

Thirston Parish Council Chairman Report May 2023

I would like to say thank you for the support I have received from my fellow Councillors over the past year. I would also like to say thank you for Councillor Trevor Jackson and his support that he gave us and his replacement Councillor Jamie Day. I am very proud of how we all work together over that common bond we have as a parish. I would also like to say thank you to our Parish Clerk Lisa for all of the insight offered over the past 12 month and a special thank you to Councillor Laura Clarehugh for allowing this Parish the use of this fantastic facility.

Thank you to all those Councillors who take time out to attend meetings outside of our core meetings. This is a really important element to being an effective council and allows us to have our say, be listened to and potentially make a change. Thank you.

Looking at the budget and subsequent contributions we make has allowed our Parish to start investing in projects that make a difference to our community. As part of our looking forward strategy, we now have multiple projects. Updating the gateways to the villages with the project that are starting at Eshott. This includes the purchase of flower planters and a notice board. Picnic bench down by the river (thank you to Felton & Thirston Fair for the donations).

Also, tree planting from CAN will make a big difference in years to come along with trees planted celebrating our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth. Again thank you Councillor Laura Clarehugh and her husband Scott.

Bus shelters revamps with the support of Thirston and Felton WI flower planting and our longer term plan is to engage with Pumpkin Pie nursery to help us decide what would make a good bus shelter.

We have eventually seen the introduction of speeding measures at East Thirston which has made a difference and I will also be encouraging the local community speed enforcement to underpin the importance we place on speeding through our community.

The bottle bank area has remained relatively clear of fly tipping this year. This is a result of CCTV and the enforcement that has taken place. It is hoped we can apply the same technology to other hotspots like Bockenfield.

Planning for a small parish of Thirston has always been challenging. We are invested in our parish and care about what changes happen and how that impacts us all. I pride myself on the good working relationship we do have with Northumberland County Council and their officers. I also want to thank Council Leader Glen Sanderson for attending meetings to feedback on the bigger projects that impact us all.

We continue to support various charities on an adhoc basis and we will keep the Bridge "meet the Councillor" section moving forward.

Simon Allan, Chair Thirston Parish Council

24th May 2023