

Chairman's Report

It's been another busy year! Several projects have been progressed and some satisfactorily completed.

Our Neighbourhood Plan, which has recently been successfully approved will now face its adoption referendum in May. Thanks again to Mike and his team for their tireless work on this important project.

The Parish Council has continued to support the delivery of the dualling of the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham for safety reasons, however, the legal challenge raised has significantly delayed this project. Contractors Galliford Try have continued to keep us updated and have been keen to interact with the local community. We hope they will help us deliver a footpath / cycle way from Lodge Road which will link to Lingwood Lane and enable a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists up to the path which will run alongside the new dualled section of the main road.

Cars speeding through the village continues to be a safety problem and we have continued to move a Speed Awareness Monitor around the village covering several problem areas. This has provided a positive reminder to drivers coming into and driving through the village and results have suggested that number of speeding vehicles has reduced as a result of the installation.

One of our councillors, Ian White, has become a Trustee on the newly formed Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust and spearheads our support for the purchase of a large slice of Buckenham Woods by the Trust. We have committed to make a financial contribution towards the purchase and / or the maintenance of the site which will ensure public access for parishioners to this wonderful area.

With the help of the British Legion, we managed to carefully remove the memorial plaques from the Methodist Chapel (which has been sold by auction) and onto the exterior wall of the Village Hall. This provides a great new remembrance landmark in Lingwood and we are grateful to the Hall and its' volunteers who are now upgrading the garden area underneath and around the plaques.

We continue to work towards installing Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the Village Hall car park. With tremendous thanks to grants received from Norfolk County Council and guided by the inspiration of Councillor Lana Hemsall, we hope to soon be able to offer re-charging to residents and visitors at reasonable rates.

I've been representing the Parish at local cluster meetings and it was great to use the combined pressure of seven local Parish Councils to lobby for the re-opening of the Postwick Park and Ride bus service. Route 503 re-started late last year and its trial has been extended and still runs Monday to Saturdays, every 20 minutes, providing a useful way for parishioners to get into the City and avoid the expensive car parking charges.

With grant funding and a donation from the Parish Council, a new defibrillator has been installed in North Burlingham. It's on the side of PDM Garage on Main Road (what3words location: fear.cried.apart). It would be great if we could raise the money to buy a third defibrillator for Lingwood. With the two units currently sited being at the Village Hall and the Spar shop, we are conscious that both these are to the South of the railway line. If someone were to need a unit on the North side, there may be a delay in retrieving it if the railway crossings are closed. This could be vital to a potential patient. The siting of a unit is proving a problem, but we continue to investigate the possibilities.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fantastic group of councillors, I think we work well as a team and with Sonya's expert guidance, we have delivered many improvements around the village and continue to provide the best service we can for our parishioners without raising the precept charge, which would increase residents' council tax bills further than they have been. We do not have a full complement of councillors and we hope we can recruit further to help us continue to maintain and enhance our wonderful parish of Lingwood and Burlingham.