Annual report

of the

Chair of Cresswell Parish Council

2025

At the end of another busy year it is time to reflect on the highs and lows of 2025 within our parish.

I must start by thanking my fellow councillors for their tireless efforts on behalf of the parish as well as the local businesses who support us so well, namely Parkdean resorts(Cresswell Towers Caravan Park), Northumbria Leisure (Golden Sands Caravan Park) and Cresswell Ices. We welcome the new owners of the Drift Café and hope they will enjoy being part of our community .

In May, following the local elections, we became part of Lynemouth ward and Liz Dunn is now our County Councillor. Thanks must go to Scott Dickinson for his efforts on our behalf when we were in Druridge Bay ward. In the local election we welcomed David Thompson to the parish council (keeping up a family tradition) and, in July, Malcolm Burns was coopted on to the council. We still have a vacancy on the parish council and would warmly welcome discussions with anyone interested .

On 5th May, along with the rest of the country, the residents of the parish enjoyed a tea party, in the walled garden of the Pele Tower to celebrate VE day .The weather was lovely and the event was enjoyed by all.

The Pele Tower and Walled Garden continue to be a major visitor attraction and a number of special events have been held throughout the year, including plant sales and garden fetes.

Funding has now been agreed to provide designated parking outside of St Bartholomew's church and we anticipate work commencing in the very near future.

Careful management of the council's purse strings mean that for the 9th year in a row we have not increased our precept (that's the part of your council tax which we receive to run parish business) Any increase, however small, would be passed on to our residents as an actual increase in their council tax.

On the downside antisocial behaviour, wild camping and littering continue with a violent attack on one of the Pele Tower volunteers in the spring and a devastating dune fire (requiring 4 fire tenders) in August, which destroyed a swathe of dunes as well as the grazing field behind. A multi agency group, at county level, is looking at ways of addressing the issues.

It has become apparent that the geography of our stretch of Druridge Bay has defeated the well intentioned efforts to provide a beach wheel chair to access the beach.

The width restrictions on the Lyne Bridge continue to pose a challenge for drivers and there are regular accidents.However NCC remain unwilling to find an alternative solution. Equally our repeated submission to NCC for an extension to, and a footpath from, the boatyard car park into the centre of the village, to alleviate parking problems in the summer months, has been unsuccessful.

Looking to the future our annual carol and mulled wine event will be held in the Pele Tower on Friday 19th December at 7 p.m. and the Pele Tower will be lit with new decorations.

Our Parish Council meeting dates for 2026 are confirmed and they can be found on the village noticeboard and also on the website.

I would like to draw to a close by thanking ,in particular, the residents of the parish who contribute so much (often unheralded) to our small community.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and send my best wishes for a peaceful and successful New Year.



Christine Tyrie
01/12/2025