



# Slip End Parish Council Annual Chairmans Report 2022 - 2023

## Grant Applications for Community Groups

At our meeting in April 2022, the parish council considered grant applications received from local community groups. The following grants were issued:

**Parish News** – was considered an important way to communicate to residents in the parish monthly.

**Good Neighbourhood Scheme** – an excellent scheme to help venerable adults in the parish. The grant was to be used to fund volunteers on vital training and to support the scheme.

**Slip End Playing Fields** – a grant was applied for match funding to replace the halls septic tank pit.

**FoSELS** – applied for match funding for much needed laptops for their pupils.

**Slip End Pre School** – applied for funding to improve the outside play area which needed improving.

**Slip End Carpet Bowls** – to support the club for continued use for parish residents.

## Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter

The playground continues to be well used. A full safety check of the playground equipment is carried out twice a week so any required remedial work can be identified quickly. Edwin Thrift of Lansdowne Services Ltd started a three year contract with the parish council which includes maintenance of the playground. Edwin attended a ROSPA safety course to be compliant with the requirements of checking the playground and reports to the chair or clerk if any issues are found. Costs to replace parts have been a bit of a surprise, but the council have always replaced when required to ensure the safety of our residents and playground users.

Sadly, it is now a regular requirement for Edwin to clear up broken glass and rubbish from the playground, particularly around the youth shelter – shame as there is a bin within a few feet of the shelter. If you use the shelter, put your rubbish in the bin please – have some respect for the area and other users.

## London Luton Airport

The parish council sent a response to the Airport Expansion Consultation and objected to the expansion. As a consultee for the residents of the parish, a comprehensive response document courtesy of Cllr Shaw was submitted stating the reasons for objection and Cllr Shaw continues to keep members abreast of any new documents, changes or news in relation to this matter. Thank you for your work on this Paul.

## Hanging Baskets

Hanging flower baskets were sited throughout the Parish over the summer of 2022. Councillors all agree that the hanging baskets are a great addition to the appearance of the parish. The contractor who supplies the baskets now covers the watering requirements. Over the coming years the lamp posts will be replaced with hinged ones which will no longer support the baskets, so members are aware we may have to resort to troughs only, but members are keen to maintain the flower arrangements in some form for as long as possible.

## Fly Tipping

Fly Tipping continues to plague our roads. Contents of various cannabis farms and other rubbish is regularly dumped in the locations of Woodside Road and Half Moon Lane Hyde, these two being the worst affected. The CBC waste grab lorry visits these sites on a weekly basis to remove the rubbish. We have continued to push Central Bedfordshire Council to install covert cameras at hot spot areas with the hope this will lead to the prosecution of offenders, but as recent as February members were advised the locations 'aren't suitable'.

## Tree Maintenance at St Andrews Church

St Andrews church approached the council detailing several trees that needed to be felled. The parish council arranged for the work to be completed and this has been carried out over three phases. Phase, one and two were completed in this year and phase three is being looked at from May 2023.

### **Newlands Park Development**

The parish council arranged a meeting with the developers of the Newlands Business Park (Wrenbridge Land) in July 2022. This provided an opportunity to ask questions prior to a formal planning application being submitted. There are concerns about the development having an impact on local roads. Councillor Collins attended a development meeting at Luton Borough Council where the development was discussed. The meeting acknowledged the traffic concerns, but despite this the planning application for the northern site was approved. It was agreed that traffic would not be able to use the site to cut through from Newlands to Luton. There will be two road accesses not joined together.

### **Highways and Footpaths**

Over the summer period a speed survey was carried out in Summer Street. It was identified that over 99% of vehicles travelled below the speed limit. Residents reported that a few cars regularly sped along Summer Street and were encouraged to record number plates to be passed to the Police. Due to the inclement weather a number of potholes have emerged throughout the parish. These were reported and have and continue to be addressed.

### **Electric Charging Points**

The council welcomed a representative from the sustainable travel team of Central Beds Council to discuss plans to install electric charge points in the village hall car park. These would be installed and maintained by CBC's partner BP Pulse. There is a proposal for eight charging points which would be slower charging and ideal for overnight charging. Discussions are ongoing.

### **Good Neighbourhood Scheme**

The GNS has been extremely successful this past year supporting residents in the parish. They have held tea parties and a Christmas party in the parish hall and raised £400 through a tombola stall at the Village Day. In the winter of 2022, a weekly Soup and Sarnie event started at the Rising Sun where residents could receive hot food and tea or coffee for a small cost. This has been well attended, with a quiz some weeks to entertain, and currently is continuing into the summer. They've had a trip to the Leighton Buzzard railway taking advantage of a hired minibus from another neighbour scheme, and first aid and manual handling courses were organised for GNS volunteers to attend. 232 parish residents received a box of biscuits for Christmas.

### **CASEBUG**

The parish council met with CASEBUG, a local group which arose from the 231-bus service being cut in the New Year. The 230-bus service is also being reviewed and has been proposed to change it to an hourly service on a one-way loop. It will remain a free service by residents paid for by the Caddington Woods development. As residents are not happy with the loss of the service and the disruption it has caused to residents in Caddington and Slip End, so CASEBUG have been campaigning to find a better service for residents. As a result of the 230 being cut Pepperstock residents are less well connected. Members agreed to offer their support to CaseBUG alongside Caddington Parish Council to ensure that residents that rely on the bus service can be supported and have a voice.

### **Flooding**

Flooding in Mancroft Road, Lower Woodside and Grove Road remain major concerns. Councillor Collins is aware of these locations and meets or talks regularly with a Central Beds Council Highways custodian to discuss ongoing options. This will be a regular agenda item for this year.

### **Policing**

We have a PCSO back with us, Laura Tuck. It's been nice to have police support again, and certainly issues that have been raised with Laura have been dealt with or investigated. The crime statistics have shown that fortunately our parish still has a low level of crime reported.

### **Recruitment of a New Clerk**

Peter Segal, Clerk to the parish council for 13 years retired in March 2023 and our new Clerk Tracey O'Neill was appointed. I would like to thank Peter for his continuous support over the last 13 years and again wish him an enjoyable retirement.

The budget was maintained this year and we would like to thank the Clerk and Cllr Brennan for keeping us on track. I would also like to thank the Ward Councillors Kevin Collins and Eddie Perry for their support over the past year and wish Eddie all the best in his retirement as we welcome his replacement, Councillor Vicky Malone.

Our previous chairman, Paul Cooper, resigned in February 2023 to concentrate on new business opportunities. Members thanked him for his contribution over the last 13 years and wished him well. Likewise, Cllr Hooker decided not to stand for re-election this year, his final meeting was last month and again we thank him for his hard work and contributions to council over the last 4 years.

Finally, to my remaining fellow Councillors, thank you for your support throughout the year and ongoing, here's to the next 4 years!

Sarah Minnighan - Chairman

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