

Chairman's Annual Report Upto 31st March 2018

First of all thank you to all the Parish Councillors who have supported me in the last 12 months of what has been an interesting year. As a small Parish Council we have kept a continuity over these past 12 months in Parish Councillors with Rob Wilson becoming our Parish Deputy Chairman. I would also like to place on record on behalf of the Parish Council a thank you to Olive Fisher for her long term service and continued commitment and dedication as the Parish Clerk and we all look forward to seeing that continue well into the future.

Over the past 12 months we have had very good participation from our Parish Councillors at our quarterly meetings and it is good to see that we have moved to the Chapel for these meetings as we look to support various village community groups. It is also very pleasing to see excellent participation from Chorley Councillor Kim Snape and we welcome that continued support. The participation of local people at our meetings remains an area of disappointment and I hope we can generate some interest from them over the next 12 months.

A key part of engagement with our local community must be via sharing information which is partly done by our Parish Notice Board. Unfortunately we had problems with our website during the year and following an excellent application to attain some funding by Councillor Vince McCully we now have the opportunity to develop a website appropriate for the Parish Council. This will be a key focus in 2018.

The Rivington Heritage Trust (RHT) has seen significant progress over the year especially around volunteer works as the contract placement with the main contractor was delayed for varying reasons. The Parish Council, via the Parish Chairman, Steven Jones, has been an active member of the RHT Board of Trustees over these last 12 months ensuring the views of the Parish Council are heard as well as ensuring the long term sensitivity of the project are considered.

It is pleasing to see United Utilities providing quarterly updates for the Parish Council and we have noted various investments in the area that we hope will address some long term drainage issues as well as significant improvements in fencing and gates. Working with United Utilities as the main land owner in Rivington is critical to the Parish Council and we hope to continue to build on that relationship.

While disappointed to not have placed in the Village in Bloom competition in 2017 the Parish Council did make some progress in improving the Village Green with some small works to the retaining wall near the notice board. With an improving financial position we are now confident that these improvement works can continue in 2018 and beyond.

With the aim of increasing pride in the Village Green it was a positive step by the Parish Council to raise the Union Jack on the Village Green flagpole. The commitment by the Parish Council to undertake a Parish Village Festival in May 2018 was a really positive step and was made possible by the dedication and support of various Parish Councillors and in no small part to the commitment of one, Vince McCully. Hopefully this will become a regular event in the annual calendar and will grow with time to become a firm favourite for the local community.

With other free events to watch like the Chorley Grand Cycling Tour and the UK Iron Man both passing through the Village it is great to see such local events being available for residents and locals alike which enhance the overall area.

I would like formally thank my Parish Councillors over these last 12 months, Mr Barry Keenan, Mr David Jones, Mr Trevor James-Ellett, Mrs Lynne Berry, Mrs Olive Fisher and Mr Rob Wilson for their commitment and participation throughout the year.

As we move into 2018 I am looking forward with increased optimism to the future and I would be delighted to continue as Chairman of the Parish Council with your support.

Steven Jones

Rivington Parish Council Chairman