

Chairman's Year End Statement

Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council

As we come to the close of another year, it is a fitting time to reflect on what has been achieved for our community across Widdrington Station and Stobswood.

The year began with a number of challenges, and at times progress was not easy. However, through determination, teamwork and a shared commitment to improving our parish, we have delivered some significant improvements that will benefit residents for years to come.

Among our proudest achievements this year has been the installation of new play equipment at People's Park and the complete refurbishment of the play area at Stobswood, providing modern, safe and enjoyable spaces for our children and families. We were also pleased to recover £10,000 for the Community Centre through unclaimed Feed-in Tariff funds, ensuring that money due to the community was returned where it belongs.

After years of neglect, the MUGA lights were finally repaired, restoring an important facility for local residents. It was also wonderful to see the return of the funfair, bringing enjoyment to families and helping to restore a sense of community spirit.

The Elderberries Christmas Lunch was once again a tremendous success, providing a valued opportunity for many of our older residents to come together and celebrate the festive season.

I am particularly proud that despite delivering these improvements and investments, the Parish Council was also able to reduce the council tax precept demonstrating our commitment to careful financial management while continuing to deliver for residents.

I would like to offer sincere thanks to Councillors Jerdan and Childs for their hard work in securing funding for the parks projects and seeing them through to completion, as well as for organising and hosting the Elderberries Christmas Lunch.

Thanks must also go to Councillor Longstaff, who has consistently gone above and beyond what is required. From watering flower boxes twice daily, carrying out repairs and emptying bins, his dedication to the parish has been exceptional.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors, staff, volunteers and residents who have supported the Parish Council throughout the year. Together, we continue to make Widdrington Station and Stobswood a better place to live, and I look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

Chairman

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