

This is the Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2015/16, for the Annual Parish Meeting 7/3/16

I would like, as ever, to start this report by thanking my fellow councillors (Mary Taylor, Alice Guise, Brian Coxall, John Hockley, Mike Mortimer, Clair Flynn) for all their contributions, help and support over the year. The smooth workings of the Parish Council are largely due to the Parish Council Clerk (Ellen Sayer) for ensuring that everything has run so smoothly over the past year; particularly in terms of ensuring that the never-ending streams of correspondence and emails are actioned and that our finances remain in excellent order.

The Parish Council has once again carried out its 'usual' duties over the year employing contractors to ensure that the Recreational Field, Wildlife Area, Children's Play Area and Churchyard are kept in good order.

Key information relevant to the village continues to be provided by the village paper-based newsletter 'Akeley News', as well as through the village website and the independent community forum 'Akeley News and Views'.

The successful installation of the AED in the village has been welcomed by all and we hope it remains the least-used village facility.

Roads have been a key area of progress. Whilst we still suffer in many ways, the remedial work to the resurfacing of the A413 road through Akeley has now been welcomed. However, the state of the other roads in the village remain a constant topic at meetings with BCC and others in the surrounding area. The newly-installed signage in Leckhampstead Road should help to some extent with pedestrian safety.

I would like to put on record our thanks for the support of our County and District Councillor Warren Whyte and the support of the Local Area Forum (LAF).

The prospects for superfast broadband for the village are now tangible with the final pieces of disruption due to deliver full service to Akeley at the end of March. It's been a long long journey!

We continue to await the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and we cautiously watch neighbouring planning applications on the north-eastern edges of Buckingham and Maids Moreton.

In conclusion, Alice Guise stepped down as councillor during the year and we now have approval to co-opt a replacement, so anyone in the audience tonight, or reading this after the meeting please feel free to step forward and help guide the evolution of Akeley.

Terry Cavender, Chairman, Akeley Parish Council