

Tewin Parish Council

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Chairman's Report 2015-16

4th April 2016

Another Parish Council year draws to a close.

Back in January 2013, we had the first indication that some Section 106 money, from the Sevenacres housing development, might be used to provide a new footpath between Godfries Close and Upper Green. This year we have finally seen completion of the path by HCC Highways, and its being put to good use by many villagers. Hopefully in the near future, Taylor Wimpey will complete the landscaping on the frontage of the old Tewin Garage site, and finally leave the village.

On the negative side, we spent a great deal of effort trying to avert the cuts to the 388 bus route, but to no avail. Despite many government words about reducing dependency on the car, buses are not considered as vital infrastructure. HCC was looking to save money, and despite various consultations, they got the cuts that they wanted. We thank the officers of the council who tried to make the best of a bad job.

HCC is also saving monies on its Highways budget. Getting potholes repaired is a constant battle. Roadside gullies were emptied last year on an 18 month cycle, but we cannot get them to come back and do the ones that they missed. The Parish Council has already spent money on gulley work, and this looks like becoming a regular expenditure.

Highways are normally successful at the large jobs, but the surface dressing applied along Churchfield Road this year is already breaking up, and this has been reported back to Highways.

Having been advised that they should not be using concrete kerb to repair the northern edge of Lower Green, Highways abandoned the job, claiming that it had all been a mistake. The Parish Council is now paying for the repair from our New Homes Bonus. Our contractor is currently waiting for the granite kerbstones to come into stock in May. Hopefully this will keep all but the biggest lorries off the green, but we will look at additional surface re-enforcement if necessary.

East Herts Council continues to work towards its new District Plan. Tewin is still designated as a Group 2 village with only infill development, but no doubt that the owners of several fields around the lower village area will try to convince the Inspector that what Tewin really really needs is more houses.

Our neighbours in Welwyn Hatfield are working on their own Local Plan, and developers are now proposing to put 1000 houses on the old Panshanger Airfield.

And we also have the next review of the Hertfordshire Minerals Plan, which after a lot of worry, will hopefully leave us alone again.

Our precept for next year has been increased by £500 to £29,000.

Thanks go again to the Parish Clerk, our Parish Councillors and our District plus County Councillors for all their help and support through the year. And thank you to all those residents who run the groups and events, making Tewin a great place to live.

Kind Regards

Keith St Pier
Chairman of Tewin Parish Council