

Chairman's Report for Diptford Annual Parish Meeting 9.4.2024

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, John Foster, who held the post of Chairman of this Council for 20 years. A hard act to follow indeed.

It has again been a challenging year for Diptford Parish Council, with some highs and lows. A definite high was seeing the completion of the new classrooms at our local School, replacing the damaged and worn out 'temporary' classrooms, and providing a much needed fresh learning space for the students.

Your Council has dealt with a number of Planning Applications, some of which have proved contentious, but it has been disappointing to see that the long promised additional properties which were to include much needed 'affordable' housing, have still not been delivered.

The biggest challenge by far has been the Playing Field. Firstly, an unbudgeted large amount had to be spent on Health & Safety grounds to make safe the Scots Pine at the entrance of the field, following the commissioning of a safety report following failure of limbs. Council is committed to having an annual safety survey carried out on this tree. Secondly, another large unbudgeted sum had to be spent on remedial works to the netting around the tennis court, and on other identified safety issues with the ageing play equipment on the field. Without these emergency repairs, the Playing Field would have had to have been completely closed to users. Councillors are exploring all avenues of funding to improve the facilities on the Playing Field, which is an asset to the whole community.

I would like to thank all Councillors for their willingness to put themselves forward for the good of the community in which we live, and we have been pleased to welcome two Councillors to Diptford PC this year, namely Lucy Carroll and a returning Jeremy Randall. I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk, Ali Kohler, for all the work she does on behalf of the Parish Council which is appreciated by all of us. We have been well supported too by Dan Thomas, our County Councillor, and Guy Pannell and David Hancock, our two District Councillors, all of whom have generously provided us with Locality funding when requested.

Sue Franklin

9 April 2024