

REPORT TO BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY 2018 FROM THE PROGRESS GROUP

As a Working Group of the Parish Council our Constitution has been revised and ratified by the Parish Council. During the year we have our membership has stayed almost the same although we were sorry to lose Trisha White although she is always happy to help us with projects, graphics etc. She was particularly involved in the Best Village judging event where her graphics and compilation of the information boards were inspired.

The Old Cemetery and the Chapel churchyards continue to be maintained by a willing band of volunteers. Paulette Kennedy spearheads the work in the Old Cemetery and in Spring it is particularly impressive, although more volunteers to take over particular graves would be very welcome. The Chapel churchyard has been cleared and the snowdrops are visible again and neighbours look forward to the primroses. St John's churchyard has benefitted from the working party of volunteers who recently spent the weekend there. It was decided that having gained a Silver Award twice from the Wildlife in Churchyards competition we should just continue with the good work and not strive for a Gold!

During the year there has been a lot of discussion on the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan and with the update of South Northants, Local Plan Part 2 it has been decided to consider a Village Survey first. We are looking at the surveys of other Parishes and recently visited East Hunsbury to talk about various aspects of their work and in particular their Community Engagement Sub Committee. They wish the liaison to continue and following our visit to their Seniors Club meeting we have invited a small group to attend the Coffee Morning at the Chapel.

We have been successful in persuading the Parish Council to do some work on the weed control and grass edging in the village. We also were involved in highlighting the state of the roads and pavements to our County Councillor, Adam Brown. Unfortunately the condition of the roads and pavements is getting worse.

We were again successful in winning a prize in the CPRE Litter competition following a good effort for the Litter Pick. The prize money has been earmarked for the Litter Campaign. This initiative started by Tony Hillier is going from strength to strength. A resident in Station Road has made a generous donation which has enabled the funding of equipment. Litter picking volunteers have been found for many areas of the village following the successful trial in Station Road. The Litter Citizen part of the Campaign has commenced with liaison with the school, certificates and badges to be distributed before Easter. A good start to Blisworth becoming a litter free village.

A very successful entry in the Best Village Competition resulted in not only Best Medium Village but Best Village overall. Many thanks to all the organisations who helped produce such a great judging visit, particularly Janet Steeper and Blisworth WI who helped compile the entry. Everyone was so enthusiastic in showing what a great community we have and it was a pleasure to take the judges to all the different venues. It was a good thing our roads and footpaths were not included but it is not about appearance! We had a most enjoyable Celebration Tea where we could show the prizes before they went into the cabinet in the Village Hall. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support particularly in providing the update to the sign and the enhancement of the ground around it. We are not able to enter in 2018 but two members will be taking part as judges.

We continue to raise issues brought to us by residents such as electronic timetables for the bus route, Seniors Club, School for Life and Skills Swap. We are also trying to find accommodation for the many books that Sarah Sykes wishes to donate to the village. Eventually we hope they will find a home in the new Football Clubhouse.