



I hope that as you're reading this you're feeling warm, safe and well. But if you, or someone you know, is not, our website has plenty of links to groups and organisation that offer help and support.

As we've lurched from a Covid crisis to a Cost-of-Living crisis the one constant has been your parish councillor's unswerving dedication to making things better. I would like to thank each one of them for not flinching in their efforts to continually work to improve our everyday lives despite the very challenging circumstances we all faced.

We have a strong council, full of leaders, which is reflected in what they have done since the last elections in May, including 3000 trees planted around the parish, various children's events, Anglian Sewerage system and County Broadband services shadowed, new bins added and a lot more.

Conversely, I've lost count of the number of times I, and the parish council, have been frustrated in our efforts by NNDC, from junction issues in School Close to a variety of planning issues. They even took our phone box! I guess that having a District Councillor (who's supposed to turn up to meetings occasionally and keep us informed of NNDC actions) living in Wales hasn't helped.

But in just under two months' time, on 4th May, we all get the chance to vote for whoever we think will best represent our parish and fight our corner at the District Council for the next four years. The outcome of the election will not affect national Government, that's next year's election, but it could make a real difference to each one of us and to our Parish Council's efforts to further improve our roads, road safety, bus services and a host of other things. So please take the time to vote and exercise your right to choose.

However, those same elections will be tinged with sadness as both our Parish Clerk and the most senior member of the council will be retiring.

- Dee Holroyd has kept the council on the straight and narrow for over 11 years, guiding and supporting the council at every turn, working tirelessly for the good of our parish and all those who live in it.
- Pat Lee is a force of nature and shows his consideration and compassion for others every single day, as "Stuart's Bench" demonstrated so clearly. His level-headed and common-sense approach has been an inspiration to the council for around 30 years

The commendable loyalty shown by both will not be easily replaced and they will both be sorely missed. So, reluctantly the council needs to fill their shoes. If you're reading this and thinking "*I'd like to join the team and do some good in the village*", I'd like to hear from you. You can read more on our website at: [https://knaptonvillage.org/parish\\_council/why-be-a-parish-councillor](https://knaptonvillage.org/parish_council/why-be-a-parish-councillor)

Looking ahead, the next twelve months promise to be every bit as challenging but exciting as the last and I'm sure that after the elections in May, the elected Chair will share their vision for what the council will tackle during the following 12 months.

I'm hopeful that it will include:

- finally seeing the re-modelling of the Hall Lane / Knapton Road junction
- further attempts to slow traffic down in Hall Lane and The Street
- starting the process for a revised "Parish Plan" and involving every parishioner
- considering new bus stop(s) for our schoolchildren and our elderly residents
- bench seating in several locations for locals and walkers to rest and relax
- more children's events
- revisions to the playground
- progressing along the path of setting up a "Community Hub"

I hope that the rejuvenated community spirit within the parish will encourage those who don't normally get involved to offer a lending hand as we continue to strive to make where we live as safe and as wonderful as possible, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events during the year.

Stay safe

*Peter*