

Chairman's Annual Report Upto 31st March 2017

It is only right and proper to start my annual review with an acknowledgement of the tireless work and dedication of our good friend, Glen Hester, who is no longer with us after his sad passing last year after 20 years service to the Parish Council and other bodies. Thank you Glenn and may you rest in peace.

First of all thank you to all the Parish Councillors who have supported me since taking on the Chairmanship since the sad passing of Glen Hester. I have thoroughly enjoyed these last 12 months and feel we are making some good progress as a council.

It is also great to see a number of new Councillors joining us this year and we all welcome David, Robert and Trevor into the fold. It is also with great thanks that Lynn, Vince, Barry and Olive continue with their commitments as active Parish Councillors. We also thanked and said goodbye to Mary who had served and supported the Parish Council over a number of years.

Over the last 12 months we have seen the successful application of Rivington Heritage Trust, RHT, in securing lottery money for the Rivington Terraced Gardens which is a great result for the whole area in bringing the gardens back into a better state of repair with long term maintenance plans. As a Parish Council it is also great that we have an input into this as a formal trustee of RHT.

Our other key stakeholders in United Utilities and Chorley Council have remained active in the area and continue to contribute to the Parish Council with Kim Snape as our local Chorley Councillor particularly active and supportive of the Parish. With events like the Chorley Grand Cycling Tour and the UK Iron Man both passing through the Village it is great to see such local free events being available for residents and locals alike which enhance the overall area. United Utilities have also increased their participation with the Parish in terms of regular updates on what is going on in the surrounding area which can only be a positive. Our aim should be to continue and improve upon this.

With the Parish Council financial position now much improved after a number of years of close management, while also seeing some extra welcome income from the Sponsorship of the Village Green, we can at last start to look to improve the Village Green over the coming year. Through some improvements to the walls and adding some colour via the planters we may one day win the best Village in bloom!!

With the advent of social media over the last 10 years continuing at a pace it was great to see the Parish develop its own website which we hope to actively use more going forward which will allow for improved public engagement and participation.

Looking forward to the future I would be delighted to continue as Chairman of the Parish Council with your support and look forward with optimism in how we make the Parish Council relevant and important in changing times.

Steven Jones

Rivington Parish Council Chairman