

2021 Report to Annual Meeting of the Parish From Chair of Shudy Camps Parish Council

11 May 2021

In June 2020 I took over the role of Chair of the Parish Council from John Haine and I would like to thank him for his dedication to the Parish over the previous 10 years,

It really has been an unprecedented year with the COVID19 Pandemic, lockdowns and getting accustomed to new ways of working. The Parish Council had to move their meetings on-line, but business continued as usual and residents continued to participate. The whole Parish pulled together with over 50 residents volunteering to assist those in need including offers to collect prescriptions, do chores and collect shopping. A dedicated page on the website was set up specifically for COVID matters and WhatsApp became a lifeline for many. Reflecting on the reaction and changes, many residents have commented on a far greater sense of community as a result.

That sense of community was also apparent when volunteers stepped forward to take on roles such as Parish Website Administrator, Age Concern Representative, Maintenance of the Parish's green spaces, and MVAS Administrator. Our thanks go out to them for their support and assistance.

After purchasing COVID safe litter picking equipment and safety waistcoats, numerous residents have taken on the challenge of ridding the village of unwanted litter and rubbish. Four bins were purchased by the Parish Council and installed on footpaths in the village to provide appropriate places to leave dog waste and general rubbish.

Farmers have over the past year undertaken some long overdue and often quite dramatic maintenance of hedging and ditches. Hopefully the result will improve the village's drainage issues, which have always been a matter of concern.

South Cambridgeshire District Council brought in a Local Plan and all future planning applications will be reviewed in line with this. They recently reported to the Parish Council that as there is no deficit in housing in South Cambridgeshire, larger, undesirable planning applications do not need to be accepted during the next 5 years. They did however make a "*call for sites*" to start the process of identifying potential locations for the following 5 years. Land supply and two potential sites in the village raised concern. Whilst that process progresses, a call for those residents interested in influencing the shape of the village saw a small group step forward and an initial meeting was held in April 2021. The group is currently collating views as to whether a Neighbourhood Plan is desirable for the village, or whether other potential options, such as a Village Design Guide or Parish Plan are more suitable.

The early part of 2021 saw the village's street lighting replaced by more efficient LED lighting. The general consensus was that it produced a more ambient light and reduced light pollution. Hopefully it will lead to a reduction in the village's electricity bill too.

Conversations continue around obtaining an improved quality and speed of broadband via Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), where fibre is installed directly to each house replacing the existing overhead copper cabling. Anyone interested in getting this upgrade, that hasn't already put their name forward, should get in touch.

Anita Kiddy
Chair