

WEEDON PC ANNUAL REPORT 16/17

Weedon Parish Council

Best Kept Village Winners Summer 2016

We were all extremely proud that Weedon won the **GURNEY CUP** (for villages with a population of 500 or less) in the Bucks Best Kept Village competition last year. We were also awarded the **SWORD OF EXCELLENCE** as the highest-marked winner in any population category.

Weedon's score was **86%**.

We scored no lower than 70% on any one feature, with full marks on the park, children's play area, nature conservation areas and notice-boards, and a fantastic 93% on overall appearance and evidence of community effort. The judges were most complimentary in their remarks.

We await the results of this year's competition, where we are in a separate group for last year's winners of all population categories.

The Best Kept Village win was a testament to the hard work and community spirit of every resident, supported by the close-knit team of parish councillors and clerk.

Not all our activities are as high-profile as the Best Kept Village Competition, but they are equally vital to the long-term future of our thriving village community.

We hope you enjoy reading about them in this annual report.



The presentation in September
by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher

Report for year ended
March 2017

Issued July 2017

What's inside ...

- Our regular activities in 2016/17
- Our major projects in 2016/17
- The money we spent in 2016/17
- Contact details for Parish Clerk, Parish, AVDC and Bucks Councillors, and key Weedon organisations
- Our plans for 2017/18

Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose

Justin Sellers

Tom Jameson-Evans

Wendy Kett

Nigel Winnett

Mark Talbott

Steve Gradley

Our village pond, pump and green

The **High Street Pump** is beautifully planted and tended by Christine and Nic Nicolay on a voluntary basis, while Clare Macdonald makes a lovely show of the barrel on the **Village Green Triangle** outside the pub.

Around the **Pond**, we pay for duck food so that the Aylesbury and wild ducks stay with us, and we also keep grass and pond margin plants tidy.

The new floating pontoon and duckhouse are being well used and provide a refuge for all the water birds. Steve and Jayne Richards give much attention to their welfare, and Ashley and Cathy Bailey regularly incubate and hatch replacements for the unfortunate Aylesbury ducks which do not escape the fox.

We thank them all for their time and care of these important community features of the village.



The Pond

Our play area and park

The **Park** is owned by the Parish Council. We arrange for local contractors Terry and Emma Lynch to do grass and hedge cutting, path weed control, lawn improvement treatment and emptying of the litter

bin. We commission an annual safety inspection of the play equipment and a parish councillor carries out a visual check and wipe-clean of swing seats and benches weekly in the summer.



The Park

Our grass verges, trees and hedges

We have moved into the second year of our 3-year contract with Bucks CC for “devolved services” on the highways. After a successful first year, Terry Lynch has continued the **grass verge cutting** within the 30mph signs.

The devolution contract includes maintenance works such as sign cleaning, pavement weed-killing and street sweeping. We also look out for over-hanging hedges and trees and ask land-

owners to trim them back if they could cause an obstruction to roads or pavements. We maintain the **trees along New Road**, planted in 2007, funded by villagers. Some have needed re-staking and two were replaced, but they are well-established and growing strongly now.

We take care that the **spring-flowering bulbs** planted over the years are flourishing so that we can enjoy their wonderful displays in March and April.



Aston Abbotts Road verges

Our streets

We pay for electricity to power the **street lights** (owned by the PC) and arrange bulb replacement and repairs. After a full inspection and inventory last year, we are pleased to report that the heritage-style lights should last many more years.

Our two MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) continue to be rotated around their 6 approved sites by a parish councillor

voluntary team led by Mark Talbott.

The police have agreed in principle to attend at the most frequent blackspots with speed guns after the holiday season.

Seats and benches around the village and in the park are also maintained.

We pay for regular **waste collections** from the litter and dog bins.

Corner of East End and Aston Abbotts Road



Our graveyard and war memorial

The Parish Council took on a 99-year lease, at a peppercorn rent from the Methodist Church Council, for the graveyard and grounds of the War Memorial from 1st April 2015.

We are now the burial authority, carrying out grounds maintenance and administration, which last year included facilitating one new ashes grave and the erection of a memorial stone.

Work to trim back the large cypress trees near the war memorial was carried out by a volunteer party of parish councillors.

