



As most of us know, the Parish Council's year runs from May to May, and what a year it's been.

- The Village Hall committee has refurbished the Village Hall with a new kitchen and loos, which looks great
- The Fete committee put on a great day (despite the rain) and raised funds to support the Parish Council in its road safety initiatives
- The Parish Council embarked on a major programme of initiatives which will have a positive impact on every resident in the parish

The Team

Sadly, two longstanding members of the council, Peter Kaye and David Bishop-Laggett, chose to stand down this year through personal circumstance and ill health. Both have contributed enormously over the years and the council showed its appreciation by presenting a small gift to each of them.

Every cloud has a silver lining and we now have two new faces that I am sure will help propel the council to meet its objectives over the coming year.

- Liz Winter... who produces the Knapton News and is our church warden, has added her considerable abilities to get things done to the team
- Keith Lawrence... a businessman, entrepreneur and a leading light of the Fete Committee, is taking on the role of Community Liaison to reach out to every resident in our parish and bring the village closer together

Welcome to you both and thank you for giving your time for the good of the village.

As always, the council's primary concern is for the safety of our parishioners and the council worked hard last year on several initiatives to improve where we can. Nowhere is this more obvious than the Knapton Angels, a parish council led volunteer group that has been providing free services to help those who are self-isolating or are considered too high a risk to leave their homes.

My thanks go to Councillor John Lawton who is co-ordinating their amazing efforts, to Councillors Liz Winter and Pat Lee who have worked tirelessly, and to all the other volunteers that have given their time freely to help others less fortunate than themselves. Since the initiative was launched on 22nd March the Angels have successfully responded to over fifty calls for help, some with flowers (my thanks to Sarah Hammond) and all with a smile. Their combined efforts have been recognised in the EDP twice in as many weeks and we will make sure that the Angels are available to all those who need their assistance until these difficult times are over.

The other big safety issue is our roads. In the last twelve months, this parish council has launched three road safety initiatives;

- Speed camera
- Re-modelling the junction of Mundesley Road and Hall Lane
- Extending the speed limit on Hall Lane

We are also supporting a local resident-led project to put in place a Speed-watch, designed to catch thoughtless motorists speeding on our roads.

It's my pleasure to say that all these projects are well under way, have been approved by Highways and the Police and have all the necessary funding in place. The camera should have been online in June, Speed-watch later in the Summer and the junction and speed limit extension completed by next Easter. Clearly the Coronavirus has had a say in the timings, but we will get them completed as soon as we can.

These projects have enabled the council to build stronger ties with the Local Police, Highways and the District Council which bodes well for future plans. Even our new MP has agreed to open our "Knapton Together" event.

Victory Housing development

Both Pat and I have liaised with Victory Housing on a weekly basis as the development has risen up from the ground, ensuring the safety of road users, non-obstructive traffic deliveries and minimising the impact on School Close. We also influenced the developers to maintain the character of the village and Victory Housing have kindly agreed to contribute to the cost of the re-modelling of the Hall Lane junction.

We also negotiated and secured a new lockable Village Short Stay Car Park for visitors to the village and users of the Village Hall.

We asked all villagers to offer suggestions for the name of the new road and got a great response from you all, thank you. We chose "Wilds Way", as suggested by Wayne and Julie Myhill in respect to John Henry Wild (known to everyone as Henry). He served on Knapton Parish Council for 57 years, was born, raised and died in the same cottage next to the Village Hall overlooking the development site and made huge contributions of effort to the village. A great choice.

Communications

I am passionate about bringing the village together and this year we took several steps to improve how we share and communicate.

- Firstly, we created a new website that's designed to offer far more information on a wider range of topics and brings together the Church, Village Hall committee and the Parish Council. The Comment Form is available everywhere on the site and is designed to encourage our parishioners to have their say on any aspect of what we do. We also changed the web address (don't worry, the old address automatically re-directs you to our new one) because we felt that www.knaptonvillage.org more accurately reflects that it's a website for the whole village and not just the Parish Council. With areas dedicated to the Village Hall and the Church, we believe that there is something for everyone and if you do choose to look at it we would welcome your thoughts
- Secondly, we introduced a Knapton Village email system for members of all the village groups to use, which allows the whole team to communicate on a daily basis and not just meet once a month. This enables a more co-ordinated approach and a more timely response to issues which has been perfect for the Angels
- Thirdly, we created Facebook and Twitter accounts to reach out to those who use these social media
- Lastly, we have increased our on-line presence on the local NextDoor website to highlight events

Playground

A recurring item on the Parish Council meeting agenda for many, many years, this council just got on with the job of refurbishing the playground, adding new equipment and extending the play area. Feedback from children and parents alike suggest it's a big success.

A big thank you to ALS for doing a great job for us, to Steve Hammond of Church Farm for letting us use one of his barns to carry out the refurbishment and to Graham and Ceri of MADRA for their help during the refurbishment and their support afterwards when it was the subject of some mindless vandalism.

Seats

We have added two benches to the village, one on The Street at the junction with Lawn Close and one on the playground, so that Mums and Dads can relax while they watch their children enjoy playing on the new frames.

Allotments

We have added security cameras with night vision to the allotment in the light of incidents on allotments in other villages around us. We've also added signage on the lane leading up to the allotments stating that its not a public right of way and that there are live CCTV cameras.

Signs

We started the process of refurbishing the Knapton village sign which we expect to complete over the summer. We also consulted with the residents of Knapton Green on what they would like to see done with the sign on top of the bus shelter. As a result, we are in the process of having that refurbished.

Millennium Beacon

This has been taken down to make way for the new properties on Wilds Way. We are in the process of refurbishing it and will be re-locating it later this year.

Our planned (but on hold) Knapton Together open day will see the ceremonial re-lighting of this significant feature of our village.

Good luck and stay safe

Peter Neatherway

Knapton Parish Council | Chair