

## **Chairman's Annual Report - 2017**

### **Nettlestone and Seaview Parish**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. For those who have not been to such a meeting before let me explain its purpose. At the outset let me make it clear that this is not an annual meeting of the Parish Council. By law, as Chairman of the Parish Council I am required to make this annual report and chair the meeting. Once I have finished my report you may make any comments you like and, if so minded, propose resolutions which can be voted upon. The Parish Council is not required to act on these resolutions, but we would be foolish not to discuss them at a Parish Council meeting. There will also be reports from the Community Partnership and the Seagrove Pavilion Trust

In general terms I believe the Parish is in a slightly worse position than last year. The new toilets at Seagrove Bay have yet to materialise, the repair of the roads in the parish has been virtually non-existent, the return of the Post Office is taking time and the approval of planning applications for new build continues apace. The conversion of holiday accommodation in to residential units seems to me to be a way of circumventing the planning process. Regrettably, the Parish Council has not moved forward in its desire to manage the car parks. On a more positive note the Parish was awarded two of the only four Seaside Beach awards on the Island – this can only help in promoting Nettlestone and Seaview as a tourist destination. A second defibrillator has now been installed outside the Nettlestone Primary School.

As regards the local businesses, last year's report was a litany of closures. The Priory Bay Hotel is now up for sale and its future is uncertain. It was good to see LPs open last summer. The Roadside Inn saga continues; on the other hand, the Wishing Well has been bought by Rosemary Vineyard and should be re-open this year and I wish them well. A local initiative saw the introduction of a Farmers Market in the Pier Road Car Park, which was supported by the Parish Council by providing insurance cover. I should also mention Vic's sponsoring of the school crossing patrol following withdrawal of Isle of Wight Council funding. Galley's, as ever, remains vulnerable to closure and if the planners have their way we will see the loss of the only general store in Seaview. Finally, there has been a renaissance in the fortunes of Seaview Football Club.

In the reporting period there was a degree of volatility in the Parish Council membership. The sad death of Peggy Jarman was a huge loss, not just for the Parish, but for the whole Island. Councillors Brian Jennings and Steve Rayner stood down due to changes in personal circumstances. No by-election was

forced and we welcomed three new co-opted councillors: Viki Ford-Moore, Rebecca Hardie and Samantha Martin. Parish business was much the same as previous years. This business is more transparent now with our new website. My thanks go to Councillor Diane Foxley who has ably lead the Planning Sub-Committee. The revised Parish Plan is approaching completion and I would like to thank all those Parishioners who have taken part in the process, lead by Councillor Vilma Barraclough and supported by the Parish Clerk, Mark Pink.

My thanks to all councillors, past and present, for all their support throughout the year. Of course, I mustn't forget the parish clerk, not only has he done all his normal work, but he has achieved his CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) award and lead the Barnsley Trail during the Walking Festival.

This year sees the Parish Council elections. For the new Parish Council, the challenges that face it are likely to be difficult ones, particularly in the light of the Isle of Wight Council's continuing lack of funds. There is a likelihood that the IWC will reduce grounds maintenance and give up the maintenance of Puckpool Park. Following acceptance of the revised Parish Plan a decision on affordable housing and the use of the Harcourt Sands S106 funds will need to be made. Parish run car parks remains a goal. As I suggested might happen in last year's report the 2017/18 precept has been increased to support our level of ambition.

As ever it is the unsung and unpaid volunteers who make our two villages a place in which we want to live. My thanks to them.

On that note, I will draw my comments to a close.