

Chairman's Annual Report 2021.

This has been an extremely difficult year for all of us but with good luck and continued sensible behaviour we may be starting to return to a more normal way of life.

The Parish Council has continued to meet remotely but unfortunately this will be illegal after May 7th because the Government has not, at the time of writing this, extended the regulations for us to do so. It not only affects us but all levels of local government including District and County Councils.

My last report was written during the first lockdown and apart from some easing during the summer, we have all been under various restrictions since.

Nevertheless, we have made progress in some areas.

The skate ramp has been completely replaced and is now in constant use.

On the Norwood Playing Field the installation of the "Witches Hat" has replaced the old tree and the outdoor gym equipment is in place for everybody to use.

The Millennium Pavilion has had its heating upgraded and new showers have been installed ready for when they can be used again. Martin has repainted the interior while it has been shut.

We set the precept as low as we could but there was an increase.

Only one person wrote to the council to question the rise, but many complained on social media but when reminded that there is a public forum at every meeting, they felt that they could not be bothered to attend.

The Parish Council does not respond to anonymous comments but will answer anybody who comes to it and raises a query.

Heartfelt thanks must go to, among others, Kate Ixer and the Time Bank for helping those who needed help and all our other employees who have continued to keep things running even though they cannot always be in the office.

The Christmas Lights working party managed to give us a great display by working when they were permitted to do so.

I know that this year we will be without our Carnival on the field or The Handlebards, but we have next year to look forward to.

Finally, we said goodbye to Nartasha Ruffell but hello to Jon Sewell.

We still have two vacancies on the Parish Council why not put yourself forward. We are all individuals with our own opinions so do not think that you will be on your own if you disagree with others.

Isn't that what democracy is about?