

Clive Johnson gave the annual report on behalf of the Parish Council. "As we have just heard, thanks to the work of Nick and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, we are working our way through the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. As we have also heard, the input of Little Cornard residents is now very important to how the plan is proposed. I know that you will be forthcoming with your views on how you see Little Cornard developing over the next 20 years.

It is great to see that all the hard work in persuading Suffolk County Council Highways to reduce the speed of the Bures Road is now reducing the number of accidents on the road.

However, this is not the only option available to us in trying to reduce speeding along the Bures Road. The deployment of speed enforcement by the Police along the road is used and we shall be shortly be looking at a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to replace the static speed device destroyed in a recent road traffic accident near Chapel Lane.

In the past year the councillors met on 6 occasions and at those meetings the number of planning applications reviewed was 9. Once again Babergh and the parish council managed to agree on all of them. We are also keeping a very close eye on the implementation of enforcement actions agreed by Babergh for the clearance of land in the village.

We hope that you like us are happy with the results of the ongoing footpath maintenance by our contractor, who we have been able to employ with the aid of an annual grant from Suffolk County Council. We now also have a footpath warden in Ciaran Giffin so any issues can be actioned a lot more quickly through him.

Due to the costs of a Neighbourhood Plan, increased hours of the clerk and to ensure that the council has sufficient reserves during the year, the council has set a Precept in 2019 / 2020 which means a 23.7% increase for an average Band D household. The increase of 16 pence per week is the first increase in 3 years.

I must thank both James Finch and Lee Parker for their attendance at our meetings and their support in helping to resolve issues. I must also thank my fellow councillors for all their support during the last year.

As you may be aware, there will be a poll on the 2nd May 2019 to elect the new parish council members. You will have to select the 7 members from the 8 nominations. One name which will not be on the polling card is Phil Gooch who is standing down. I would like to thank Phil for the time and support he has given the parish council during his years in office."