

**Longford Parish Council**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**April 2024**

Throughout the year, the Parish Council has continued to work with residents and the wider community to make Longford a great place to live. Although, this past year has been marked by some significant challenges, achievements, and community spirit that has truly showcased the strength and resilience of our community.

One of the major challenges we faced this year was addressing the issues related to travellers who occupied our playing field. Through proactive engagement and collaboration with relevant authorities, we have successfully managed these challenges while ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. On both occasions the Parish Council took prompt action to get the travellers to vacate the site in a timely manner.

These incidents necessitated a review of the overall security of both the playing field and the areas around the village hall. New barriers were installed to restrict vehicular access to the site. In addition to this, a physical barrier was constructed around the playing field, which was only achievable with the help of volunteers from the local community.

To address concerns of anti-social behaviour at the village hall and playing field, we implemented a series of security measures including the installation of CCTV cameras and improved lighting. These efforts have significantly enhanced the safety and security of these vital community spaces.

The recent flooding posed a serious threat to our community, affecting many households in Longford. The Parish Council promptly mobilised resources and worked tirelessly to provide support and assistance to those affected. This was very much a collaboration, working with local residents, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Longford Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council assisted with the provision and delivery of sandbags. We coordinated efforts to get the village hall opened and established as a rest centre. We stood by our community every step of the way, from the initial response to the flooding through to the clean-up activities and the post-flooding support to residents.

As a lesson learnt from this recent flooding event, it has highlighted the need for the Parish Council to create an Emergency Plan, the scope of which is not limited to flooding. The Emergency Plan will ensure there is an efficient and coordinated response in the event of a future emergency.

Our commitment to enhancing our open green spaces remained unwavering. Further work on the Community Orchard Project has been a particular highlight of the year. Through collective efforts and volunteerism, we are in the process of transforming this previously little-used area of the playing field into a thriving community orchard, providing not only a picturesque green space but also promoting biodiversity and community engagement. Other additions to the playing field include the planting of an oak tree to commemorate the King's Coronation and a beech tree in memoriam to the late County Councillor Phil Awford.

Ensuring the maintenance and upkeep of our play park and playing field is crucial in providing recreational opportunities for all residents, but especially children. Once again this year, we committed time and resources to routine inspections, maintenance and landscaping, ensuring these facilities remain safe, enjoyable, and accessible to all.

The Parish Council remains committed to the provision of allotments for the local community. There is a thriving allotment community in Longford, with one of the highlights of their year being the Annual Allotment Competition, which was held in July last year. Our thanks go out to Terry Godwin who has judged the allotment competition for the last three years, since it was resurrected post-Covid Pandemic.

The Parish Council has continued to support the Village Hall Committee in its efforts to improve the facilities at the village hall. In addition to the security enhancements, the Parish Council has agreed to part-fund the provision of Wi-Fi in the village hall.

In conclusion, the accomplishments and progress we have made over the past year are a testament to the dedication and cooperation of our residents, parish and borough councillors, and the wider community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and effort to support our community over the past year.

As we look ahead, I hope we will continue to work together to make Longford an even better place to live.

Cllr JE Ford  
Chairman  
Longford Parish Council