Pyecombe Parish Council Annual Report 2021/22

Following the pandemic, the year began with the country tentatively taking steps back to normality, with the Parish Council once again holding meetings in person.

With the Forge Close development now nearing its completion of the second phase, we welcome new residents to our village. Although not affecting our village directly, the Mid Sussex District Council District Plan has currently been put on hold, but we should remain aware of any affecting outcomes in the surrounding area in the future.

South Downs National Park continues to oversee all planning issues in Pyecombe, where there have been twelve planning applications during the past year, to which the constructive views and observations of the Parish Council continue to be submitted to South Downs National Park Planning Authority, who as always, has the final decision to determine the outcome.

Parking along London Road continued to be problematic, especially on one occasion when a large vehicle seemed to have taken up residence in a precarious place, and despite numerous attempts to highlight this to DVLA, Police, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex Highways, and with the Police citing it not to be causing enough of an obstruction, although eventually the culprit responsible moved on.

This year however, five years since the Parish Council first formally requested a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for parking restrictions to be applied in the area, after numerous site meetings and discussions, the long-awaited yellow lines were painted in an effort to restrict congestion along London Road.

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Council representative and I thank her for the continued assistance with the Parish Council in the past year.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of her predecessor, Peter Griffiths, late last year, and remember fond memories and friendship, together with his unwavering support throughout.

Your Parish Council has recently once again taken up the challenge to encourage Mid Sussex District Council to update the children's Play Area in the village, and having completed a recent consultation, we will be meeting and discussing Mid Sussex District Council in the months ahead.

Fly tipping has been the scourge of many areas across the district, and Pyecombe has had its fair share. Recent changes at Mid Sussex District Council have now resulted in officers receiving training to provide evidence, meaning they can issue prosecution notices to offenders in the future.

Colin Trumble, Alison Bennett, and Rodney Jackson have been our Mid Sussex District Council representatives in the past year, and my thanks them all for their continuing assistance with the Parish Council

Thirteen years since the opening of the BP Garage/M&S Shop has seen it grown in popularity, serving the village as well as the wider public. Adjacent to the site is an area that the Parish Council continues to put forward as a Village Project, to improve the surrounding area, with our plans currently being reviewed before being submitted to South Downs National Park.

This year marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and plans are in place to hold a village event next month, and further projects to celebrate the momentous occasion include bulb planting later this year.

Both the Pyecombe Village website and the Village Newsletter, sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed, and my thanks to Tim and Jane Cullen, as editors of the newsletter, for their valued contribution.

Dawn Langston has been our Parish Clerk and RPO throughout the year and her diligence in this role shines through, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the council, to thank her for her conscientious work and dedication shown towards us all over the past year.

My thanks also, to my fellow councillors, in our voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year.

Your Parish Council meets on a regular basis, every other month, where meetings are held alternatively both here at Wayfield Park Farm Shop, and in Pyecombe Church, as a public meeting that remains open to all.

David Wilson,

Chairman, Pyecombe Parish Council

17th May 2022