

## SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2024

It was again a great privilege to have been elected Chairman for the year and the role continues to be a challenging but enjoyable experience. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Liz Jones for her support as Vice Chairman along with the invaluable lead she takes on planning issues on behalf of council which is much appreciated.

My thanks go to County Councillor Richard Shepherd for his continued conscientious approach to village issues needing a county level input. Thanks also go to Borough Councillors Lawrence, Bottomley and Forde for their tenacious and visible support of the village. Their regular newsletters are much appreciated and keeps residents up to date with news and progress on issues important to the village.

This year we've welcomed four co-opted members to the council; Councillors Andrew Booth, Rhys Everquill, Sue Gerrard and Maggie Matlock. We also had two resignations, Ray Bailey and Sharif Haider.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Councillors for their service. I make no apology for repeating a reminder that Parish Councillors give their time for no monetary benefit. They take on this role solely for the purpose of improving life for the residents of our village with the aim of making Sileby a great place to live and work. We do have vacancies and would invite anyone interested in getting more involved in village life to get in touch.

Our relationship with our local police and community support officers remains positive. A recent visit from our Police and Crime Commissioner was welcome and it's noted that crime, including antisocial behaviour, has remained low in the village. The beat surgeries planned are also appreciated.

Parish Councillors attended the Remembrance Sunday event which was its usual dignified and thought-provoking service.

The Parish Council Christmas Light Switch-on Event was extremely successful and the lights, as always, were stunning.

Planning issues remain a concern for our village and we remain committed to our Neighbourhood Plan. We will continue to ensure our voice is heard in representing the views of Sileby's residents.

It was a huge blow to the village last year with the removal of the Kinchbus No.2 service to and from Leicester. This year has seen a slight improvement with Centrebus and Vectare providing a limited but very welcome service plugging some of the gaps.

Again, this year our village has been blighted by flooding and we remain vigilant in influencing both Charnwood Borough Council and the Environment Agency to ensure all mitigation is undertaken. We are very grateful to our flood wardens, Cllr. Robert Butler and Richard

Oldham who do an outstanding and often dangerous job supporting the village when these difficult situations occur.

The past year has seen fantastic progress in our projects that will better the village for years to come.

On a very positive note, Project Park! has moved on in leaps and bounds. This is thanks to the £500,000 of Shared Prosperity Funding secured to rejuvenate the Memorial Park. Whilst there is snagging work to be undertaken the installation of a connecting route providing a full circular perimeter pathway is complete. Also complete is a new MUGA and the redevelopment of the Seagrave Road entrance to make it safer for vehicles and providing an accessible pedestrian entrance. The associated planting is also finished. We are now well into the planning phase that will lead to installing the new play areas.

Still to be undertaken is the renovation of the Seagrave Road Park gates. The brickwork is in need of some TLC and we are also going to have the gates and wrought ironwork repainted and the dedication to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second re-gilded. We will do this in honour of her Platinum Jubilee. At the same time a plaque will be installed to commemorate the coronation of King Charles the Third.

We have started renovation and essential maintenance work at the cemetery. Councillor Higgs is doing amazing work to improve the biodiversity through the removal of plants and trees past their best and replaced with more sustainable planting. Work also continues with the maintenance of unsafe headstones. Planning is now underway to rejuvenate the Garden of Remembrance. Particular thanks go to our Cemetery Administrator, Lauren Richardson, for her dedication and expertise in ensuring our cemetery is a safe and peaceful place.

In closing my Annual Report, I would like to thank, and show the Council's appreciation, to Rosemary, our Clerk, Julie our Deputy Clerk and Lauren, our Admin Assistant and all of the Council staff members for their unstinting dedication to providing an excellent service to the residents of Sileby. My personal thanks go to them for their support to me during my time as Chairman.

Thank you everyone for attending this meeting, have a good evening.

Julie Jones  
Chairman, Sileby Parish Council  
18/04/24