# Shudy Camps Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting 2017

# Chairman's Report

As last year I want to focus on main themes and activities that have occupied the Council in 2015/16.

## HIGHWAYS ISSUES

## Nosterfield End

I reported last year that we were successful in obtaining an LHI grant for speed mitigation works in Nosterfield End. This involved new speed limit "gate" signs and 40mph roundels marked on the road surface. The work was eventually carried out in January 2017 – we have had little feedback on its success or otherwise but my subjective impression is that it has made some difference.

Some work has been done to the ditches with a small improvement but until it is resolved who is actually responsible for the watercourse along the south side of Haverhill Road it is unlikely that a proper resolution will be possible. On a positive note the manhole covers on the Castle Camps road have been repaired after being in a dangerous condition for more than 2 years.

## Shudy Camps

After an on-site consultation with a Highways engineer we made another successful LHI application for work to mitigate speeding and improve road safety through the main village. This will involve upgrading/replacing speed limit signs; renewing a damaged chevron sign on Blacksmith's Lane; replacing the old and damaged plastic edge markers on the verge along Blacksmith's Lane; stencilling 30mph roundels on the road surfaces by the 30 repeater signs; and installing sockets to hold portable Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) at key locations where speeding is a problem. The SIDs will be purchased by the Parish Council collaborating with other nearby PCs (see below).

Some of the poor road surfaces in the village have had remedial work during the year. At the time of writing (7 May) the "give way" markings at the T-junctions of Carsey Hill with Blacksmith's Lane and Main Street should have been re-marked by 8th May.

## Planning

There have been the usual run of minor planning applications that have been considered and recommended for approval in the main. A report from Cllr. Broscomb gives more details. A few comments are worth making.

A further application for revised access to the Mill Green Meadow site was opposed on highways safety grounds and the application was rejected after appeal; and a variation of condition application for the same site was also rejected. An application for a barn conversion in Mill Green was was deemed granted simply because the planning department didn't respond within the statutory time limit. A number of applications were made regarding restoration work to Shardelows Farm, which at the time of writing are either approved or out for consultation.

At Carter's Farm work is still on-going. Several of the properties are now occupied, the drainage works having apparently been completed in a way that fulfils the conditions. A new application was made to convert what had been a relatively small shed, extended less than 2 years ago ostensibly for storing building materials and as a site office, into a "barn conversion". This was withdrawn after the inconsistencies in the application were pointed out by the Parish Council – a new application has been made of which we have advised rejection on similar grounds. We remain concerned about site surface water drainage and the impact of significantly more traffic than was originally anticipated. The farmhouse has been swathed in plastic now for well over a year and no further work has been done, and a planning application for replacing the external timber structure has been withdrawn – nearby residents will have to live with the nuisance and eyesore for some time to come it seems. Overall the site is overlooked by a mountain of spoil which we hope the developers will remove; and the success or otherwise of the drainage system awaits the next significant rainfall.

## Drainage

Some work has been done to clear drains in Main Street. The Council has written to all households in the village to advise them to be clear about any riparian responsibilities they may have for ditches on their boundaries. Meanwhile the very dry weather has perhaps diverted attention from drainage problems for the moment.

## Parish Communications

The new "Information Point", a/k/a phone box by Carter's Farm has now been in operation for over a year and seems to be successful. There has also been quite a high turnover of the pile of books in it (at least partly due to regular culling for charity shops). Residents of Nosterfield End have indicated that they would like the same to happen to their redundant phone box, and the PC is happy to fund this (though some engineering works will be needed) – we await a project proposal from Nosterfield End.

Our website [www.shudycamps.org.uk](http://www.shudycamps.org.uk) has been set up and is run by Cllr. Mark Hows. This is now our main way to communicate Parish Council and other parish affairs. There are also associated email addresses: chair / clerk / webmaster / council @shudycamps.org.uk – to contact us.

## Combined Parishes Meeting

A new initiative by our ward District and County Councillors in September saw monthly meetings set up for representatives of all the Parish Councils in the wards (The Camps, Horseheath, West Wickham, West Wratting, Balsham, Carlton). These have proved very effective: we get County (Highways) and District (Planning) officers attending to answer questions and discuss concerns; and also an opportunity to discuss issues of concern to all of us. A practical result of this is an agreement to share in purchasing a Speed Indicating Devices, and we hope to see other benefits in time, provided the meeting survives the change in ward arrangements following the Boundary Commission review and local elections.

## General & Financial

Shudy Camps has made a contribution to the refurbishment of Castle Camps Playground.

Glebe House has kindly agreed to seek to provide a defibrillator for the village – they are still looking at how this can be funded and working with Cllr. Hows.

The Council has decided after a recommendation by the Clerk to move its bank accounts to Lloyds as they provide much more functional on-line banking. This (like anything involving banks these days) has proved quite involved but should be complete soon.

There is a new initiative resulting from the Cambridge City Deal to find solutions to improve the A1307. There is a "Local Liaison Forum" set up which is arranging a series of workshops involving parishes along the route, and other bodies, which Cllr. Hain attends. The first of these was very good, we hope to see further progress.

## The Council

I want to thank all the other Councillors: Tony Broscomb, Roger Lemon, Mark Hows, Karen Hasin-Bromley, and Paul Malins; for their help and diligence throughout the year.

Karen stepped down last summer and Paul Malins took her place – we welcome him to the council, where his professional exertise as a civil engineer is very helpful. Mark Hows is vice-chair, and webmaster – his expertise as a biologist has been most helpful in commenting on planning applications and as Tree Officer; and he has set up our website. Roger Lemon has continued sterling service looking after our footpaths and liaising with Age UK.

Special thanks are due to our Clerk, Elizabeth Gladman, for her expert administration.

Joan Rolfe, of Joan's Beancounting Services, has been our internal auditor for several years now, including this year, and we are grateful for her help and useful suggestions.

Thanks too to our County and District Councillors for attending our meetings and reporting on what's going on at these other bodies.

Anne Fear has continued he sterling work as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, an unsung but important role.

Finally, a special thank-you to Tony Broscomb, who has been a stalwart of the Parish Council for as long as I can remember – certainly before I joined. Tony and Ann are moving away from the village to near Salisbury, and we will miss them both very much. Tony has been vice-chair of the Council; looked after our financial planning with flair and diligence; kept an eye on planning concerns and greatly helped with our deliberations with his knowledge of ancient buildings; helped Roger with footpath mowing; and finally stepped in to chair and reinvigorate the Manages Trust. We will have to work hard to fill all these roles. We wish Tony and Ann much happiness in their new home. This of course creates a vacancy for a Parish Councillor which we will need to fill, either by election or co-option, in the near future.

**John Haine – Chair, Shudy Camps Parish Council**