

**PRESENT:**

Councillor M Fox	Chairman
Councillor R Dixon	Vice Chairman
Councillor D Busby	Councillor A Daives
Councillor A Gardiner	Councillor A Hewitt
Councillor C Novak	

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Members of the Public

## **1 VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As Councillor Fox has been unable to attend the last few Council meetings due to illness we have agreed that I will present the report this year. I want to give my thanks to Mac for the work that he has done on behalf of the Council so far and wish him a speedy recovery. I am delighted to see him here at this meeting.

Since our last Annual meeting we have held 9 meetings of the Council and discussed a range of issues which I will now attempt to summarise.

### **PEOPLE**

At the meeting in May 2016 Councillor Fox was elected as Chairman and I became Vice Chairman. In June 2016 Councillors Davies and Novak were added to the team following interviews. We are now back to our full quota of Councillors.

### **PLANNING**

During the year from May 2016 the Council has considered and commented on 16 applications for planning. Most of these were for modest changes to residential houses. The Council has maintained its stance of opposing development in the Green Belt, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Council was represented at a meeting of the Northern Planning Board in Macclesfield to object to a proposal to increase car parking at a site on Moss Lane; our objection was not supported at the meeting, although some sympathy was expressed to our concerns. It is worth mentioning that the original application asked for an increase of 120 parking spaces but in the end this was restricted to an increase of 29.

The Council is aware of the proposals in the Cheshire East Local Plan to build 250 houses on Green Belt land between Clay Lane and Sagars Road. Styal Parish Council has voiced its concerns over this development on Green belt land. Although this site is within Styal Parish Council boundaries all vehicular access is proposed to be from Handforth. Our intention is to monitor this development very carefully on the assumption that this will get planning permission as it is part of Cheshire East's overall housing strategy.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

4 of your Councillors have been involved in the Steering Group to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for Styal along with several residents and representatives from the National Trust. I am grateful for the time and effort put in so far by all involved, and hopeful that these colleagues, and perhaps others, will be involved in the future. Several meetings were held to decide our strategy. We developed a questionnaire which was delivered by hand to about 250 properties throughout Styal. The returns were analysed, and here I must thank Dr Sarah Ruane for her work on this. We produced a SWOT analysis showing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. These are displayed on our notice boards around the village.

15 residents were involved in a full day workshop, hosted by Quarry Bank, to whom I give my sincere thanks, and facilitated by Tom Evans from Cheshire East Planning at which further ideas were generated. At the time of writing this report we are awaiting feedback from Cheshire East. I anticipate that further work will be undertaken during this coming year. There will then be formal public consultation before the draft plan is circulated to all residents for approval and submitted to Cheshire East. My aim is to have the Neighbourhood Plan completed during the next 12 months.

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **• Quarry Bank**

The past year has seen major developments at Quarry Bank, most notably the transformation of the Upper Garden and the opening of the restored glasshouses. This has impacted the village in various ways. We have met formally with Quarry Bank on a quarterly basis to discuss a range of issues. Of course, we also welcome colleagues from Quarry Bank at our regular Council meetings where we receive reports and provide them with feedback. This coming year will see further developments, which will impact the village, with the opening of 13 Oak Cottages and the Village hub to the public. The extended car park should be completed by early Summer along with the new Welcome building. We hope this will reduce car

parking along Altrincham Road, especially as car parking is now free at Quarry Bank. Our next formal meeting with Quarry Bank is later this month. We will report back at future Council meetings

- **Manchester Airport**

Councillors continue to attend the regular meetings at the Airport held by the Community Outreach team and we report back to the Council. This coming year will be important as the Airport will be consulting on Flight Paths and Night Noise, where there may be amendments proposed. We shall monitor any proposals very carefully.

- **Cheshire East**

Councillor Stockton attends our meetings when he is available and this provides a valuable link with the local authority. We have worked with him particularly on highways related issues, but I have to confess that so far this year we have felt frustrated at the lack of progress in this area, despite our many attempts to resolve some of the issues that have been raised by residents and ourselves, particularly relating to parking and speeding and street lights not functioning.

## **SUPPORT**

During the year we were able to make grants to:

- Styal Tennis Club
- Styal Primary School
- Styal Steel Pan Band based at the primary school
- HMP Styal

## **COUNCILLOR SURGERY**

For several months now two Councillors have made themselves available in Earlams on the first Saturday of the month to listen to any concerns that residents have wished to raise, most of which have related to car parking, speeding, The Ship Inn car park and street lighting. I hope that residents have found this opportunity useful.

## **VILLAGE MATTERS**

Over the last year a wide range of issues have related to the village in general. We were able again to support the Christmas Tree near the War Memorial (which now has listed status), Styal in Bloom (for which we gained a silver award), hedge cutting along Hollin Lane ( where there is multiple ownership of plots), and the refurbishment of the Notice Boards. Many of the issues have been outlined earlier in this report, but I felt I should mention SEMMS, which has been causing concerns over the bunds as well as traffic flow problems through the village. I suspect there may be further problems as the junction between Styal Road and the new road is constructed, although the project was originally scheduled to be completed by November this year but is now scheduled for Spring 2018. The Council will continue to monitor this development.

## **FINALLY**

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk, Sue, for the invaluable work undertaken by them during the previous 12 months and to hope that they will continue this work over the next year. I want also to thank those residents who attend our meetings for your continued interest and support and challenge. As Councillors we are here to represent the views and interests of the village. Your support is vital to our work.

## **2 VIEWS AND COMMENTS FROM ELECTORS**

No comments or issues were raised

The Vice-Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.10 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 5th June 2017