

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

### **REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR 2015/2016**

1. I have set out in this short report my thoughts on the Parish Council's achievements over the past year, together with work that I think still needs doing and where I believe we should focus our attention next year.
2. We agreed seven priorities for 2015/16. Our progress in meeting these priorities is how we can best measure our performance. I have endeavoured to keep our priorities high on the agenda during the year and have reported progress monthly. On the whole I think we have achieved a good deal:
  - We secured the lease transfer of the community centre from DCC in April 2016, together with some 'handover' money which will help us carry out essential repairs and maintenance in the short term, and are in a strong position now to move forward with the new community centre project, working closely with the Community Association
  - We launched the Parish Council website in September 2015
  - We commissioned a survey of the trees on Parish Council land in August 2015, in accordance with our insurer's advice, and most of the recommendations have now been carried out
  - We obtained planning permission for the new car park for the Buxworth allotments and construction is due to commence on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Fencing has been erected on 3 sides of the allotments, with the fourth to be done once the topsoil has been levelled
  - We have publicised the desire to establish a Buxworth Allotments Association and sought interest from tenants for the new allotments
  - We considered the recommendations of the 'Community Vision' report in June 2015 and have acted upon most of the recommendations affecting the Parish Council
  - We secured an understanding from HPBC that the public open space and children's play S.106 monies from the Dorma site redevelopment should be directed towards the community centre/Lower Lane project.
3. A few key outstanding actions remain:
  - We haven't yet explored the possibility of holding some Parish Council meetings in Buxworth, as recommended in the 'Community Vision' report
  - Some of the safety items recommended by the tree survey report still need to be carried out (e.g. fencing at the Old Quarry in Stubbins Park)
  - We've yet to get to grips properly with establishing a Buxworth Allotments Association.

4. Although not amongst our top priorities there are some actions/issues that have been outstanding for a good while and that I hoped would have been put to bed by now:
  - The problems of HGV's at New Smithy and Brierley Green bridges don't seem any nearer to a solution
  - The parking problems on Station Road appear to be getting closer to a reasonable solution with the latest double yellow lines proposals but the drop-off/pick-up bay marking still needs to be sorted
  - We still haven't got the signage in place at the children's play areas.
5. I found it very useful to have a set of clear priorities this year to help us keep our focus and I suggest we do this at the start of each year. The priorities for 2016/17 are of course a matter for the Parish Council as a whole and I hope they can be discussed and agreed at the May meeting. My thoughts are that they should at least include:
  - Completing the outstanding actions in 3 & 4 above
  - Continuing to work closely with the Community Association to bring forward costed designs for public consultation for the proposed new community centre and improvements to the car parking & children's play areas, submit the detailed plans for approval under the Community Right to Build and commence fundraising efforts
  - Officially opening the Buxworth allotments and implementing the plans for the community orchard & picnic area adjoining the Buxworth allotments
  - Reviewing the Christmas trees and lights to ensure we are getting good value for money
  - Continuing to monitor the re-development of the former Dorma site and ensuring that the S.106 monies are spent appropriately within our parish
  - Achieving the Power of General Competence.
6. I feel we've become a more proactive Parish Council and some of the things we've put in place over the past couple of years - including doing the playground inspections ourselves, introducing the planters, improving the floral displays and improving the Christmas tree and lights displays – are making a difference. I also believe that our relationship with the Community Association has strengthened through the joint work on the community centre.
7. Finally, I'd like to place on record my thanks to the Clerk and all the Parish Councillors for the hard work they have put in and for the support they have given me as Chairman throughout the past year.

Cllr Patrick Wilson  
Chairman, Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside Parish Council