

## **Snape Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

### **Report from Chair of Snape Parish Council**

I will not take up too much of your time with a detailed report of all the Parish Council's deliberations over the last twelve months. All our minutes are published on the website and posted on the Village Noticeboards and, of course all our meetings are open to the public. And we are always available to answer questions and respond to comments.

Before I outline some of our key priorities. I must record my gratitude for the support of all the members of the Parish Council. In particular our thanks go to Bill Hough and who stood down when he moved away from Snape a few months ago. Bill was an active member of the Parish Council who brought his eye for detail and especially his business like approach to our finances. We will ensure that his high expectations continue to be met in years to come.

I would also like to thank Jackie Alfrey for her support for me as our Vice Chair, for her contribution to our thinking about access to open spaces and the environment and particularly her efforts in securing funds for work on the Village Green and on the Priory Road Common. Jackie also took responsibility for the allotments. She decided not to stand for election a few weeks ago. She leaves the allotments in good order, fully booked and with a short waiting list and annual fees collected for this year!

Talking of fees, we are a small Parish with an income of only about £11,000 per year so our capacity finance projects is limited. Our approach has always been to work in partnership bodies like the AONB and with the various voluntary organisations in the Village and to use our influence and networks to enable and encourage them to do things that benefit the community. We have also used our statutory role to persuade the big local authorities, East Suffolk and Suffolk County Council, to allocate resources to Snape and to ensure that they are meeting the needs and aspirations of local people. We are grateful for the continued good relationships that we have with our County and District Councillors who regularly attend our meetings.

We have continued to take a close interest in all planning applications for developments in the Village. Graham is assiduous in seeking views from neighbours and ensures that we take a consistent view of proposals and their likely impact on the Village when we make comments to the Planning Authority.

We are constantly aware of the challenges posed to quality of life in the Village by increased volumes and speed of traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles and ever larger agricultural machinery and are working with neighbouring Parish Councils to try contain that growth. Our Community Speedwatch team is very active and effective. (You will see their report) but more needs to be done particularly ahead of the likely impact of the proposed energy projects on industrial traffic on the country roads.

The importance of road safety and particularly parking around the School has continued to be a major focus for the Parish Council. We have worked with the County Council to enable them to develop scheme which we hope will improve the situation. We have enabled more parking space to be created for parents dropping off children and are looking at further opportunities for that. The County Council's plans for the Church Road area have been consulted on and some works have been completed but there is more to come. We would like to see further speed restrictions and we will continue to work with the School, parents and neighbours to try minimise the effect of inappropriate parking. We will monitor the impact of the scheme and will press for further changes if needed.

Finally, as you all know, The Parish Council has continued to play a very active part in responding to the plans for the somewhat euphemistically entitled 'Energy Projects'. I don't need to rehearse the arguments here but I must emphasise that we have played our full part in lobbying ministers taking part in Planning Enquiries and talking to Government Officials. If any of these projects do go ahead we will be at the forefront of arguing for proper recognition of the impacts on Snape and for appropriate mitigation and compensation for the Village.

So that is a very quick run through some of our priorities over the last twelve months. The newly elected Parish Council picks up the work today.

Finally, I would like to thank Marie, our Clerk, who keeps us on the straight and narrow and especially you and everyone in Snape for your support and for everything that you do for the Village and the community.