The graveyard is normally reserved for

residents of Weedon civil parish at the time of death, their children under 18, and former residents who have left the parish to go into care. Others with strong links to Weedon may be considered at the discretion of the parish council.

The graveyard accepts burials, ashes interments and memorials. Burials may be linked with a service in the chapel, but this is not a requirement. Plots may be reserved with an advance payment.

Please check the Weedon website for regulations and charges, plus a full plan of the graveyard and register of burials.



The Graveyard looking south

Our public footpaths, gates and stiles

Unless there is a special legal agreement in place, landowners are responsible for keeping clear and accessible the public footpaths that cross their land. We are grateful to every owner who allowed stiles to be replaced by gates, making the footpaths around the village much more user-friendly.

Part of the Bucks CC devolved services agreement requires the PC to monitor the condition of footpaths, stiles and gates to ensure that they accord to minimum standards. If they do not, we will liaise with the landowner to put things right.

Certain footpaths are the responsibility of the Parish Council. So we have, as in the past, continued to maintain **Footpath 12** (New Road to Lilies), keeping it clear of nettles and brambles.

And in the last year we commissioned a replica set of hardwood gates from local company Crocketts to replace the dilapidated ones at the entrance to the **Fortescue Track**, which forms part of **Footpath 11** (Lower High Street to Glebe Farm).

We hope you agree they look great.



The new Fortescue Track gates

Our community media

We pay for the hosting and maintenance of the Weedon **website**, allowing all local community organisations access to their

site areas to update them. We help keep **noticeboards** up to date and issue this annual report free to every Weedon

household. Important village information is **emailed** to all those on our confidential list (see over).

Plans
for
17-18

NEW GRAVEYARD SEAT

◇ A new seat to allow quiet contemplation of the graveyard and beautiful views of the Vale

UPGRADE WEBSITE TO BE MOBILE-FRIENDLY

◇ It's not very easy to view the website on a mobile device, so we're upgrading it.

NEW FINGERPOST SIGN AT THE VILLAGE GREEN TRIANGLE

◇ We so like the BKV sign that we're considering a traditional Bucks heritage fingerpost there

Planning consultation and local liaison

The Parish Council is consulted on every **planning application** for building in Weedon. We can respond to AVDC with No Objection, Support, or Objection, and we hold a public planning meeting for each application to decide our response.

We liaise with the other local government bodies **AVDC** and **Bucks County**

Council, participating in Local Area Forum meetings to stay abreast of issues in the wider local area.

We maintain direct contacts with **Thames Valley Police**, who regularly attend our PC meetings to exchange information on crime and crime prevention. Villagers operate **Neighbourhood Watch** informally.



Planning notice

Financial control

The parish precept for 2017/18 was agreed in January at the same level per household as for the last 5 years. Services have not been reduced.

The precept covers routine expenditure and we have reserves to draw on for

capital projects. Some reserves come from the time when Buckingham Park was part of the parish, and some from budgeted projects which were underspent because we gained matched grant funding.

The devolved services from Bucks CC are

funded mainly by a contracted grant sum.

Our annual statutory returns of income and expenditure are on the website. Or contact the clerk for copies of audited accounts.

Weedon Parish Council

Ruth Millard, Parish Clerk

32 Campbell Close
Linden Village
Buckingham
MK18 7HP

Phone: 01280 814739

Email: weedonparishclerk@talktalk.net

Weedon Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose
Chairman

641622

Justin Sellers
Vice Chairman

640524

Steve Gradley

641637

Wendy Kett

640366

Nigel Winnett

640125

Tom Jameson-Evans
Mark Talbott

640845

641502

Other Weedon Contacts

Weedon Village Association

Old Schoolroom

Tuesday Club

Methodist Chapel

Weedon Charities

Golf Society

Parish Magazine Editor

The Five Elms

Catherine Rodnight

Shirley Bush

Judy Nagele

Ralph Followell

Wendy Kett

Chris Measures

Peggy Sidebotham

John and Carol Slee

641071

641382

641278

641998

640366

640537

640098

641439

weedonbucks.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months
- Planning meetings as the need arises
- Agendas posted on main noticeboard and website with 3 working days' notice
- Minutes (draft) posted within 14 days of the meeting

Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond (Watermead ward)

641552

Buckinghamshire County Councillor

Netta Glover (Wing ward)

688357

Email joanna@cjrose.net if you would like to be added to our village email list