

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2022/23

Once again it has been a great privilege over this last year to represent the Parish Council as Chair. Here is a summary and some of our work achievements:-

We are continuing to place great emphasis on road safety and behind the scenes have been closely involved with EDF and Suffolk CC Highways in drawing up traffic mitigation measures with a particular eye on the proposed Sizewell C build. If the development does go ahead there will clearly be an impact in the village as a result of increased traffic movement and, with this in mind, plans have been drawn up to try to offer as much as a safeguard as possible. The proposals will shortly be the subject of a full public consultation to give residents the opportunity to have their say.

In association with this, we are also examining the parking situation in Westleton to see what improvements can be brought about. However, this is no easy task with the somewhat limited options available to us.

It had been the hope at this meeting that we could be in a position to make an announcement with regard to allotment provision but unfortunately negotiations over a piece of land have stalled and we are not able to move forward with this particular site. Instead, other alternative locations are being considered and we are still very much committed to achieving this aim.

Over the autumn/winter period major clearance work has been carried out on The Common to create a number of key fire breaks. This work was authorised because of the perceived growing risk to the outbreak of wild fires during the dry summer period which in recent years have blighted other local areas. We have undertaken this as part of an ongoing environmental management project and also with it a duty of care to protect surrounding properties which border the site.

We were delighted after a 2 year break to successfully stage another New Years Day bonfire and fireworks event which was very well supported by the community. The Kings Coronation during the forthcoming May bank holiday weekend will also be another chance for people to come together in much the same way as we did last June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Special thanks go out to the organisers of these events and for all the effort put in.

There is a programme in place to upgrade facilities at the Community Playing Field as some of the equipment is now showing signs of age and needs upgrading. We are hopeful the majority of repairs can be completed before the busy summer holiday period. Recently, new five aside vandal proof goalposts have been purchased to replace the old goal posts on site. A new picnic bench was also added last year which is located next to the boules pitch.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Councillors who are stepping down from the Parish Council having decided not to stand for re-election. All have contributed very significantly as long serving Members and will certainly be a loss. Chris Freeman deserves great mention as he has been a stalwart with all the work put into the Community Playing Field and we would like express our grateful thanks and appreciation to him in particular for this.

Paul Holmes
Chairman – Westleton Parish Council