

CHAIMAN'S REPORT FOR 2010/11

Councillors, Parishioners, Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen – It gives me great pleasure to present to you my report for the past 12 months,

Finance - Once again we have been able to maintain our Parish Precept at £6000 for the current financial year, this was the figure for 2010/11. We have been able to maintain this charge through constant monitoring of expenditure and shopping around for the best deals such as insurance. Our accounts have been audited by both internal and external auditors and found to be 100% correct.

Planning – There was a slight increase in applications examined during the year under review to 12 – 8 of which were approved – 1 was refused and 3 are pending decisions by the Borough Council. Representation was made to Essex County Council opposing the proposal for a gravel extraction site by Newlands Hall in support of the main opposition from Roxwell Parish Council.

The Good Easter web site continues to flourish and now contains more information than ever about the village – thanks to Richard Hatcher and his help in maintaining this asset. Our best wishes to Richard who is currently in hospital.

Our winter was hard this last year with the most noticeable affect being on the condition of our roads – some pot holes have been repaired but we do not seem to have received much of the promised road repair money from central government. The signs on the 1060 at Chalk End were eventually replaced by Highways after constant reminders.

Future development by BT of a faster broadband system will not happen – an on line vote produced only 66 requests out of a possible 680 pushing our exchange further down the list .

The Good Easter shopper bus commenced operation on December 1st – a weekly shopping trip to Sainsbury's store at Springfield on a Wednesday is used and appreciated by our senior residents - our thanks to Sally and Jim Willsher who, through the Monday Club, administer the scheme.

Crime in the village has sadly increased slightly - these are, in the main, minor crimes involving theft from outbuildings but are of great annoyance to those who have suffered. I thank our police representatives for their attention to our needs. Speedwatch, a speed monitoring system operated by parishioners is under development which will, hopefully, reduce speeding through the village – particularly a Souther Cross Road.

I thank our village hall committee for their hard work in maintaining our hall. Apart from private bookings we have a wide range of regular users from Thai kick boxing through Line Dancing to Bridge – not to forget the Daisy Circle, Monday Club, Mothers and Toddlers CBC Information services.

It is sad that the Sports field Committee seems to have fallen by the wayside – we are considering various options to bring this important asset to our village back to life and I hope that by my next report we will have positive news.

Once again our thanks go to County and Borough Councillors who support us in our efforts to benefit the village. Our Borough Councillor attended 4 out of the 6 meetings during the year and our County Councillor attended 2 out of 6 meetings. We have a good rate of attendance by our Parish Councillors who were all re-elected unopposed during the recent local elections and I wish to thank them all for the work put in by them during the year. We may be the lowest form of government but we all give time and expertise to the benefit of our neighbours and at no cost to the village tax payers.

Finally I must thank Lorraine our Clerk for all of her work during the year – the paper generated from up the line never decreases and without the work of our clerk the rest of us could not cope.