

LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL

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LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024

Looking through my report from last year, I can see that my opening paragraph may be very similar this year: I just want to say a huge thank you to those residents who help our parish with local issues including overgrown vegetation and litter. Our March Litter Pick yielded 56 bags between Postcombe and Lewknor! Well done to everyone who gave their time. Whilst talking about rubbish, another well done goes to our District Council and Biffa who can proudly say that they are joint first in England for re-cycling due to the diligence of all residents.

I believe the biggest accomplishment in the parish this past year was to get our Neighbourhood Plan approved firstly by a referendum of parish resident and then approval by District Council Cabinet. I'll leave Peter Gardner to tell you more in his annual report but the parish council would like to extend a massive thank you again to Peter and all the team.

Another exciting development was the long-awaited resumption of a bus service linking the parish to Thame, albeit only on two days a week: Tuesdays for Market Day and Thursdays. Please do try to use the service if you can as tickets are still only £2 following the County Council's help, timetables are on our noticeboards and in the Notices section of parish council website www.lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk.

This was followed by the implementation of 20mph in certain parts of the parish, although controversial in some parts of the UK, it seems that on the whole it has been welcomed here. The vehicle activated signs should follow soon.

A big Thank You to both Georgina Heritage, who has been in her role as District Councillor for a year now, and Freddie van Mierlo, our County Councillor, for their help with grants this year enabling the parish council to help Jubilee Hall to get full CCTV installed.

The parish council has also arranged the installation of a new salt bin on Beacon View, cleared paths up by the bus stops on the B4009, got the trees cut back on the steps from the B4009 down into the village - and hopefully, a handrail will be installed here soon. The parish council has also asked for improvements to be made to the steps adjacent to the M40 on Salt Lane in Postcombe. And thanks to Councillor Ray Hudson for re-roofing our bus shelter on the A40.

Big strides have been made to try to reduce speeding through Postcombe: new signage and road markings have been installed and a Community Speedwatch Team was established in January, lead by our Postcombe councillors; a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have signed up to help. The village gates north of Postcombe have been moved to where 30mph comes into force and hundreds of bulbs have been planted at either end of the village, giving a cheery welcome throughout Spring.

We have frequently been asked about the shop in Lewknor after Fabric Fields vacated last year. Although not a Parish Council responsibility, we have been in close contact with SOHA (the Housing Association who own it) to ensure a local business takes over the premises. We are assured that this will be completed very soon.

Finally, I want to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work throughout the year; and a special mention to John Poole for the several training sessions and meetings he's attended on Planning - and Championing the Countryside about new building in Green Belt, a subject we all need to be aware of.

Caroline Hjorth