

AGM Chairperson's Report 2025/26

The main focus of my attention and time this year has been focussed on the planning application to drill an exploratory gas well at Foxholes about 300 metres from our parish boundary. As a parish council we voted to respect the majority of residents' views and object to the proposal - the primary concern being the potential pollution of the chalk aquifer which supplies our drinking water.

Considering the cost of living crisis we decided to not raise the parish council's element of Council Tax for the 2025/26 financial year.

I had a site meeting with Andrew Addison from ERYC Highways to look at the possibility of installing dropped kerbs to improve accessibility around the village for all users. We await to see if anything can be done - it will be dependent on budgets and competing priorities.

As we walked around the village he suggested that the Community Payback Team might be interested in siding out some of the footways. This was pursued by Zoe, our Clerk, and the work was undertaken promptly and effectively with several praiseworthy comments from residents. Unfortunately, despite much chivvy from the Clerk and local ward councillor, Jonathan Bibb, ERYC are still to collect the dozens of bags of debris. Very disappointing.

Sadly Sue Bridges decided that she could no longer give the time required to the role of councillor and resigned in March 2026. Thank you to Sue for all of her efforts and support during her time on the parish council.