



2024 promises to be a year of fresh challenges sprinkled with a healthy dose of optimism. The Parish Council has had a busy few months since our last meeting at the beginning of December, as you can see...

- Jackie liaised with Highways to deal with the main drains because of excess water on The Street
- we negotiated with the school bus operators to add the bus shelter in Wilds Way as an additional stop to make drop off and pick up points safer for all our children, most of whom are on School Close/Wilds Way
- we also added a salt bin at the bus shelter to help to prevent anyone, particularly young children, slipping into the road
- we're working with a mum in School Close to try and get permission from Victory Housing to put a new playground for the under 7s on the grass area at the junction of Wilds Way/School Close, and if we're successful our resident will establish a local group to choose the play units and we will source the funding
- we approached Victory Housing for a solution to resolve a damaged path in School Close that is used by elderly residents and maybe add some lighting
- Liz and Denise worked with Highways to replace the post outside the Village Hall that was knocked over, to prevent the Loke being used as a rat run
- we started a conversation with a charity to render the pond next to Wilds Way safer for our local children and to encourage a wild-life area and small orchard, whilst at the same time preserve the habitat for a protected species
- we considered an unusual housing planning application
- we liaised with Anglian Water to establish the cause of unpleasant smells in The Street
- we monitored the installation of the re-modelled village junction
- we collected the latest vehicle speed figures on Hall Lane from our SAM2 camera and opened the next round of discussions with Highways to find a way of slowing down the traffic on Hall Lane

Whilst we don't usually meet in January, we were unable to meet in February this year either due to Jackie and I not being able to attend and the resulting concerns over quorum (having the minimum number of councillors required to hold a meeting).

There are currently two vacant seats on the council and we want to recruit two Knapton residents to bring us back up to full strength, so if you would like to know more about what we do and how to get involved please get in touch with Denise, our clerk, or visit the "Why be a Parish Councillor" page in the PC section of our website. We'd love to hear from you.

Over the next few months, I hope to see the relationship between local committees, groups, residents and the new Trustees of the MADRA mix and merge into a positive relationship which will benefit everyone. Clearly there are views, feelings and opinions on all sides that will need to mellow for that to happen but I'm confident that we will **all** get there, smiling **together**. The Parish Council will do all it can, when it can, to help make that happen.

Bring on the Summer!

*Peter*