



Annual Parish Meeting

Report by Cllr Ken Eastwood Chair of Oxenhope Parish Council

This is my second report as Chair of the Parish Council.

This year has seen some further change with Penny Cusdin stepping down from the Council for work related reasons. Penny has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Council and to the village, most notably through her work with the Youth Club. She will be dearly missed.

Last month we were delighted to co-opt a new member and welcomed Cllr Karen Faulkner to the Council. This evening is Karen's first Parish Council meeting and I am sure she will quickly find her feet.

The Council has had a busy and productive year. We have previously recognised that we need to try harder to engage with residents and our efforts have continued this year with the use of Outreach, printed as well as online surveys and a presence at the village fete. This is something we will continue to build upon.

Work on development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Oxenhope has progressed well, with enthusiastic direction from Cllr Peter McManus, input from other members of the Council and from members of the project group. Our planning consultants, Integreat Plus, are currently working on a first draft of the plan which we will be consulting on widely over the summer.

For more information on Neighbourhood Planning in Oxenhope please see the Parish Council website.

Throughout the year, we have continued to comment on planning applications received, supporting development that is in keeping with the village and opposing that which is not.

The Parish Council has continued to enjoy a largely positive and productive relationship with Bradford Council. However, there have been challenges and occasional failures to engage with the Parish Council to discuss proposals. A recent example being the roll out of revised bin collections – a problematic and sensitive issue and one where we may have been able to be of some help.

On a positive, the transfer of The Rose Garden to the Parish Council has been approved by Bradford Council and the terms of lease are being finalised.

The Parish Council is hoping to make significant improvements to the Rose Garden through repairs, the planting of grasses, bulbs and roses and a new Christmas tree which is being delivered shortly.

Last Christmas we installed lights in the central conifers and received positive feedback on the appearance of the Garden.

Unfortunately, a detailed application to the Ovenden Moor Wind Farm Trust was not successful, with that fund being massively over-subscribed. We were pleased, however, to see other worthy causes in Oxenhope receiving financial support, including the Cricket Club and the Millennium Green.

We have gratefully received financial donations towards the Rose Garden, including from Reg Hindley's memorial service and from Oxenhope Women's Fellowship. This has been very welcome, thank you to those concerned.

Our relationship with other organisations in the village has been good and I have been particularly pleased to see the school regularly represented at meetings and seeking to engage with village life.

A good example is our joint initiative, with both the school and church, to prepare signage for this year's Tour de Yorkshire, coming through the village on 6th May. We are supporting a community art project, taking place in school tomorrow, where volunteers will be painting a giant Oxenhope sign and a number of wooden rosettes that will be displayed along the route. I'm hoping we'll see a good turnout tomorrow and on the 6th May.

It's not possible to describe all activity in a year but I hope I have given a flavour of our work.

I am very grateful to other Members for their input and for freely giving their time to support the Council and to contribute positively to Oxenhope.



Ken Eastwood
11th April, 2018