

HVRA Chairs report to AGM 2023

I was appointed joint chair with Peter Cannon at the AGM last year and flew solo from September 2022, so I've been involved for a year now. I've learnt a lot.

In this, my first report I'll run through what has been achieved since getting back to something like normal, then I'll cover some of the issues we face and what we are doing about it

First some of our Activities:

In our role as a Planning watchdog we successfully opposed applications for developments at Country Supplies, Orchard Caravans and Deeters where these proposals could adversely impact on our residents. We are fortunate to have Rosemary who has built up a substantial knowledge of the planning process over the years.

Christmas gift bags for 101 over 80s were provided, assembled and distributed by Rosemary and her team.

Potter Quiz returned in April when 109 quizzers had an entertaining evening designed and delivered by Al and Christine Bowyer. Rosemary and her team assembled and served a grand buffet that complemented the evening perfectly.

Community Speedwatch continues to monitor speeding through the village, Rosemary and her team turn out week after week in their efforts to calm traffic.

Our 'Welcome Packs' scheme is an expansion of our offer to new residents. Rosemary is working on this - you will see a theme developing here. For many years Rosemary has been at the forefront of HVRA activities. This has been a great strength of HVRA but highlights our great weakness. More on this later.

We have a lot of cross membership with the Climate Group, we support their aims, they spoke at last years AGM and we are happy to support them again with our choice of tonight's speaker.

The Village Fete returns this year on 15 July and HVRA officers are heavily involved in the planning and delivery of this event.

Planters around the village bring pleasure to lots of people and we are exploring how we can expand this scheme started by Brenda Morris. She has been joined by Elaine Merrilees to see how more resources can be put to this worthwhile initiative.

A Book swap scheme has been started with the agreement of Louise at the Community shop. Over 250 books have passed through the system, there are usually 80 on the shelves, 80 out on loan and 80 in reserve, mostly novels.

Hughenden Valley Greenway Cycle scheme, an aspiration of BC, is supported in principle by HVRA although detailed discussion is likely to be fraught.

The Warrendene Post Box was finally replaced which is useful to those of us at this end of the village. Thank you Peter Cannon for your persistence with this.

HVRA continues to work in partnership with a number of bodies, Hughenden Parish Council Road Safety Working Group, North West Chilterns Community Board, Bucks Council, where David Carroll is a good friend to Hughenden Valley. We have also been working with design students at Bucks New University with our proposed new logo.

Andrew and his team continue to provide the community with news, views and items of interest via the *Hughenden News*. We thank them for their continued efforts.

The Drainage Improvement Group, under Paul Woodford's leadership, whilst still active and vigilant has reined back on its regular meetings. If needs arise they are ready to spring into action .

Thank you to all our Road Reps who do a such an important job delivering *Hughenden News* collecting subs and alerting the Executive Committee to residents concerns. We thank Sam Booth for her service in the past and welcome Geoff Wicketts and Sue Grace to the role. We are still looking for Road Reps in Cryers Hill.

In my opening remarks I referred to the issues we face, these being principally around succession, increasing the number of active volunteers and engaging with a younger group of residents.

Mindful of the impact of the pandemic along with other social and economic changes in recent years, the Executive Committee has commissioned a review of HVRA to consider whether the structure, organisation and operation of HVRA is fit for purpose, identify issues inhibiting progress and develop a 'Vision for the Future'.

A sub-group has been tasked with producing recommendations for the Executive Committee to consider.

Finally thank you to the officers Andrew, Paul and Rosemary who do so much more than act as Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. They have been extremely supportive of me during my first faltering steps in chairing HVRA.

Peter Spence
Chair HVRA
Wednesday, 10 May 2023