

## Chairman's Report – Tidenham Annual Parish Meeting 2025

I am pleased to report to you as the new Parish Council Chairman after another busy year for Tidenham Parish Council.

Jan Koning recently stood down as Chairman after six years in post. I would like to thank Jan for his hard work and for the improvements he has overseen during the six years in terms of the Council's governance and procedures. I would also like to thank him for his guidance and support for projects introduced during his tenure, including the community electric vehicle, improvements to the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall and his work with the Poor's Allotments Charity.

During the year the Council has welcomed Justine Burgess and Kristina Walsh as councillors. Councillors Karan Strong, Joseph Jenkins and Christopher Wall have all stepped down – thanks to them for their work for the Council.

Thanks also to Emily Timmins who has stepped down as Youth Worker. Emily did some excellent work on youth projects in the community and the council is looking to develop that work further over the coming year.

Thanks to a grant from the District Council Safer Streets Initiative, the Council has replaced its two CCTV cameras for newer, up to date models that allow for remote access. One is situated overlooking the Sedbury playing field and the other on King Alfred's Road. Data from these can be viewed by the Police following and incident in the area.

Through funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Parish Council has installed an AutoSpeedWatch camera in Woodcroft. This records speeds of vehicles leaving the village with data on those speeding being sent to the Police. The camera has shown a concerning number of speeding vehicles in the area and the Parish Council has been in discussions with the Police on possible solutions in the area.

In January 2025 the Parish Council became sole Trustee for the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall and worked to introduce an online booking system, improvements to the Hall and increasing the number of hall users. A full report on the Hall will be shared later in the meeting.

The Community Electric Vehicle has continued to be used and the Parish Council is working to introduce new ways for it to be of use to the community.

Following new guidance and regulations around transparency and compliance for Government organisations, the Parish Council has recently moved to a new website and email addresses that are '.gov.uk' accounts. This brings the Council in line with other local and national government departments and ensures ongoing compliance with future regulations.

As ever, Councillors continue to review and assess their governance and processes. Over the past year or so this has involved development sessions with an independent mentor. These have led to discussions on the effectiveness of processes and committees. From May 2025 there will no longer be monthly Planning and Highways Committee meetings. Instead, the Parish Council will consider planning applications and highways issues as part of the full council meetings. This will be reviewed after one year.

The normal business of the Parish Council has continued during the past year.

- The Planning and Highways Committee considered a total of 38 planning applications and liaised with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Dept. and other interested parties on numerous road and footpath issues.
- The Amenities Committee continues to manage the facilities in the Parish with a total budget for last year of over £52.5k. Essential work has also been carried out on some church walls during the year. The committee manages the ongoing maintenance of the play equipment and emptying of dog waste bins in the Parish as well as litter picking and emptying of waste bins on Parish Council land. Following a change of grass cutting contractor in 2024, the committee approved 3 weekly cuts to most of the parish grassed areas partly to

save costs and also as part of the Council's commitment to the climate emergency. The Committee has reviewed the current play area equipment in the Parish, some of which is in need of repair and replacement. It is currently working on some exciting new improvements to some of the areas, as ever within tight budget constraints.

- The Finance Committee has carried on its business through quarterly meetings, part of which involves scrutiny of the accounts and payments and recommendation of budget to full council. A grant been awarded to Tutshill WI for repairs to the popular Tutshill bus shelter book shelves.

- The Mopla Cottages Committee has continued to maintain the cottages. Grants were awarded to Sedbury Space for the provision of a Christmas Day lunch to members of the community and Wyedean School for incidental items for the pupils from refugee families from Afghanistan.

The Council is looking forward to the successful completion of its current projects and will, as ever, be working with the community to identify new initiatives.

I would personally like to thank all of the Councillors for their support and the time, work and effort that they have given over the past 12 months.