

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

May 2022

The primary source of income for the Parish Council is the Annual Precept paid as part of the Council Tax, but over the last ten years we have also received payments from the Government funded New Homes Bonus, as a result of extra houses being built in the Parish.

Our income from the New Homes Bonus scheme has decreased and now the scheme has finished. We are not expecting any payments from a new provision called the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The New Homes Bonus has helped to fund a number of projects including several major ones – resurfacing the playground, laying the kerb along the northern edge of Lower Green, and a grant towards the purchase of Tewin Stores.

Whilst we currently have no large projects in the pipeline, we do have ongoing tree works, which have been funded by the New Homes Bonus, but in future may place extra demands on the Precept.

Public bodies are expected to take practical steps to maintain the safety of their trees. What little land the Parish Council actually owns, is covered in trees. We also have responsibility for various small pieces of Common Land, which are also mostly covered in trees, and for the Upper and Lower Greens, which are rented from the County Council.

Every few years we need to pay to have all these trees professionally surveyed, and then to have any recommended work carried out.

Remember, however, always to take care in windy weather, because apparently healthy trees can still contrive to fall (more expense), and the Parish Council does not look after all the trees in the Tewin.

One of the most attractive features of Tewin is the Mimram Valley. We are very lucky that a group of local residents has published two professional documents – A Brief History of the Landscape of the Mimram Valley, and The Case for a Local Landscape Designation. These will be valuable tools when considering planning applications in the Mimram Valley. Both these documents can be viewed on the Tewin Village website.

The group are now going on to consider what specific action can be taken with regards to the area known as "plotlands" i.e. the fields between the village and the Mimram, that were sold off as individual "building plots" in a scam dating back to 2002.

My thanks go to the other members of the Parish Council, and to the Parish Clerk for their help and support.

The Parish Council thanks those volunteers who help us by:

- running the Pavilion on Upper Green
- running the Saturday morning Community Bus
- the Drivesafe Team helping to keep our roads safer
- raising the flag on Lower Green

and our District and County Councillors.

We should all thank all the other volunteers who contribute so much to the quality of life in Tewin.

All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and all Council business is decided by a majority vote.

The Parish Precept for 2022-23 is £33,000 (£37 pa Band D £75 pa Band H).

Parish Council documentation is on the Tewin Village website.