

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**16 APRIL 2014**

**HADDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As Chairman, it is my pleasure to present my report on the activities of your Parish Council over the past 12 months.

Many of you will have kept up to date by following the minutes of the Council meetings, but for those who haven't, I will attempt to give the highlights. Naturally, I will keep it brief!

When compared to the major activity of the previous year, when the new play area was provided, this seems to have been a somewhat quieter year. However, it has not passed without some measure of controversy.

Most of you will be aware of the proposal by REG power to build a wind farm at Berry Fen in Aldreth. Although they have not yet made an application to ECDC for planning permission for the farm, they have started the process by holding exhibitions in the village, and have put in a planning application for the erection of an anemometer mast, which was recently approved.

As a consultee on this matter, your Parish Council has supported the views of the local residents that this mast gives us cause for concern in respect of its potential impact on bird life in the vicinity, along with its impact on the landscape.

Notwithstanding the outcome of the mast decision, we fully expect the application for the wind farm itself to be submitted this year. We will again be consulted when the time comes, and we will strive to reflect the views of our parishioners.

The latest planning issue to affect us all is the proposal by Gladmans to seek planning permission from ECDC to permit the building of up to 100 new homes on land at Wilburton Road.

This was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25 March and our feedback to ECDC has been made. Although we agree that some new housing ought to be provided in the village, the proposal to build on land outside the village envelope has not met with our approval.

Our argument against the proposal is that it flies in the face of local democracy and ignores the results of the efforts of ECDC and your Parish Council in the Village Vision to plan both the number and location of any new housing units.

ECDC has embarked on a wide-ranging exercise to determine where and how much local housing is needed, and we support their proposals.

We do not believe the existing village services can support the development and have advised ECDC accordingly.

Road safety continues to be a major concern of the Council, and you will by now have seen the results of a Cambridgeshire County Council traffic management project on Duck Lane. This has been procured via CCC with a small financial contribution from the Parish in order to slow down traffic using Duck Lane at the crossing point and permit people to cross safely.

We have so far been unsuccessful in our attempts to secure funding for a pedestrian crossing on Station Road. This was felt to be necessary in order to permit safe crossing for pedestrians walking to and from the village centre, particularly given the number of new housing units to be built off Northumbria Close.

We have investigated with the police the provision of CCTV monitoring of the thoughtless parking on double yellow lines near the Spar shop on the High Street. This is an issue raised regularly by parishioners. We understand that our PCSO has issued several tickets personally to offenders, but it remains a road safety problem which we would like to be resolved permanently.

