

Scarning Parish Council
Chairman's Report 2017

2016 / 17 has been another busy year for Scarning Parish Council with many projects completed and others underway.

The Bio Blitz held on 2nd July 2016 was a great success. Our clerk Nick Hartley worked with members of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to organise the event which included guided wildlife walks, pond dipping and stalls. More than 200 people visited and over 300 different species of wildlife were identified. The bat walk was so popular another was arranged for August and over 70 people joined in. It was just a pity that the bats took a night off.

We have worked hard to make improvements in the village. Overgrown scrub and hedges have been cleared near the Chestnut Road bus stop and near the church. Solar powered lights have also been installed at the Chestnut Road bus stop, Dereham Road and at the layby near the Church to make the area safer for pedestrians out and about at night.

A trod path has been put on the water meadows giving a nice firm dry circular walk and making the scrapes accessible to all.

A mobile SAM 2 speed warning unit was purchased and this is being looked after by councillor Charles Hewson who will be moving it to different locations around the village to remind drivers of the speed at which they are travelling.

Speeding traffic on Dereham Road and parking in the vicinity of the school are ongoing issues.

A Christmas tree was purchased and put outside the church for the festive period, a Queens 90th birthday grant of £200 has been used to purchase more daffodil bulbs which have been planted along the Dereham Road and two flower boxes have been installed at each end of the village to welcome everybody.

Plans are in hand to adopt the red telephone box and move it across the road to the site of one of the redundant bus shelters. We have been awarded a grant of £8000 under the Parish Partnership Scheme which will go towards moving the bus stop and shelter to a position where people can actually see the bus coming whilst sheltering. We are currently considering new uses for the telephone box.

The following grants have been awarded- £5000 to Scarning Pre-School to go towards their new building, £4000 to the Scarning Playing Field Committee towards the upkeep of the village playing field, £800 additional money to the Scarning Conservation Volunteers to cover the new information boards for the water meadows. We have once again funded the grass cutting in the Churchyard.

Charitable donations of £100 each have been made to the Big C, Dereham Cancer Care, the East Anglian Children's Hospice, the East Anglian Air Ambulance, Revitalise, Norfolk Accident Rescue and the Dereham Blind Club.

Donations of £150 have been made to Dereham Meeting Point and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Our Clerk has been working hard to update all of our policies and it has been decided that from this year council meeting will be held every month except for August instead of bi monthly.

I would like to thank Richard Allan for keeping the village website up to date and full of interesting information.

I also wish to thank all of the Councillors for their time given to both meetings and training courses all on a purely voluntary basis and last but not least our Clerk Nick Hartley for all of his hard work both on Council business and training and for all of his help and advice.