

Chairman's End of Year Report - Stibbard Parish Council

Dear residents of Stibbard,

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Stibbard Parish Council. This year has seen both the completion of previous initiatives, and the commencement of new projects aimed at enhancing our village community.

1. **Village Sign Unveiling:** The unveiling of our new village sign last year was a resounding success and a highlight for our community. It was a privilege to welcome Stefan Aquarone, who at the time was both our local county councillor and the MP for North Norfolk, to the ceremony. The event was made particularly special by the attendance of pupils from All Saints Primary School, whose designs inspired the sign, as well as many village residents. The sign now stands as a proud symbol of our community spirit.
2. **Speed Gates Progress:** Following our successful funding efforts reported last year, I'm pleased to inform you that we have now paid the initial deposit for the installation of speed gates at the village entrances. We are currently awaiting confirmation of the installation date from the council. Once installed, these gates will significantly improve road safety through our village, particularly along Fakenham Road where pedestrians access the bus stops
3. **War Memorial Refurbishment:** This year we undertook the refurbishment of our war memorial, which included a thorough steam cleaning of the monument and gravelling of the surrounding area. We extend our sincere thanks to the Parochial Trust, and especially to Major Piers Reinhold, for funding this important work. This restoration ensures that our memorial remains a dignified and respectful tribute to those who gave their lives in service and helped us commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day. Many residents have expressed appreciation for this restoration, noting how it has enhanced this important focal point in our village.

4. **Environmental Initiatives:** We have identified concerns regarding littering in the village, particularly around the bus stop area. The Parish Council is actively exploring solutions to address this issue including the potential installation of additional waste bins and organizing community litter-picking events.
5. **Playground and Recreational Areas:** We continue to maintain our playground apparatus and playing fields to ensure they remain safe and enjoyable spaces for families and children in our community.
6. **Bus Stop Shelters:** The bus stop shelters remain an essential amenity for our residents who rely on public transportation to Fakenham. While these structures continue to provide valuable protection from Norfolk's weather, we have faced challenges with vandalism this year, including several instances of broken glass panes. The Parish Council has promptly addressed these issues and remains committed to ensuring these facilities are safe, clean, and functional. We are exploring more durable materials for future repairs and would appreciate residents reporting any damage they observe so we can maintain these important community assets.
7. **Councillor Vacancies:** We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council. I extend a warm invitation to any residents who are passionate about contributing to our village community to consider joining us. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact myself or our Parish Clerk, Nea Horsford, for more information. Your involvement would be greatly valued in shaping Stibbard's future.

8. **Appreciation and Acknowledgments:** I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow councillors for their dedication and voluntary service throughout the year.

Thank you

Warm Regards,

Bill Aldridge

Chairman, Stibbard Parish Council