

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

This has been a challenging year for Bostock Parish Council with a completely new team, to each of whom being a councillor is unknown. We were therefore sorry to lose our Clerk, Sue Clarke early in the year, particularly given that she had done so much to help us get ourselves up and running.

Despite this early setback we have made significant progress with many of the issues which face us. In particular we give thanks to Keith Brewood who has dedicated much personal effort to pushing forward doggedly with many of the actions, and in finding a new Clerk, Vicky Stock, whose experience has been invaluable in keeping us all on track. Keith and Sue are now moving from the area and have resigned their positions. They will be a sad loss and will be greatly missed. This does, however, create two vacancies and the opportunity for anyone with an interest in the future of Bostock to get involved.

Items of particular note which have been progressed over the last 12 months include:

- Significant progress in creating a new Bostock Parish Council website which will be launched in the very near future. We hope that as well as being a repository for Council information, this will also become a hub for the community with details of local events, local businesses etc.
- Discussions with both Cheshire West and Chester Council and with Cheshire Police about the speed limit through Bostock Green and along Bostock Road. We await the results of a recent traffic survey, and will keep pressing for changes.
- Village signs have also been proposed in three locations: as you approach the village from Peckmill roundabout, and on the approaches from Winsford and Stanthorne. We hope to have these installed during the next 12 months.
- We have also discussed creating a Neighbourhood Plan. These form part of the National Planning Policy Framework and give parishes an input into the future development of their areas. We do not want to fundamentally change the nature of Bostock, but at the same time we acknowledge that it must evolve if it is not to stagnate and die. We therefore want to be able to influence any future development in a way that enhances, rather than detracts from the nature of Bostock. It is, however, a great deal of work for a small team, and our plans for this are therefore still under review. Any volunteers to get involved would be warmly welcomed.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last 12 months, in particular to Keith, and we look forward to welcoming two new Councillors and to making further progress in the coming year.