

Chair's Report 2024-25

We have dealt with 19 planning applications in the past year. 16 were supported by the Parish Council, 2 were opposed, and 1 was withdrawn after we asked for conditions to be required. The opposed applications were rejected by Wychavon. One went to appeal and was also rejected at appeal.

We responded to a government consultation on Neighbourhood plans and attended a seminar. Following this we agreed no further action due to the lack of support previously shown by parishioners.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan has continued to be delayed following a government request to add 14,000 houses between 2030 and 2041. It has been reviewed by National Government inspectors and is currently awaiting their response.

The Flyford Green Management Group has continued to maintain and enhance the green. Malcolm Jones has taken on the chair from David Rhodes. An infant's swing has been ordered, with support from a Wychavon grant thanks to Linda Robinson; installation is currently awaited. More wildflower seed has been sown. A Christmas tree was kindly donated by Grafton Nurseries, and Christmas lights were funded by the Parish Council. The play equipment passed the annual inspection. A dog poo bag dispenser has been installed on the Green adjacent to the waste bin. Following some incidents in the village the Management Group has been asked to consider the management of dogs on the green and possible child safety implications. The registration of the Village Green is now completed with the land registry and an application has been made to protect the green by registering it with Fields in Trust. The Village Green investment income has increased again and there has been a small improvement to the capital value.

The investigation regarding taking Flyford Pond into community ownership is back with the land registry.

We have continued the Lengthsman scheme and appointed a new Lengthsman following Robin's resignation. We have also held bi-annual litter picks for the roadside verges.

The Flyford Flavell war memorial has been renovated and cleaned.

Further enhancements have been made to the website including improving the planning comments process and the information available about planning applications.

We have continued to push for safety improvements on the A422 and local roads. We finally managed to have a meeting with Marc Bayliss (County Council lead for highways, and deputy Police and Crime Commissioner,) plus representatives of other Parish Councils along the A422 from Broughton Hackett to Inkberrow. This was constructive and a number of actions were agreed to follow up. Unfortunately we will need to engage with a new County Council lead for highways and reaffirm some of the actions following Marc Bayliss stepping down as a councillor in May 2025.

We obtained 200 signatories for our petition of parishioners regarding reduced speed limits on the Radford road and through Flyford. This was presented to County Council in January, however we have had a disappointing response back from the County Council.

We have agreed priorities of a second Vehicle speed Activated Sign, A third pole at the top of New Hill, Sharks Teeth for the entry roads to Flyford Flavell, and reduced speed limits as our petition.

We have established a working group with Flyford Flavell First School to explore how to reduce the parking problems associated with the school.

Further to the rollout of Smartwater property marking in Flyford Flavell last year we managed to enrol sufficient people to implement

the scheme in Grafton Flyford including Libbery this year and can now implement Smartwater signage. Unfortunately we could not meet the threshold for signage in North Piddle, though all registered households have been sent marking kits.

VE day celebration parties were financially supported by the Parish Council on Flyford Green and in the Flyfords Hall.

We have had a volunteer come forward as Footpath Officer. Unfortunately the County Council have not run any training programmes recently so the volunteer has been unable to start in the role. However the footbridge over the Piddle Brook near the Flyford Arms has been replaced, and improvements are under investigation for the very muddy gateway just after the bridge.

We gave financial support for replacing defibrillator expendibles in Flyford Flavell.

We agreed to increase our budget by 3.2% this year, in line with inflation.

David Rhodes has stepped down as a councillor, and Richard Davey has announced his intention to do so following the May meeting. I would like to thank them both for many years of valuable support to the PC.

I would like to conclude by thanking all our councillors for their valuable contributions and input, and Linda Robinson for her strong support at County and Wychavon. Particular thanks are due to our Clerk, Mark for his continued excellent service, including regular councillor briefings.

David Waide

13th May 2025