

Assington Annual Parish Report 2017

I must start this year's report with my concerns over the decision by Babergh to allow the caravan park to expand to accommodate 41 holiday let caravan spaces and 22 spaces for overwintering caravan storage amid our community. This has been further aggravated by Babergh removing the condition for each caravan user to stay for a maximum of 28 days. In a single application, we have in effect 41 new dwellings in our community. So much for the aspirations of the Localism agenda. We are also still facing the challenges in terms of the national and local agenda for development in a village such as ours. We hope that Babergh will listen to our aspirations for growth in the future for our community.....

Including tonight, the Parish Council has met on 11 occasions over the past 12 months, at which 18 planning applications were reviewed with the council at least being able to resist the initial proposal for 10 dwellings on the land north of The Hollies.

However, in other aspects of village life there has been much to be positive about:

- Our survey with residents has given us the criteria for reviewing planning applications for new development in the village.
- Thanks to James Finch's support the new defibrillator is now installed and live with the ambulance service. At our PC meeting later this evening we will be finalising the date for when we will get Community Heartbeat Trust to come along to give residents an awareness session on the new facility. However, the only way that residents can access the defibrillator is by ringing 999.
- The 12 allotments are now taking shape thanks to the Allotment Association and the conservation area is also now starting to be used by residents.
- We hope that you like the PC are pleased with the state of our footpaths which are being managed by Wesley Benton and maintained by a very contentious contractor on 6 occasions each year.

The council has set a Precept of £7,800 for 2017 / 2018 which means a 93p a year increase for a Band D household.

I would like to once again thank Jennie Jenkins and James Finch for their attendance at our meetings and for their willingness to offer help and advice when needed.

Thanks also to the Assington Parish councillors for their help and support over the last year, in particular Stephen King who takes on a lot of issues on behalf of the PC and other organisations in the village. And finally, my thanks to Simon White our internal auditor for again making sure that we stay on the right track.