looking into ways to improve its usefulness. As far as items of non PC generated village interest are concerned, we need input from residents submitting items that they believe would interest people. So we welcome your contributions to enrich the website.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for all the time they put into PC activities both at meetings and on the ground with an especial thank you to Laura Evans, our Parish Clerk, for her meticulous running of our affairs. In summary, it's been like a curate's egg.