

# **THE LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & ANNUAL REVIEW - MAY 2020**

Lympsham Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the playground, the community shelter, the hedgerows, grass cutting and the emptying of refuse bins. We also provide financial assistance for projects that will enhance our village and benefit the community as a whole. The Christmas Lights at Copse Corner, the Christmas Tree in West Road, the Defibrillator at the Pavilion and the Lympsham in Bloom initiative have all received financial help from the council during the last 12 months.

LEBE's Community Café had to be restructured in May 2019 as it was becoming increasingly hard to recruit volunteers to help. Ros Dark is now in sole charge and along with her professional team, the Lympsham Café in the Pavilion on a Tuesday, still offers a great place to meet and enjoy light refreshments. Kim Wilcox, our Village Agent, attends regularly to meet customers and to keep abreast of what is happening in Lympsham, sometimes sharing a coffee our Parish Clerk.

I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council's financial reserves remain sound and that both internal and external audit checks have been undertaken regularly to ensure that correct financial procedures are being followed.

The Reverend Kevin Wright and Chris, his wife, appear to have settled in well, following their move here in March 2019, when Kevin became the Priest-in-charge for the Parish of Three Saints.

The finances of the Lympsham Pavilion Sports Club continue to improve, which is very encouraging as the Pavilion is the hub where the whole community can meet for both sporting and social events.

The Lympsham Tennis Club continues to flourish with many active members. What superb facilities they have for such a small village club; with two all-weather, floodlit courts and an attractive summerhouse. The envy of many small clubs!

The Lympsham & Belvedere Cricket Club celebrated a double championship season last year. Winter nets started in February on Mondays, in preparation for this season and hopes are high for more success this year.

The highlight of our village calendar last year was again, the Harvest Home Luncheon in September. Our thanks go to the organising committee and helpers for all their endeavours.

The new Lympsham Loves Food Festival and Village Show also took place last September. This was a resounding success and it is hoped it will become an annual event from now on.

The Lympsham News is another success story. The glossy, quarterly magazine attracts many advertisers and funds raised from advertising [in excess of publication costs] are of great benefit to the Parish.

After 4 years of planning and preparation, the new housing development off West Road [Lime Grove] finally got the go-ahead. This will provide much needed affordable housing for both the village and villagers alike.

When the COVID-19 Lockdown took hold in March, both our Parish Clerk, Sally Ferguson and our sub-postmistress, Mikhael Comerford were instrumental in organising volunteers to join the community support team 'Helping Hands'. More than 50 people signed up to assist the elderly and vulnerable in Lympsham and surrounding villages; delivering groceries, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs and much more besides. We extend our thanks to both ladies for co-ordinating the whole scheme so efficiently and successfully.

Unfortunately our extensive plans for a major village celebration to mark VE 75 [the 75th anniversary of the end of world War II in Europe] have had to be put on hold for the time being. When the appeal went out for ideas of what we should do on the day, suggestions and offers of help from every single organisation in the village flooded in. Hopefully, we will be able to make good use of the plans made in the not too distant future.

County Councillor Bob Filmer is still continuing to press for speed restrictions on the A370 and he, along with District Councillor, Andrew Gilling have continued to take a deep interest in our Parish affairs and I would like to thank them for their interest and help.

Notable thanks from the Parish Council this year for assisting in village affairs must include: Fiona Robertson [the Head teacher at Lympsham School], Ron and Gwen Hatton [the Manor Hall Caretakers] and Mary-Jane Hinchcliffe [auditor of the Manor Hall accounts]. We have a caring and sharing community and so many more people deserve a few words of praise ... [without naming names] Thank-you one and all!

Finally, I would like add a personal big thank-you to Sally Ferguson our Parish Council Clerk for all her hard work throughout the year and of course, I'd better not forget, all the Lympsham Parish Councillors for their ongoing encouragement and support.

Aline Bennett  
Lympsham Parish Council Chairman  
2.5.2020