

Chairman's Report – West Deeping Parish Council

It is my pleasure to present the Chairman's Report for West Deeping Parish Council for this last year.

This last year has shown the remarkable community spirit that our charming village has. We have come together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and for the first time the village was dressed appropriately with poppies and soldier silhouettes to remember past sacrifices. Gareth and Brian are to be thanked for taking the initiative, raising donations and organising this.

Waste Water and Flooding - There has been a marked improvement in the flooding and sewerage situation for many villagers. Anglian Water undertook a thorough repair of the sewers in the village and as a result the issue seems to have abated. We continue to liaise with Anglian Water and will keep monitoring the situation to ensure that these improvements continue.

As a village we have been fortunate to avoid the more serious flooding that some of our neighbouring towns and villages have experienced and we have extended offers to help them in many ways.

Closer to home, we are setting aside funds to repair 'the Boaty' and to fix the potholes there, and we are aiming to complete these repairs in the coming year.

We continue to ensure - thanks to Sue, that the Cemetery is well kept and looked after.

Discussions concerning the possibility of a Children's Playground are ongoing, although these may take a backseat until a suitable site is found or presented. If anybody would like to get involved with the future planning of the playground then I would urge you please to get in touch.

Mineral Extraction continues to be the focus of much of our attention. In each of our own ways, we have been fighting the threat of yet more open cast mines around our homes threatening our lives and health, and our way of life. Together we have proved what a united and strong village we are, with a close community spirit which we all enjoy. It is vital we continue to fight for this.

We have two active village groups - The West Deeping Action Group and Protect West Deeping - who are both working incredibly hard to stop the future mining plans, and I would urge anybody wanting to know more to visit the village Facebook pages where you can find out more about their ongoing and vital work.

Back in September we all came together to protest against Breedon's proposed plans for the mineral extraction at their public exhibition. They left that day in no doubt as to how unpopular their proposals are. At today's date they are still threatening that their planning application will be shortly forthcoming and we continue to keep focused on this.

Alongside this ever present threat, we continue to apply strong pressure on Lincolnshire County Council who are in the process of updating their Minerals and Waste Plan. During the recent public consultation on their proposed plans, the council received 3,500 responses of which 2,500 were from our area. These responses drew the council's attention to the widespread and strong objections to their dangerous plans for more mining next to our homes for the next 40 plus years, and we will continue to ensure that they are aware of the resilient opposition that they face.

In the last few weeks, a new reform mayor and 44 new reform councillors have been elected for Lincolnshire, forming the leading party. Over the coming weeks and months it is vital that we find out everything that we can about our new decision makers and we must educate them quickly about our ongoing and vitally important struggle to protect our lives and our village.

Sometime later in the year, Lincolnshire will publish the next draft of their proposals and Breedon may submit their planning application. We have to ensure that we are fully prepared for these and that all of the LCC councillors are fully briefed on our battle.

To keep the pressure on and to continue the fight all takes an immense effort and a strong community spirit, and if anyone is willing to offer any assistance or knows anyone who is willing to help with the research and legwork required to present our case in the best way then I urge you to please get in touch. We do need your help. Thank you.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their efforts throughout the year and to our excellent Clerk, Ian Coles for his superb work in keeping us organised so well. Ian and his wife are planning to move away from the village and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them both the very best for their new adventures. We will miss them greatly and the very tough search must now begin for Ian's replacement.

Thanks for everyone's support throughout the year and may I wish you all the very best.

Glenn Fuller
Chairman, West Deeping Parish Council
14/05/2025