

cleared of invasive rushes and grasses. The spread of thistles has been tackled by grazing the surrounding grasses and wildflowers and then applying a weed wipe on the thistles by the Wildlife Trust. This will also be repeated this year sadly at the expense of the Yellow Rattle, which seeds annually. A kissing gate has been erected between the wildflower meadow and the pond field and some plastic matting has been put down where there is a natural spring on the far side of the meadow. The rest of the matting remains in storage until the ground is soggy enough for installation. There were a handful of people who attended the Public Meeting regarding Fairchild's Meadows but the following work party day had more volunteers than usual. A bench was erected in the bonfire field in memory of Ken Bowcock. Incidences of litter and failure to pick up dog mess remain low (and other users tend to clear up anyway) however during the spring half term one of the pond dipping platforms was deliberately broken.

F. Finance Committee:

The committee has a membership of six Parish Councillors, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman and has delegated powers to make financial decisions, which are then reported back to the Council at the next available meeting. Finance meetings are held quarterly to consider a financial report from the Clerk and any other pertinent business relating to the Councils finances.

G. Green Footpaths & Trees:

The pink chestnut on The Green looks better after the dead branches were pruned last year. Three trees were removed from the viewing splay on Feast's Green, as they would obstruct the view when they grew larger. The new cut bank drives have been more or less free of 4x4s in the bad weather. Maintenance of the footpaths has been supported in the past with an annual grant of £250 from the County Council but this year they have been kept open by Robert Howard with no complaints and no grant money.

H. Open Spaces:

Responsibilities include general maintenance and tidiness of the public open spaces in the village and the care/repair of the seats around the village. The Council takes pride in maintaining open spaces to be well presented and kept in good state of repair. We can report that public seating around the village is in good general order, but maintenance and paint checks will need to be undertaken during the year. Feasts Green, the Open Space that offers views of the windmill and surrounding area, has continued to be an issue for discussion between the Parish Council and residents; this has included examining thoughts and possible plans for alternative planting and management of the Green itself, following the installation of the bench seat. The Green itself is looking in good order, particularly as spring approaches. The working party continues to work with the Fairchilds Meadows Group, as the meadows continue to be developed and enjoyed by the public. There has been working liaison with members of the Recreation Centre Management Committee, as the plans for renewal of play areas in Haddenham, Newtown and Aldreth are further progressed.

I. Planning Committee:

There are two Planning Committees and all councillors must belong to at least one but can have membership of both if they so wish. The Chairman sits on both committees. Each committee serves for six months, i.e. May to October and November to April and meets on average every two weeks according to the receipt of plans. During the past year the committees have considered 34 applications; 24 were recommended for approval, 9 were highlighted with concerns and 1 was recommended for outright refusal.

J. Recreation:

Many exciting things are about to happen at the Recreation Ground. We are now very near to getting the new play equipment after several years of consultation, investigation and completing complicated forms. The application to "Awards for All" (part of the Big Lottery Fund) has been successful and we have received £10,000. The complex application to "WREN" the waste recycling grant making body has been successful and although we are waiting on completion of some paperwork we have been offered £35,000. The balance will be funded from the ECDC Section 106 funds up to a maximum of £56,000.

We have been looking at the suppliers and Kompan were the preferred supplier after the public presentations by six suppliers at the Arkenstall Centre. However WREN insisted on three competitive tenders. This has been achieved but your working party have decided that the revised Kompan bid was

