



Council Office Pearson Road Sonning RG4 6UL

2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING A BRIEF CHAIRMAN AND PLANNING REPORT

It has been a difficult year for all of us in Sonning parish. We on your Parish Council appreciate all of your efforts during this period and are hoping the light at the end of the tunnel is closer? Apart from COVID restrictions, the usual suspects Planning, Traffic, Parking, Dog Mess, Playgrounds, Litter, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Travellers etc have kept us busy. Nothing new you may say, and you are right, but we are encouraging the use of King George V area as a community asset, when we have raised enough funds, we will build a new community pavilion, the budget for this project is in the region of half a million pounds. We will hopefully resume face to face meetings in the near future and meetings with interested parties will take place as soon as possible after step four restrictions are lifted on June 21st? All these items are mentioned in the Councillors reports, and on our website, many thanks to Jeremy Gilmore for his ongoing technical support. I would also take this opportunity to thank my council, T. Fisher, P. Morrison, J. Fielder, A. Halliday and last but not least our Clerk Lesley Bates.

T Farnese

PLANNING REPORT

Planning is a growing problem in our area. In trying to control the spread of development, as you are aware, a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by a keen band of Parishioners to present to our Borough Masters WBC for adoption. When adopted it gives the Parish a strong set of teeth to agree or otherwise on developments within our boundary. An example of this is the disgraceful approval of more than 50 flats at the roundabout of the A4 by Pound Lane, as a Parish we would, hopefully, stop this happening with the plan in place. We as a Planning Committee look at all applications by visiting site, talking to neighbours and making a decision at our twice monthly public meetings, the decision is also posted on the WBC Website planning page. There are a number of sites highlighted by WBC for development which if we are not vigilant will be developed joining Sonning with Charvil, Woodley, Reading etc. If as Parishioners, you find building works that have not been approved please let us know and we will investigate.

My thanks go to my planning Committee Peter, Trefor, Andy and Lesley.

T, Farnese