



Cllr Dr Anne Lennard - Chairman's Report / Financial Year 25/26

This past financial year has been one of steady progress and constructive collaboration across Whalton Parish. The parish council has continued to focus on the practical issues that matter most to residents, while also looking ahead to ensure our community remains a thriving and well-supported place to live. I am pleased to share a brief overview of the key areas of work we have undertaken together.

A major success has been the installation of speed-detection measures within Whalton village. These devices have already made a noticeable difference, encouraging safer driving behaviour and giving us valuable data to support future road-safety decisions. This achievement reflects both persistent council effort and strong community backing for improving safety on our roads.

We have also introduced our parish maintenance schedule, ensuring that routine tasks—from verge cutting and footpath upkeep to village green care—are carried out more consistently. I am pleased to report the millennial oak tree now has a tree preservation order looking after its future in the parish! By planning ahead and working closely with Northumberland county council, we've been able to respond more quickly to issues raised by residents and maintain the appearance of our shared spaces. This work however is ongoing.

Local transport has remained a lively topic of debate. With changing regional services and shifting community needs, the council has been actively engaging with residents and transport providers to explore the options. While challenges remain, the discussions have been constructive, and we will continue to advocate for solutions that make our parish connected and accessible.

Looking forward, we have begun shaping a parish-wide local plan to guide future development, environmental stewardship, and community priorities. This early work is crucial in ensuring that character and heritage of the parish is protected while allowing for thoughtful, sustainable growth. Residents' voices will be central to this process as it evolves. Have your say here whaltonlocalplan@whaltonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the dedicated team of councillors who give their time, energy, and expertise to serve the parish. I also extend heartfelt thanks to all members of the public who have attended meetings, shared their views, and continue to support our work throughout the year. Your involvement strengthens everything we do. Many thanks to our county councillor Lyle Darwin for valuable input, constant support and expertise.

Chair to Whalton Parish Council

