

CLlr Alison Andrew

It's been a busy year of activity in Hanslope for the PC. I'll run through a few of the things we've done.

These projects don't include the day-to-day work we all do, answering queries, providing all the written material to support or object to planning or proposals that come through the PC. I'm on the Rec Liaison Committee, Planning Committee, I'm Vice Chair of the newly formed Rural West Community Forum on Crime and Policing for our villages, I'm on the Neighbourhood Plan team – and then I also work on individual projects!

There is much work that is done 'behind the scenes' and we are lucky to be very ably supported by our Clerk, Gill and our 3 Ward Councillors, George Bowyer, Chris Wardle, and Liam Andrews – who often have to take up the fight on behalf of Hanslope when the protests and difficulties of the PC fall on deaf or reluctant ears. The PC work on many issues that concern the village in conjunction with our councillors so that we can have a coordinated plan on the issues that we all face.

I thank each of them – and the huge number of volunteers who willingly give their free time and energy to keeping our village the great place it is.

So – everyone look up? **See the ceiling?** That was replaced by applying for S106 funding. A longer process than I had thought it would be. Paperwork filled, contractors quoted, submissions, more quotes, more questions. But it is done. This makes the Hall more energy efficient, better lighting and means that when the PC opened its doors to the Warm Spaces project and provided a grant – the space was indeed warm.

The Jubilee 2023. I put out the call for volunteers, formed a committee of 10, the PC underwrote the project while we found sponsors and then we were joined by dozens of helpers across the 3 days of activities. Around 400 on the beacon lighting, around the same for the dog show, food, stalls and raffle on the Saturday and over 1000 people throughout the street party. A great way to bring everyone together in our village. Huge thanks should go to Dezni Grove who played an enormous part in the organisation. Outstanding.

On May 7th we will celebrate the **King's Coronation**. The finer details will be signed off later this evening – but we will have a big screen on the Rec to show the Party at the Palace and encourage everyone to bring tables, chairs, beanbags, blankets and come together. The Palace wants communities to come together so we will extend the invitation to our surrounding neighbouring villages and have food and drinks vendors coming along and local businesses are taking stalls. Hopefully it will also be a great fundraiser for the Football Team and others.

The outdoor gym. When I joined this was an idea – and I thought it such a good one that I agreed to do the leg work. Lots of paperwork, finding companies to tender, proposals, looking at locations and then I spoke to neighbouring PC's who have similar facilities to find

out the lessons learned. A year and a month after starting the new outdoor gym opened. Thanks to Councillor Gregory who pitched in with the selection of the individual bits of kit. My strength lies in paperwork and not exercise. It's great to see so many using it despite the weather.

Recently we held the **Bins on Tour** community meeting. It was great to see such a good turnout and lively question and answer sessions. If there are other issues like that that you would like us to hold meetings about, please come and talk to one of us after or email me through the PC (or chat to me in the pub) – happy to hold more.

And finally, a few other projects. We have sponsored the **Santa Run**. **For Halloween** and **Christmas**, we gave out craft packs and drove around handing others out. The defibrillators now number 2 in the village and there was a well attended demonstration session held on the rec. There are **summer play sessions** – more coming this summer – for the kids in the village and few more projects coming down the line to look at increasing the communication across the village, tackling speeding and the always present problem of dog fouling.

And a quick word on **Christmas**. No-one was more upset than me about the council disabling the connections for the Christmas lights. In case you don't know, it was often my Dad, even at advanced years, up a ladder putting them up. We have been promised this won't be the case for 2023 but the abundant promises are failing to materialise. Emails are going unanswered, calls unreturned – so in step our Councillors. And if we as a little rural village remain ignored – stay tuned for a Plan B.

Lastly, it is always a challenge to let everyone know what is going on. If you use social media – please follow the HPC page for news of the upcoming litter pick, **Community Forum on Crime & Policing** and other events. If not, if you're buying your newspaper in the village, read the minutes and agendas of the meeting on the noticeboard. Details are also on the HPC website of all the things that we do and the decisions we make and there are contact details for all of us. If you have questions and see me walking the 'dug or if I'm in the pub having a drink – just ask. As they used to say – It's Good to Talk.