

PADBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

Report by the Chairman of Padbury Parish Council

- 1. It has been yet another busy year in the Parish and for the Council. The Council continues to fulfil its responsibilities on behalf of the village to the best of its ability.**
- 2. Planning has risen very much up the Council's agenda this year with at least one major housing development proposal on the stocks. A Village meeting on this matter was held in January attended by well over 100 residents. There have also been a number of very well attended PC meetings/discussions on the matter. Accordingly, the Council has decided to apply for Padbury's designation as a Neighbourhood Area and to explore the feasibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village in an attempt to take some control over its future development. In addition, there have been the usual planning applications to consider and County, District and other planning consultation exercises to which to contribute.**
- 3. The County Council has consulted us this year on the devolution of services to us, in particular grass/hedge-cutting. We have decided not to take on these services at this time, as the funding allocated would in our view be insufficient.**
- 4. Regular speed monitoring exercises on the A413 and on Main Street have continued, organised by the Council in liaison with the Police and drawing on volunteers from the village. The Council's own speed monitoring device is being rotated around 5 fixed locations in the village. The Council continues to keep its eye on parking in the village, having for example set up some signs to discourage parking around the Play Area where access for residents was becoming obstructed.**
- 5. The major redevelopment of the Playing Field is now complete, with the MUGA regularly in use and the new**

tennis courts providing much enhanced facilities for the thriving village tennis club. New signage, improved lighting and CCTV have been installed; the old cricket score-board has been repaired and repainted.

- 6. Potholes in Main Street and elsewhere around the village seem to appear constantly, and the Council as a consequence is constantly bringing them to the attention of the County Highways Department as the responsible authority. Similarly we are in regular dialogue with Eon about the street-lights. The renewal of several lights has been long delayed by difficulties in sourcing appropriate lamps, but is due for completion this Spring!**
- 7. Dog fouling remains an issue around the village. A Dog Control Order is now in force covering both the Springfields Playing Field and the Bill Thatcher Play Area on Main Street.**
- 8. The Council continues to manage Padbury Millenium Wood on behalf of the Woodland Trust and the village. The wood at the moment is looking lovely.**
- 9. The War Memorial has been refurbished thanks to generous donations from the Padbury Sick Benefit Society and County Cllr John Chilver. Students from Bucks University Technical College in Aylesbury have been undertaking a number of improvement/repair tasks around the village, including at the Playing Field. In addition, Parish Councillors themselves continue to undertake assorted tasks around the village.**
- 10. Henry Paxton continues as Groundsman at Springfields Playing Field, which is looking better and better as it recovers from the development project.**
- 11. The Parish Council finances remain healthy, but it has proved necessary to increase the Parish Precept for 2015, not least in order to meet the cost of the replacement street-lights and to contribute to the prospective cost of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.**

12.Finally, I wish formally to record my thanks to our former Parish Clerk, Donna Martin, who retired last Summer, to our new Parish Clerk, Debbie O'Brien, who has got off to a brilliant start, to my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work on behalf of the village (and especially to the three Councillors standing down this year, for their service to the village during their terms of office), to all of those who take the trouble to attend our meetings - your visible support is much appreciated -, and to all those villagers who join in village life and thus help to make our community such a good place to live.

**David McGahey
Chairman
Padbury Parish Council**