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Quainton Parish Chairman  
7 April 2022

# The Chairman's Annual Report

## Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish

The May 2021 local elections covered both Parish as well as County elections and saw a newly elected Buckinghamshire Council, with three new Councillors representing our Ward, Great Brickhill Ward, with Councillor Iain Macpherson appointed as our contact for Quainton. Our newly elected Quainton Parish Council reduced to a mere three Councillors, existing Councillors John Knox and Nick Butler as well as myself as a new Councillor. We co-opted three more Councillors; Michelle Robinson-Boyce, Lee Whitlock and Sue Weldon, making our total of six Parish Councillors. Sadly since then we have had to say our goodbyes to Michelle Robinson-Boyce in December and John Knox in March, both resigned for personal reasons. We'd like to thank both for their input into the Parish Council. This leaves us with four Councillors in place and three open positions.

There have also been some changes of the guard in the Clerk's role, with Tony Pacetti leaving us in June, an appointment of Anthea Cass, who sadly had to turn down the role due to personal reasons, and we the saw Brian Fludgate return in February, on a temporary basis and Katherine Richardson joining us as a trainee Clerk, being trained by Brian and taking over full time in May.

My thanks goes out to John Knox for his 10 years of dedication to the Parish Council and being acting Clerk as well as Chairman of the Parish Council for most of this past year and to Tony for his time as Clerk. To Brian for coming to the rescue and to Katherine for taking on the baton as our new Parish Clerk.

In the past year we have had to endure many blocked roads, mostly thanks to the building of HS2, but also some closures thanks to Thames Water, although not as many as we'd become used to in the past few years. I think HS2 has firmly taken over their place as the biggest obstacle in our community with roads being closed at rather irregular intervals, for

unclear lengths of time and sometimes with surprise works that even the Parish Council isn't aware of until the night before they close the roads.

Our Ward Councillors, represented by Councillor Iain Macpherson, have been closely working with us and on our behalf to try to resolve issues around the parish, caused by HS2 works and regular meetings are being held to find solutions to minimise disruption to the village, however we can't say we are always successful and some issues are still ongoing.

Our railway bridge on Station Road was issued with weight restrictions of only 3 tonnes, which is cause of much upset to the village, with bus routes being changed and time tables altered, leaving many residents who are dependent on public transport stranded and out of pocket for having to pay for taxis. We're having to come up with creative solutions, such as buses turning on the Railway Centre car park, which also comes with some practical and regulatory obstacles we have to overcome. This is still a work in progress with all parties involved. We're working on 'out-of-the-box' ideas to ensure we get our bus services back in the village and serving Waddesdon as well.

We still have some concerns where roads are flooding on a regular basis and we've got a plan of action with Buckinghamshire Council and our Local Area Technician. It's a step by step approach, since these issues can't all be solved all at once, so we're working on a top priority basis to get issues resolved.

New SIDs are due to be installed shortly, which will see us work proactively on the concerns over traffic speeding through the village, with a plan in place to monitor speeding, track when and where the most incidents happen, involve the Speed Watch Group and report to the police when we have suitable and appropriate information.

One can't help but wonder why some people feel they have to rush through our beautiful village. Granted, with so much mud on the roads and sights of construction and building works, it has somewhat tainted our lovely village. These activities weren't unexpected, with many of them given permission by the Aylesbury Vale District Council that was and planned well before the Covid pandemic struck. Was that really already two years ago? Of course the building of homes was included in our Neighbourhood Plan which is due to be reviewed by examiners of Buckinghamshire Council, and we await their decision in the next few months.

We're clearly turning a corner with Covid, although recent meetings and community events at this Memorial Hall showed us that we're not quite out of the 'Fairytale' woods just yet, we can look forward to enjoying the 'Beauty' of our village and community this spring

and summer, with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations with Bagpipes, Bugle Horn, and the Choir singing at the Beacon which will be lit from 9:35pm on 2nd of June, a Jubilee picnic on The Green on the 5th of June, QuaintFest on the 9th of July or why not enjoy a stroll to the Quainton Recreation Grounds to see the Community Heritage Orchard and Wildlife Meadow (CHOW Project) grow and enjoy the area from the new benches placed there to watch the birds, the bees and the butterflies. With special thanks to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to clear the area from weeds, learn all about grasses, wildflowers and fruit trees, planting, sowing and looking after the area, which promises to become an attractive place to rest and be one with nature.

As this first year of this fairly new council is drawing to a close, we're looking to the future and wish to create a Vision for Quainton that we can all be proud of. This leads me straight into the next part of this Annual Meeting of the Parish: Quainton Vision.

### **Quainton Vision:**

With a modified Neighbourhood Plan under 'examination' by Buckinghamshire Council, which sets the goals for development, we think it is time to compliment the Neighbourhood Plan to bring everything together in a long term strategic plan, to enhance the health and wellbeing for the wider community of Quainton Parish.

The CHOW Project and the Skatepark redesign will be part of this plan, however there are other projects underway at the Railway Centre, the Church and the Recreation Ground and we have some ideas of our own, like better infrastructure in terms of footpaths, bridleways and rights of way, improved recreational facilities, supporting facilities for young and old to come together in the community.

However, we work for you and we want to start the debate and involve the community and invite people to write to us with ideas.

What Vision do you have for your community? What services would you like? Are there any activities that you miss? I'd like to ask anyone on the Council and Clerks if they have any thoughts of their Quainton Vision and we can then open the Public Forum after that.