

Witherley Parish Council

Serving the communities of Witherley, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Atterton



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to the Chairman's Annual Report for 2017/18.

As cuts to county and borough council budgets continue, the expectation is growing that our Parish Council will take on those public services that the county council is no longer able to provide. So I would wish to pay tribute to my fellow Councillors, all unsalaried volunteers, who have given an increasing amount of their valuable time to compensate. The long service of Councillor Ann Hampshire who has now moved away should also be recognised. I should also thank Anji Forsyth, our Parish Clerk, for her vital contribution to the smooth running of the Council.

The following is just a sample of the activities the Parish Council has been engaged in during the year:

- Grass cutting of verges in the 30mph & 40mph zones
- Maintenance of play equipment, Vehicle Activate Speed Signs and defibrillator machines
- Emptying and maintaining dog bins
- Achieving designation for a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Commented on numerous planning applications and liaised with the Borough's Enforcement Officer over planning infringements. Successfully defeated the Chapel Lane, Witherley planning application.
- Worked with the Borough Council to identify appropriate locations for Public Space Protection Orders (now implemented).
- Donation made to Witherley Parish Room renovation (£4,000) and purchase of new benches for Fenny Drayton playing field using Section 106 funds (£1,500).
- Taken the lead in the A5 Contact group of Parish Councils and lobbied local MPs and Highways England on transport issues.
- Organised another successful annual Lane Setting event in Ratcliffe Culey
- Slow but steady progress made in resolving flooding issues in Witherley. Finally obtained permission from the Environment Agency for the clearing of Witherley Brook.
- Successfully lobbied for faster broadband in Ratcliffe Culey, not so successfully for Atterton (yet).
- Sourced grants for hard standing outside Fenny Drayton church and Kennel Lane footpath (currently awaiting County Council permissions to proceed with the work).
- Reported water leaks, potholes, dead trees, fly tipping and damaged road signs to relevant authorities and monitored responses.
- Organised defibrillator training.

While the Council is legally required to carry a certain level of reserves (to cover, for example, the cost of elections and locum clerk support), it has endeavoured to allocate as much as possible for projects benefitting the community.

Prudent budgeting has maintained the Council's record of having one of the lowest precepts in the Borough. For 2017/18, a 2% increase was agreed.

The pie chart illustrates where your money was spent in 2017/18:

