

Chairman's Statement Little Waltham Parish Council **2023**

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Antony Kingham and I have lived in Little Waltham for the past 21 years. In the middle of 2022 I was elected to the role of Chairman of the Parish Council for Little Waltham, having already served on the parish council for a number of years. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our previous Chairman Edith Robertson for her hard work and dedication over the previous tenure.

Having seen first hand as a councillor the issues that we deal with as a village, I want to ensure that our focus is for LWPC to work towards a greater sense of community within the parish.

Regarding the two major housing developments on either side of the village. We continue conversations with both Bloor Homes and Chelmsford Borough Council to ensure that we are informed and aware of any new plans or changes to the current position, and needless to say we will keep you closely informed of any significant changes. The Parish Council continues to make representations in relation to planning matters and in particular the East Anglia Green pylon consultation.

Due to the on going local development, one of our major priorities is the problem with traffic using the village as a cut through. There is no easy solution to this issue, but we are aware this is a problem that affects the entire village. We therefore part funded, in conjunction with the Local Highways Panel, an Origin and Destination Survey, which was carried out recently over a period of 4 days. This survey will assist in finding ways to tackle both the speed and volume of traffic within the village at peak times. In addition, we have joined the Essex initiative known as 20's Plenty. This is part of a national campaign to reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hour in towns and village centres. 60 Essex Parish Councils have now signed up to this campaign.

Regarding play facilities in the last year new goal ends have been installed in the tennis court and the play surfaces in the children's play area have been upgraded.

The Parish Council has decided to develop the Cricket Pavilion, which sits on the main communal area in the village. Plans have now been drawn up to refurbish the interior and exterior, including a kitchen and toilet facilities. This will enable us to use this space and outside area as a community hub.

As I am sure you will have noticed the new village signs have been installed at all entrances to the village, but due to the recent accident on Back Lane, we are now in active discussion with the council as we feel that the signs there are not in the most suitable position.

Having had issues as a Parish last year with the large events that were held at Wheelers Farm, we have been proactive, and I am pleased to say successful, in reducing the maximum number of attendees to a much more manageable number, and as a result of that we feel that the issues previously experienced will not happen again.

The Parish Council was pleased to renew its Foundation award certification in the Local Council Awards scheme demonstrating that it meets good standards of governance.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors for their continued efforts and support, along with special thanks to our Clerk Suzanne who keeps us all very much on point. We are always open to suggestion and very pleased to meet any of you during our monthly Parish Council Meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall.

In conclusion I would like to assure you that the LWPC has the very best interests of the parishioners at all times.

Antony Kingham
Chairman
Little Waltham Parish Council