

Annual parish meeting 2013

The last 12 months have been quite busy, with traffic issues, flooding, community awards, necessary repairs which are still going on, and planning issues at the Rose and Crown.

Traffic issues. There have been a number of accidents on or near the bends on the south side of the village. We have asked highways to look again at dressing the surface to make it safer, and await their response. They did a speed survey on the bends, which produced an average of 33mph in both directions. We have also asked them to carry out a similar survey in Bridge Street – the last one was in 2003 when an average of 46mph in both directions was recorded. The speed camera van was last in Alpheton on May 15, and one driver was caught.

Flooding. The main problem area was Old Bury Road. Highways came out at our request and identified the problem, and the relevant drainage pipe and ditch has been cleared.

Community Awards. We picked up two individual Babergh Community awards, for Paddy Trevelyan and Richard Beattie-Swann, and a group award for the six Coffee Pot ladies. The only category we were unable to enter was individual or group under 18. Suggestions for the 2014 award are welcome.

Repairs. Repair work has been carried out to the three bus shelters, and new noticeboards are being purchased where needed, but repaired where possible. We have a county councillor locality budget sum of £500 towards this from Richard Kemp.

Rose and Crown. This has occupied the last six months, with the first set of planning applications going in December, which we discussed at an emergency public meeting in January. The plans were withdrawn. Then Richard Kemp and I had a meeting with Richard and Laura Grey at the Rose and Crown in February. The planning applications were resubmitted with one change, and discussed at our March meeting. On both occasions, the unanimous view was to oppose the plans. Unfortunately Mr and Mrs Grey were unable to attend either meeting. I had hoped to be able to report a decision, but that won't happen until tomorrow when Babergh planners meet again. The recommendation of the planning officers is approval for the new storage and food preparation units. Babergh deferred a decision to allow both the senior food and safety officer and senior environmental protection officer to look at the proposals, and neither have raised objections.

Richard Kemp, Brian Lankester and I spoke at the Babergh planning committee meeting two weeks ago when the decision to defer was taken.

Reports from other organisations

We have had a Shimpling and Alpheton WI report from Mary Tuffen.

The WI is thriving, with 25 regular active members. Meetings over the past 12 months have looked at the history of jazz, bee-keeping, earring and necklace making, heard a talk by an evacuee, and a talk from a female racing driver. They have also had fashion advice, a 63rd birthday party, an outing to Bressingham gardens, and their annual meal at the Black Lion in Melford.

The WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between the Shimpling and Alpheton. Details are to be found in the respective village magazines.

Police

Very close to home, there was a burglary at a house at the Glebe last Friday, when a coin collection and jewellery were taken during the day.

Ken Watkins
Chairman

28 May 2013