



## Longhirst Parish Council

### PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT for 2023/24

#### Thanks expressed

The Chair firstly thanked the Clerk for her expertise. He also thanked those volunteers who support community activities in the village throughout the year. In particular:

- Lawrence Carey for his remarkable efforts maintaining the planters.
- Members of the Parish Council
- The Litter Picking Group
- Trustees of both the Parish Association and the Wildlife & Community Trust
- Longhirst Wildlife & Community Trust
- Members of the Parochial Church Council
- Volunteers who organise the Open Gardens event; and other social activities like pub nights, coffee mornings and fetes, the sign cleaners, and the writers and editorial team of the Longhirst Leader.

The Chair was pleased to see new people coming forward to support these existing activities.

#### On-going Projects

##### The Butterwell Aggregates Liaison Group

The plant is taking longer to set up than we expected, but the Chair was encouraged by the speedy resolution to recent queries regarding HGV vehicle movements through the village. Once the plant is open the Chair does expect the Parish Council will be able to work closely with the operators.

##### Ashington Road

After raising this issue at the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council the Chair was satisfied with the clear response received and does expect progress to be made. He would like to see the ditch cleared by the end of September and ideally new drainage on the east side. The issue of raising the level of the road remains to be resolved.

### War Memorial and immediate area

The Chair thanked Cllr R Tordoff for his work clearing the vegetation from around the bus stop, as well as the more extensive clearance work undertaken by Northumberland County Council.

### Paddock Wood

Groundwork North East are going to put forward a proposal to the Parish Council for how work to improve the paths can be carried out (including quotes). The Chair remains disappointed by the lack of engagement from the Woodland Trust but will attempt to arrange another meeting.

### Domino's Field

The Chair did visit the offices of the land owners (based in Derbyshire) whilst on holiday in March. Whilst one of the directors appeared open to consider the idea of a community woodland at the site it appears that the two key directors were less keen. Further progress by the parish council cannot therefore be made at this time.

### Lychgate repairs

Whilst not directly a Parish Council issue, the Chair did note with pleasure that repairs to the lychgate at St John's Church have been completed. Work on tarmacking around the entrance as well as installing new bollards will start soon.

### Elections

The Chair reminded everyone that in May next year there will be Parish Council elections, and encouraged anyone interested to consider standing.