

Newton Toney Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting – 9th May 2018
Chairman report - Councillor Thomas Martin

Parish Council activities & achievements for the year May 2017 to May 2018

Co-ordination of Council Services

The Parish Council has been close co-ordinating with the Parish Steward to ensure that community concerns are prioritised during the weekly visits. One main issue is potholes, which the Steward has had above average success in addressing. The Parish Steward is in contact with other Council assets and has highlighted areas for prompt verge and hedgerow trimming. A METROCOUNT traffic speed survey system was placed on Beechfield near the Cholderton & Amesbury road junction and found that 85% of traffic entering the village was below 25mph.

Upkeep and amenities

During this year, two dog waste bins have been installed at Green Walk and Blue Bridge with growing success. Following advice from Wiltshire Council, vehicle access barriers were placed at the entrance of the recreation ground and key access sharing arrangements made with the MHMC.

Repairs were made to the recreation ground fence and the speed gates on the Allington and Cholderton roads maintained. A request to install speed gates at the entrance to the village on the Amesbury road is under consideration by the landowner. The Bawden contractor maintenance of the cemeteries and public areas has been monitored and adjusted as Council activities are reduced.

Joint meetings with the MHMC

Meetings now agreed and held with the MHMC have been a very useful forum for ensuring a co-ordinated approach to issues that affect the whole village.

Community Public Access Defibrillators

Fund raising progress for CPADs had been slow at the beginning of the year had been very slow, until the Parish Council was directed towards the National Lottery. An application for funding for 3 CPADs to cover the village was successful, as was the adoption of the village phone box following BT's withdrawal of service due to minimal usage. In conjunction with the Community Heartbeat trust, 3 CPADs will be installed in the old phone box, on the village hall and on Beechfield, with a community awareness session open to all run initially and annually thereafter.

Marking Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council intends to mark the end of WW1 with two Remembrance Sunday event: firstly the planting of 11 Memorial Trees near Blue Bridge and secondly by making the recreation ground part of the Fields in Trust Centenary Fields scheme. This scheme working with the Royal British Legion provides protection for open spaces as a living remembrance for those who lost their lives. This has had the fortunate side benefit of ensuring the recreation ground is correctly recorded with the Land Registry.

Ongoing Grass Cutting resolution

With the notice given by Wiltshire Council, to cease grass cutting of the recreation ground, the Parish Council has ensured this service has been maintained. There are ongoing discussions with the school as a significant stakeholder and daily user of the recreation ground and amenities to ensure that this can continue to be funded fairly and not impose an undue financial burden on village residents