

Snape Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Report from Chair of the Snape Parish Council

It has been a very busy year in Snape and so for the Parish Council. Our work has ranged from organising litter picks to meeting Government Ministers. We have taken up the concerns of local people and have coordinated the activity of our neighbouring Parishes. Our focus has been to continue to seek to deliver the Village Plan. As we have done over recent years we have worked with many local organisations to meet the priorities of the community.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their support and hard work. I particularly welcome Andrew McDonald, who was coopted to the Parish Council a few months ago.

The Parish Council's financial resources are, as you know, limited and our approach has always been to work in partnership with public, business and voluntary bodies to meet our priorities and also to support the many volunteers in the village by using our influence and authority to enable things to happen. The Parish Council has a good working relationship with our County and District Councillors and they have supported us. County Councillor Andrew Reid and East Suffolk Councillor Tom Daly (and latterly Councillor Katie Graham) regularly attend Parish Council meetings and take up concerns raised by Parish Councillors and members of the public.

You will have seen the minutes of our meetings on the website and many of the Snape organisations which the Parish Council supports have tabled reports for this evening. All will be happy to answer questions now or in future.

I would just highlight a few projects in particular.

The village allotments are an important asset and we now have plans to ensure that the site is properly maintained and protected.

The management plan for the Priory Road common has been adopted and some initial environmental work is being undertaken in conjunction with GreenSnape.

Traffic, road safety and accessibility of services for everyone remain a major concern. Many local people have expressed serious worries about the state of the pavements in and around the village. The encroachment of undergrowth both at ground level and at eye level narrow the footway and are making it difficult for people to make their way around the Village safely.

Particular areas of risk are heavily used stretches between the Crown and Snape Bridge, the bend opposite the exit from the Maltings and the areas opposite the Church where children have to cross the A1094 to catch school buses. It is one of the Parish Council's priorities to improve the permeability of the Village from the Maltings to the Church and from the Sailors path to Gromford with a particular focus on 'safe routes to school' and the safety and welfare of local people with reduced mobility. Regrettably, Suffolk Highways have said that the narrowing of pavements does not yet reach their safety threshold. Councillor Reid offered some funding from his locality budget to enable additional 'skirting' work to be undertaken. The Parish Council has decided, with Cllr Reid's consent, to earmark that funding for other projects in the Village and instead to take part in the County Council's 'Community Self-Help scheme'. This will enable us to undertake the work ourselves with the support of volunteers.

The Parish Council has continued to support the Community Speed Watch team which conducts regular sessions on the B1069 and the A1094. With the support of Suffolk Constabulary and our Speed Indicators in 4 locations across Snape we are having an impact on the speed of traffic through the Village. The recent spate of serious accidents on the A1094 is a cause of grave concern which we have taken up with Suffolk County Council.

On a wider scale the Parish Council is in active discussions with neighbouring Parish Councils, East Suffolk Council and the County Council about the increasing volume and weight of Heavy Goods traffic through the Village particularly to and from Bentwaters and avoiding delays on the A12 between Wickham Market and Saxmundham.

These discussions are particularly urgent as we face the prospect of increasing volumes of industrial and private traffic generated by Sizewell C and the other proposed 'energy projects'. In all of these the Parish Council seeks actively to ensure that developers understand, mitigate and compensate for the serious impact that these projects might have on Snape and surrounding communities. The Parish Council participates in all the forums and 'enquiries' around these projects and makes representations to Government and developers as actively as it can.

The Parish Council has, in pursuing another priority in the Village Plan, continued to work with Hastoe Housing on a small development of affordable housing for local people. Two well attended consultation sessions have been held and we now await revised proposal on which there will be further consultation.

We also continue to scrutinise all planning applications which are referred to the Parish Council as a statutory consultee. Where we believe the project is

detrimental to the community we express objections or matters of concern to the Planning Authority.

That is a short review of some of key activities this year. Many others are covered by reports in front of you from groups and teams including the Village Hall, the Playing Field, Snape Good Neighbours and Meet up Monday, GreenSnape and the Friends of Snape Church. This is a very sociable and vibrant community and one which takes great pride in its environment, its uniqueness and neighbourliness. The Parish Council will always do it best to promote and protect those qualities.

I would like to end by thanking Marie, our Clerk, who keeps us focused and in line. We would be lost without her!!

I would also like to express my gratitude, as one of your neighbours, to you and everyone in Snape for your support and for everything that you do for the Village and the community.

Paul Richards
Chair - Snape Parish Council
May 2024