

Chairman's Statement
Little Waltham Parish Council - 2024

For any new residents to the village, I am Antony Kingham and I have been Chairman of the Parish Council since 2022. This is my second year of updating you with a Statement which will cover the various issues and events that we have been dealing with as a Parish Council over the last year. As with the Country as a whole there have been difficult issues which are being directly controlled at County Council or Government level, along with our local interests and celebrations over the year.

One of the burning issues this year has been the proposed National Grid pylons, which clearly is of enormous concern to the village. Our efforts continue to be led by John Burrow. As a retired Judge, John has engaged both the authorities, National Grid and the Press. We are doing as much as we can at present and will continue to strive towards the alternatives which include, an off shore option, an underground section in the Little Waltham corridor and finally an alternative route, which would affectively take the pylons away from the village, but we have to understand the this then becomes a problem for another Parish and clearly creates pressures elsewhere.

We continue with our work to improve the traffic issues in the village, we are now actively engaged with our consultant and Essex Highways as we work towards presenting a proposal to help mitigate these issues. Details of these proposals will be made available to the village once confirmed, so that residents can have a clear say in the final proposal to put to Essex Highways.

In the past Little Waltham has won awards for its upkeep, flowers and presentation. We would like to work this year towards improving all these aspects, and have therefore committed additional funds to achieving this, we very much hope that you notice and enjoy the results of this.

Lastly, we have previously mentioned the cricket pavilion upgrade. This is a work in progress, as we clearly want to make the right decisions. There have been many positive suggestions for its use over the year, and therefore these are all being taken into consideration. We very much hope that those of you who were able to attend the Christmas event this year, enjoyed it as much as we did. We are intending to repeat this Christmas event in 2024 and we are also looking into the possibility of a Summer event, details to follow.

Finally I would just like to extend my thanks to Michelle Harrison who joined us in August as Clerk of the Parish Council, she has been a great help to all of the Councillors and myself.