

## Upavon Parish Council

### Chairman's Annual Report 2015/2016

This last year has been very mixed, the work load has continued as usual with more responsibilities being pushed to the Parish Councils from WCC, at the end of last year we had the sad loss of Russ Appleton, he will be a hard act to follow. I am pleased to welcome to the council Gerry Ward and John Tighe who have hit the ground running. My grateful thanks to Jon Mulroy the Councils Clerk who has done a great job of simplifying a lot of the procedures and accounts which are all now published on the notice board and on line.

The Parish Council has agreed to replace the obsolete swing at the upper playing field; a plaque will be added in memory of Russ who did so much work to upgrade this playground and maintain our community spaces. Russ also oversaw the maintenance contract which is ably done by Last Landscaping and our thanks are extended to Simon Last , John Tighe has agreed to take this on and I am sure that we will expand the scope of the contract on a needs base.

The two defibrillators are fully installed, serviced and training will continue on an annual basis, our thanks to all the Parishioners who continue to support this project. Gerry Ward and John Tighe have agreed to put a feasibility project together to complete the A345 Pavement and to source funding.

Speeding is still the greatest cause for concern in our community, however having asked for more volunteers last year to no avail we have had to suspended Community Speed watch, instead we are going to join a group of seven parishes to have a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on a rotational basis.

The Whistledown Farm planning application was passed by Wiltshire Council but we understand that there are still some agreements to be made on the 106/CIL requirements. There have been several Tree applications which have all been agreed, finally we have had and recommended some modifications to the Upavon Garage site application for four houses, this is now with WCC for consideration.

I have served on the Parish Council for some two decades with some very dedicated people with a strong sense of community, I have been fortunate that during this time we have had five extremely good Clerks and I am sure all my fellow Chairmen will join me in thanking them on behalf of the Village.

I will not be standing for election in May 2017, I feel that after two different terms as Chairman, the last for six years and over twenty years on the council that is time for others to take over, I will of course be pleased to assist the new council and its chairman should they so wish. I hope that in this coming year prospective councillors will come forward, we will be pleased to welcome them to our meetings and discussions so they can better judge the roll of councillors, I have also attached my phone number should anyone wish to speak to me personally.

G Paul Cowan

Upavon Parish Council Chairman  
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