

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2019 - Councillor Peter Heath

It seems time has flown since our last Annual Parish Meeting but during that time your Parish Council has not been idle. Our greatest challenge was to ensure the completion of the Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will essentially protect the village from uncontrolled development and guide future Parish Council members on the direction of policy for the next 25 years. It has been completed by a dedicated team who have worked hard on a complex process encompassing all aspects of the village, past, present and future. We have brought in external consultants to assist in this process so that we may fully recognise the attractions of life in Sudbrooke. The Neighbourhood Plan has now been given to West Lindsey District Council for examination and when completed will be subject of a referendum of Parishioners.

Our other main concern has been the development in the Sudbrooke Park. The building works are proceeding apace, however we have had to raise the problems on construction traffic with the developer. The initial Traffic Management Plan was abandoned by the developer as being impractical. This led to heavy vehicles using Manor Drive and West Drive. We pointed out that the original route through the farm roads was more than adequate and should be used to lessen the impact on our roads. This was agreed. Holme Drive will now take more construction traffic whilst West Drive has new culverts installed necessitating closure of that road. We will continue to press to minimise the impact of the works on the village. We have also been pursuing the developer for greater involvement in the Landscape Plan for the woods and public access when complete. Our two positions have not always coincided on this but we continue to persevere.

Sadly our Sports Day this year was a washout due to the weather but we hope to hold the event again this year. Emma Chapman has agreed to organise this with support from the PC. Our Christmas tree lighting was a great success thanks to all who volunteered their time. We obtained a temporary licence to sell alcohol so that we could legally sell mulled wine. The sale of raffle tickets provided funds to cover additional costs and we intend to repeat that success this year. Our litter picks have been well supported by village volunteers but it is always disappointing that they have had so much to pick up. We continue to seek grants and assistance to improve the village. We are hoping that a group from Lincoln College will be repainting the park gates as a project. We are also grateful to the Lincoln Rapid Relief Team for their sterling work in clearing the footpaths around the Millennium Stone

The sports field in Poachers Lane is now owned by the Parish Council but will require some work to ensure that the playing surface is safe to use. In recognition of his work for Sudbrooke it has been named after Stuart Curtis, himself an accredited football referee.

It is hoped that the next year will be as successful as the last and that more residents of the village will put themselves forward to serve as Parish Councillors.