

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2023/24

This year has once again shown the strong community spirit we have in West Deeping, our church, our pub and our village hall remain hubs of community activity where our villagers come together to share in the enjoyment of this lovely village.

Our community remains united against the ever present and ominous threat of a new mega open-cast mine and industrial plant right next to the village. We all continue to battle the mining companies and Lincolnshire County Council on many fronts and from many quarters. Our varied approaches aims to make LCC realise the contribution that the parish of West Deeping has already made over the last 70 years to their minerals quotas. To make them see that the cumulative impact on the health and wellbeing of our villagers has surpassed a reasonable level. To hold them accountable for their past and present decisions and actions. To impress on them the devastating impact that their proposed plans will have on us - forever irreparably changing our landscape, our cultural assets and our way of life. These coming months will require an even greater effort from us all to fight off their uncompromising and continued attack. With over 50% of the parish already mined, their preposterous plans aim to take this to over 75%, subjecting us to open cast mining for the next 30-40 years.

Within our parish, we continue to endeavour to keep our village as the friendly and enjoyable place that it is to live - some notable achievements have seen our charming bus shelter been fixed and made safe again, our best kept village sign restored to its former glory, swathes of daffodils planted around the village and our speed awareness sign reinstated to increase the safety of our villagers.

We continue to remain abreast of the continuing water, flooding and drainage issues experienced by some of the houses in the village, and to put pressure on Anglian Water to upgrade and improve our systems.

As a council we continue to investigate the demand and viability of a new children’s playground in the village, exploring funding opportunities and possible locations. We hope to see strong advances in this over the coming year.

Our small contribution to the proposed renovation and reopening of the leisure centre in Market Deeping may well have helped this project achieve some traction with the larger stakeholders and to bring it to fruition.

We are making plans to ensure that the village is appropriately decorated for Remembrance Day with lamp post poppies and decorations to compliment the various village activities that are being organised.

We do, however, continue to be frustrated by the promises of the mining companies to assist with materials and labour to assist with certain minor projects in the village, namely the cemetery footpath and the Boaty, and yet these promises and assurances of help continue to remain unfulfilled. The mining companies seem happy to pillage our parish whilst giving nothing in return.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to my fellow councillors for their continued hard work, my fellow parishioners in all helping to make West Deeping an enjoyable place to live, and we would all like to thank our parish clerk Ian, most sincerely for his excellent work and studious diligence.

Glenn Fuller
Chair
West Deeping Parish Council

May 2024