Terrington St John Parish Council-Chairman’s report

I have held up providing an update until some of the actions I have been reporting have come to fruition. There are many now and I will list where we are with them:-

* The Neighbourhood Plan went to consultation in January and would have been externally examined by the time you read this. Also in January we held a ‘SHOW AND TELL’ to inform parishioners on the status of the Neighbourhood plan. Once our document is agreed we can hold a referendum in the parish to seek acceptance by you before gaining full approval-target to adopt the NP – Hopefully by the end of summer this year.

At the ‘Show and Tell’ we also presented the full range of the actions the Parish Council is working on:-

* The school road housing development by now we expect the development will have started. The developer has been extremely proactive and agreed to the following road safety improvements on behalf of the Parish-
  + It was agreed to construct a pedestrian crossing by the school and improve the road layout safety by the school.
  + The area outside the school will become a 20mph ‘school patrol’ zone during the construction of the housing development AND this will remain.
  + The 30 MPH speed limit will be extended south along school road-exact distance still to be confirmed, but we are seeking to extend it as far as possible.
  + The layby in front of the school playing field is retained and improved to ultimately provide a ‘drop off and pick up point’ for children. this will greatly reduce the need for parents and guardians to park on school road and together with the crossing greatly improve road safety outside the school
* Housing Development at the end of Old Church Road. We met with the developer late last year and are working with him to try and achieve a development that is sympathetic to the style of our village housing. We anticipate the development will start mid-summer this year. Part of the agreement for this development will be a footpath from the pharmacy, on the west side of the road, which will be extended the full length of Old church road, providing a pedestrian access to the new development.

Both these new developments will, increase the volume of Heavy vehicle traffic until they are complete. Both developers have acknowledge this and will be working to minimise any disruption

* . Those of you who have used the trod will know that a lamp post was left in the middle of the trod. Hopefully this would have been resolved by the time you read this –it takes an inordinate period of time to raise these issues with the utility companies!
* Village playing area car park. We have extended the car park and reorganised the entry, trimmed the hedge to cater for parking and safer entry. Provided a bike rack, tidied up Charity donation bins and added new, large waste bins.

We are intending to trim the large conifers to the east of the site and reinstate fencing, and remove any dangerous shrubbery and trees.

* Children’s play equipment following an application and due to the generosity of the Village Hall Committee giving us funding, we intend to install a children’s play area with suitable equipment to the north of the scout hut. We also plan to provide suitable seating and a recreation area for all ages (this may already have begun by the time you read this).
* Our Speedwatch initiative continues to hold sessions virtually every week, thanks to our co-ordinator –Roger Mullis. Our objective for the Speedwatch is to ‘raise awareness’, not to ‘notch up’ prosecutions. Recent statistics suggest we are indeed seeing a reduction in offending drivers in our parish. So many thanks to Roger and his volunteers. We continue to run our SAM2 equipment within the Parish.
* Burman House .Late last year we became concerned by the report that Burman house was to close with all 25 of its residents being moved to other facilities.

The Parish Council requested a full explanation of why from Norse Care –The managing Company of Burman House. Suffice to say that following attendance at two Parish Council meetings Councillors Brian Long and Barry Ayres undertook to pursue specific actions on behalf of the Parish Council. These actions, along with those of others have resulted in the retention of Burman house as a specialist facility for patients with dementia. We understand the existing residents are remaining.

* Ely road dyke. After some 35 years or so…..We are finally getting a resolution to the issues of Ely Row dyke. To date -Highways have now accepted they are responsible for the road: The drainage board have conducted investigations and undertaken excavations to determine the nature of the Dyke. At this time we are pursuing support to pipe the dyke and cover it. As soon as I can report more on this action I will do so.
* There are numerous actions the parish council have-are undertaking to improve and upgrade the wellbeing of all parishioners –this includes replacing a badly damaged bus shelter. Getting highways to reinstate the curbing by the shelter to deter vehicles riding the pavement. Installing bollards in front of the shelter, again to protect pedestrians and those waiting for buses and possibly damaging the new bus shelter. Installing large waste bins to avoid rubbish spilling out of the smaller, inadequate bins.

Install a further bike rack along main road close to the bus stop. We have increased the cutting frequency of the grassed areas we are responsible for and this should improve the appearance of our village.

* Road infrastructure. My last report referred to the road monitoring and study around the whole of Kings Lynn with the intent of determining the needs and current use of the road infrastructure. The report from this study is due this spring. As soon as the Parish Council has sight of it we will provide feedback and any implications on Terrington St John.
* Village gates. By now, dependent upon highways we will have installed white village marker gates on entry roads to the village. These are further initiatives to help reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village.

To finish-

* The Parish Council normally meet -1st Wednesday of each month. Our activities, actions and use of the precept is clearly available both at our meetings and also posted on the web site and in many case available to see in the notice boards around the parish. If you would like to support the Speedwatch or become a Parish Councillor please contact me, our Vice Chair, or Clerk in the first instance. And of course you are welcome to attend out regular meetings where you can participate in shaping the future of the Parish.
* Ward changes. This year sees a change to our ward. We now join Terrington St Clements, no longer part of the St Lawrence ward. This naturally means that Councillor Barry Ayes will no longer be directly involved with us. On behalf of this and previous Terrington St John Parish Councils we would like to thank Barry for his support and guidance over the years.

Colin Clifton

Chair Terrington St John Parish Council