

Chair's Report to the Ringshall Annual Parish Meeting, for year ending 23rd May 2023

Dear Residents and Parish Councillors,

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you at tonight's meetings but look forward to our Public Meeting on 30th May to discuss the requests to extend the 30mph speed limit in Lower Farm Road.

I would like to thank the superb members of the Parish Council who have served with diligence and dedication over the past year endeavouring to make the community a better place to live and work in as well as undertaking to ensure issues of concern are reported and resolved, if it was in our remit to do so. I was delighted to see that we all put our names forward again to serve for up to another four years.

As a Parish Council we have covered a myriad of subjects which has meant working for the community in our own time to enable items to be thought about and worked on. This would not have been possible without the advice and support of our Parish Clerk, Lacey Luther, and our County Councillor, Kay Oakes, and recently re-elected District Councillor, Dan Pratt. We hold you all in great respect and are also grateful that Kay and Dan have attended as many of our Parish Council meetings as able.

Over the past year Ringshall Parish Council has monitored and commented on important topics, and brought about change where needed, thereby enhancing the value of the money we all pay in our Council Tax for the benefit of the community.

Our biggest achievement was to design and install a £70,000 Play Area for the village which was officially opened at the Coronation event on 6th May. A Working Group over two years thrashed out the details taking onboard insights from other local play areas, Ringshall Primary School pupils and a residents' survey. The project was generously supported by Mid Suffolk District Council, the Lottery Fund, Binders and other Charitable bodies and combined with village fund-raising events.

We supported the Quiet Lane project on Offton and Holly roads, leading through parts of Ringshall, Great Bricett, Willisham and Offton parishes. We improved the footpath steps and installed a rail to enhance safety onto Lower Farm Road. Upgrading of lighting and improvements to drainage also featured on our agendas.

The issues concerning plans to upgrade the National Grid high voltage power network with larger pylons and more cables has been discussed. Ringshall Parish Council has requested that the route for the new cables should be undersea from the North Sea offshore wind farms to Tilbury, Essex, rather than across land. We have concerns that an alternative possibility to put the cabling in recognised sensitive areas underground, if implemented in our parish, would cause extensive ground-level damage to fields, hedges and trees, and cause a considerable impact for our farmers continued use of their arable land.

We have been attentive to giving our response to Planning issues and applications, as they arise. We regard this as one of the most important aspects of our work as we, as a Parish Council and a community, are the eyes and ears for Mid Suffolk District Council's planning department which asks for our views on planning applications.

We have recorded our opinions on various smaller and larger scale planning applications, including plans for up to 69 mobile homes to be sited at Great Bricett, which was dismissed on Appeal, and hosted a joint Public Meeting with Great Bricett Parish Council over the closing of the vegetarian Red Lion, our nearest pub/restaurant at Great Bricett.

We have monitored feedback on noise levels from helicopters and fast car events at Wattisham Airfield and we are working with the base to improve speed awareness of traffic to and from Great Bricett and will discuss further speed initiatives following our residents' traffic questionnaire. I would like to thank Peter Watson, our SpeedWatch Co-ordinator as well as our Play Area Health and Safety expert, for the time he has devoted to this and especially looking after and providing data from our Speed Indicator Display.

Not only will we be addressing Speed issues and Planning needs in the forthcoming year we will be assisting Ringshall Village Hall raise funds and to get the expertise needed to carry out essential repairs to its roof.

Finally, on behalf of the parish council, we thank all residents who have contacted us by phone, email, letter or attended meetings and events. Without that we would not be able to assist the community to meet the aspirations that it might wish to see happen in Ringshall.

Our work, documents, agendas and minutes are published online and the Chair compiles a report published in the parish magazine summarising the main items discussed and being processed.

**Kind Regards,
Chris Payne (Chair, Ringshall Parish Council).**