

Parish Councillor Report 2023 - 2024.

I have an interest and a certain responsibility as a representative in village assets, local projects and the street furniture.

My main areas of responsibility is checking our current three play areas and producing the monthly Parish Pump for inclusion in our village Silsoe News, sponsored mainly by the Silsoe Parish Council and the Parish Church of St James, Silsoe.

Referring to the play areas I would like to see us improve the original Play Area situated to the north of the village upgraded and modernised during the coming year. It is proving difficult, as it is a challenge to find a playground supplier who will commit to offering an estimate for the improvements desired. It would be a good way forward if we could add play equipment which would be user friendly to all, including those who are not so agile as others or have physical challenges which require equipment designed to enable them the enjoyment of some of the play facilities. We have the annual check on our play areas scheduled for May to complement our regular checks. I also submit material to be included for the monthly Parish Pump in which I try to raise the profiles of the various aspects of life in and around our parish, in particular the impact on various subjects affecting our rural environment, admittedly not always with a total positive acceptance. ("You can please some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time") I represent the Parish Council on the committee of the Millennium Green of which I am a Trustee. Hopefully we will see a good attendance on the Millennium Green for the coming Eightieth Anniversary of the D-Day Operation on June 6th 2024. We expect to have refurbished and modernised our village beacon for this momentous occasion which also coincides with National Fish and Chips Day this year. Look out for our posters advertising this historic occasion. Hopefully by the time of this report we will be almost clear of the very unpopular and massive roadworks incurred during the reconstruction of the Clophill Roundabout which has impinged on all aspects of our village and parish environment, all roads in and exiting our area have been affected, highlighting several long standing parking and speeding worries suffered by the parishioners in general. Traffic is and will be sadly an ongoing problem a long way into the future! The daily movements into and around the historic environments and commercial areas of Wrest Park increase year on year. The recently discovered 'rat runs' through the village will continue to prove popular with drivers trying to avoid other pinch points. We are very aware of this and continue to look for ways to control and improve the situation in our parish.

Lionel Mann. Silsoe Parish Councillor.