

**Longford Parish Council  
Chairman's Report  
April 2023**

It is with much sadness that we recently learnt the tragic news that our County Councillor Phil Awford passed away suddenly on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. This came as a great shock to the Parish Council and the wider community, many of whom consider Phil Awford to be a close and personal friend, having known him for many years. Phil was deeply committed to supporting the communities he represented, and our community has lost a wonderful man who was passionate about serving us.

This is good opportunity to welcome our newest residents to the Longford community. Following the Tewkesbury Borough Council Community Governance Review 21/22, the Longford / Innsworth Parish Boundaries were changed to bring the Horsbere Mews Development into Longford. If truth be known, many of the residents of the Horsbere Mews Development already considered themselves to be part of the Longford community and the boundary change was merely an administrative, but necessary, adjustment.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has continued to support the Village Hall Committee in their efforts to refurbish the Village Hall, which is a hub for various community activities. We have invested in community initiatives, such as the Longford Little Library, which has proved hugely popular.

Throughout the year, we have supported a number of community events, including the village fete to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, car boot sales, and charity events. These events have been well-received and have helped to bring the community together.

The Parish Council has also focused on maintaining our beautiful green spaces and parks. We have ensured that they are well-maintained and have replaced some of the facilities such as benches around the Village Hall to encourage people to spend more time outdoors. We have established the wildflower area on Sivell Close. This is very much a work in progress and the area will evolve and flourish over time. Initial planting has taken place with both bulbs and wildflower seeds being planted; a mountain ash tree has also been planted.

The Parish Council recently held a community event to plant the first batch of fruit trees in the community orchard, which was well attended. A horse chestnut tree has also been introduced to the area adjacent to the Village Hall.

The Parish Council has invested in maintaining the playground for children and young families, which has been greatly appreciated by the community. We have continued to carry out regular inspections of the playground equipment, ensuring that any maintenance is undertaken in timely manner and the equipment is safe for the community to use.

We have worked with Tewkesbury Borough Council to tackle fly tipping, which has been a particular problem for some of the more rural areas of Longford; we are rightly proud of our efforts to keep our community clean and tidy.

We have engaged with the Community Policing Team to improve the safety and security of our community. The Parish Council has supported initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour in and around our public open space, such as the Village Hall, with plans to improve lighting in the area. We have also continued to fund and maintain the community defibrillator.

We have had some success this year with our engagement with Highways. A particular area of concern for the Parish Council is the Sivell Close / Fircroft Road rat run. There are issues with the volume of traffic and speeding vehicles using Sivell Close and Fircroft Road to avoid congestion at the Longford Lane / Tewkesbury Road junction. This problem is compounded by inconsiderate parking around junctions on Fircroft Road. Highways have implemented a number of improvements, such as the narrowing of the junction at Fircroft Road and Tewkesbury Road. Additional road markings have also been added on Sivell Close.

Highways have also implemented a scheme of works to improve pavements, footpaths, roadways and drop-kerb crossing points along Tewkesbury Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors and our dedicated Parish Clerk for their hard work and commitment over the past year. I believe we have achieved a lot and I am confident that we will continue to do so in the years to come.

Cllr JE Ford  
Chairman  
Longford Parish Council