

## **Loddon Annual Parish Meeting Chairman`s Report 2017**

Again this has been another busy year. This year we have appointed a new Clerk and Finance officer due to Christine and Karen both leaving. Anne Panella and Howard Keeling were both appointed and have hit the ground running to pick up where their predecessors left off and have settled in very well.

Building work is now completed on the Broadland Meadow estate, formerly the ExPress Plastics site with just a few snagging points to be resolved.

The double yellow lines have been put down outside the Hollies in the High Street, as reported last year. This seems to have helped with the congestion at this point of the High Street.

The Victorian Evening, which took place just before Christmas again, was a great success, with many shops staying open until late. The River Chet Fayre, which took place during the summer at Pyes Mill, was also held and both were well supported

The Parish Council decided that, due to the poor state of the building and the prohibitive cost of the required repairs and renovations, the Old Town Hall would be sold. This has now been completed.

The Loddon Information Centre, previously based in the Old Town Hall, had another good year during the 2016 season and will shortly open again. From this year the TIC will be based in the Parish Council Offices.

The 'reserved matters' planning application, which will provide details of the 200 homes and infrastructure on the site in George Lane has been accepted and construction has begun; part of the planning was to provide a roundabout at the top of George Lane. It is expected that, hopefully, the work will commence sometime at the end of March / beginning of April.

The Parish Council has agreed to take over the running of the toilet block at the Staithe car park from South Norfolk Council following an extensive refurbishment, which will provide much improved facilities for locals and visitors, including a shower and a large family/disabled cubicle. South Norfolk Council planned to close the Church Plain toilet block when the refurbishment of the Staithe block was completed, a decision which many people objected to. It has therefore been agreed that the parish council will endeavor to keep Church Plain toilets for as long as possible and carry out a consultation with the public as to the future of these toilets and what this would mean to the Council Precept and residents Council Tax bills.

The changes to the First Bus time table as reported last year seem to have gone with few problems to date now that uses have got used to the time changes.

The Wherrymans way footpath by the Chet in Chedgrave still requires further work. The path from Chedgrave Pits to Chedgrave Commom is complete but further work is needed to be carried out from that point to Hardley floods. Discussions are still on-going to find the funding to complete this work.

I thank my fellow councillors and especially Anne & Howard for all their hard work and support in my year as Chairman

Ray Lumley  
Chairman