

Nympsfield Parish Council – Chairman's Report 2014/15

We started this year with a newly formed parish council and welcomed 2 new parish councillors. I also took on the role of Chair for the 1st time with a new deputy Chair, Sue Cowle. My thanks to my fellow councillors for their support and assistance throughout the year and in particular to Sue in her role as deputy Chair. We continue to enjoy the support of Ann Robertson as Clerk to the Parish Council and I am sure I speak on behalf of all the councillors when I thank Ann for her diligent efforts throughout the year and the enormous support she provides to us.

This year has seen some familiar events.

The Village Spring Clean: it would be nice to see numbers increase, but I am very grateful for those that regularly turn out on the day and those that make the effort to tidy up their corner as part of the overall event.

The Remembrance Service at the Cross: particularly notable this year as the council arranged road closures in anticipation of the numbers who might wish to attend to remember the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. We were not disappointed and the turnout was tremendous. The road closures almost worked as well.

The Village Fete: whilst the Parish Council do not directly fund the fete, we do support through the funding of the grass cutting at the playing fields and of course this year we have 1 particular councillor who does more than his fair share in supporting Janet in her efforts.

We have had a number of ongoing issues which keep our attention but in relation to which it is difficult to see too much progress being made.

Highways: there is no real prospect of any immediate improvement but with guidance from Councillor Lydon we will persevere.

Dog fouling: a recurring problem with a new push at this time to highlight the problems that perhaps just 1 or 2 people are causing.

Placement within existing affordable housing projects: this arises from time to time and we continue to challenge Stroud and the relevant housing associations to ensure that persons with connections to Nympsfield will be given priority.

Burglaries: a bad year in effect although kindly most were to out buildings. We work closely with the police and are grateful for their continued support and advice.

We have had some successes:

Improvement of security at Benton court: thanks to Bob Stevenson in particular.

The designation of the Glebe land as a village green: the Parish council has already congratulated those who were behind this enormous effort and in particular Ian Crossland. We will be working with Ian moving forward to see what opportunities there might be to take a more active role in the management of this new asset for the community.

This year has seen a lot of Planning activity:

The last 12 months has seen numerous applications made extending from new houses, to tree lopping and to minor alterations.

1. There have been permissions granted for 5 new dwellings: 1 at the rear of Malt House Farm; 3 at Arthurs Yard and 1 at Tinkley Farm
2. We have an outstanding application with a resolution to grant for 6 dwellings at the Rose and Crown – we expect the permission to be granted sometime this year

3. We have ongoing applications in relation to the temporary permissions for turbines at Lynch Knoll
4. We have now a permanent occupation of the Stables with ongoing discussions with planners.

With regard to affordable housing:

About 6 months ago, in response to a clear directive from a significant number of parishioners we started the process of looking at housing need and the provision of a small development of affordable housing within the parish. This is ongoing and some outcome of the project should emerge during this coming year.

Just to end then on Finance:

The books are balanced and remain healthy. Again, I thank our Clerk for her excellent support in this area.