

Annual Chairman's Report 2024/25

I present the Annual Report for what has been my seventh term as Chairman of Marstow Parish Council.

As always, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for electing me to serve as the Chairman during 2024/25. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege.

Our main achievements of 2024/25 were:

1. At the end of 2024 going into early 2025 we were able to establish a good relationship with our new locality steward. Unfortunately, we have just received the news that he will be leaving his role at the end of May this year. However, over the past 5 months we have been able to utilise their powers to assist us with works at Daffaluke, Boat Lane and Elmsdale camp site. I have spoken to Craig and thanked him for his time. He has let me know that Lee, who is currently in a supervisor role to Craig, will be taking over from him. Craig will pass on Lee's contact information so we can keep in touch with current works which have been submitted and are in progress at Daffaluke and Boat lane. Craig's last job for us is to set up a meeting with their drainage team to discuss potential works at Elmsdale camp site. I will chase this up with Craig/Lee later this month.
2. The 50mph sign at Pencraig has FINALLY been replaced. This is the speed limit sign as you drive into Pencraig heading towards Monmouth. The old sign looked like it had been run over by highways when they commenced work a few years ago.
3. We have another addition to our defibrillator in our Parish which is great news. It is located at Glewstone Court. We noted that the defibrillator at Pencraig was used a couple of months ago so they are serving a valuable purpose in the parish. We will have another defibrillator installed at Little Parks Daffaluke. Mandy tells me the funds have been raised and the defibrillator is on order with Tom.
4. Throughout Parish discussions and communications with our Locality Steward, we are now in a position where works at Daffaluke and Boat Lane are going to be brought back to a decent standard. We are currently making a list for maintenance works at both areas and other areas in the parish which we can then get quotes from local lengths man. We anticipate to have a list of maintenance works ready by our next meeting and will look to put the work out to tender asap thereafter.
5. Numerous fly tipping incidents have been reported and cleaned up along with requests for potholes to be repaired. I thank everyone for passing this information on to our Clerk and I encourage you to keep do so in the future.
6. We have seen an increase in members of the public attend our meetings this year which is great to see. Mandy has definitely been one of the reasons behind this as she has been productive in encouraging local people to get involved with fund raising for defibrillators. I hope to see more local people get involved with our progression to keep improving Marstow.

Goals for the next 12 months:-

- Oversee works by Balfour Beatty at Daffaluke and Boat Lane
- Meet our new locality steward Lee
- Pursue a meeting with him and their drainage team at Elmsdale Camp site
- Create a maintenance list of lengths man works in the Parish
- A depth gauge to be installed at Boat Lane
- To continue our vigilance with fly tipping

I would like to thank Kirsten Kysow from West Mercia Police who has attended our meetings and has offered good communication and advice. And our soon to be past locality steward Craig, who always had time for us on the phone, email and in person. We wish you good luck in the future.

Thank you to Phyll Hannah and everyone involved at St Matthews Church, you keep the Church immaculate inside and out and we are kept very warm in the winter months. Our vice chairman sends his thanks for the biscuits you supply us with at every meeting (I send my apologies that there are never any left !)

If anyone is keen to support the St Matthews Church and is looking to attend some of the Church events all the information can be found on their website at www.marstowchurch.org. We are excited to support the Church on their VE Day celebrations this Saturday 10th May, we hope the sun is shining and the church is full in attendance for you.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our Councillors and Clerk for their time, support and hard work continuing to carry out their important roles locally. This helps to keep our residents safe whilst improving the environment for us all to enjoy.

The Parish Council Members and Staff would like to wish all residents a joyous sunny summertime.

Alfred Williams, Chairman 2024/25