

Sidestrand Parish Council 2019 AGM – Chairman's Report

I would like to begin by thanking our County Councillor Ed Maxfield and District Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillet for their continued interest in and support for the Parish and congratulate them on their recent election.

Despite the pronouncement from the \Prime Minister that Austerity is over there is little evidence of it as Local Authorities continue to struggle to balance budgets and maintain the level of services that might be expected in a country with our wealth and resources. There can be no doubt the political paralysis in Westminster is a matter of national shame and it is a credit to our County and District Councils that they continue to function as well as they do despite ever increasing financial constraints which are now seriously affecting the most vulnerable .

I am pleased to say Sidestrand remains a peaceful and crime free place, perhaps that's why we now seldom see a police officer in the village.

I must now turn to Parish Council colleagues and thank them for their support over the year. Once again the Council has enjoyed the support and hard work of our Parish Clerk.

The Council had resolved to investigate thoroughly the possibility of constructing affordable rental homes in the village and began a serious consultation process with parishioners. Despite our best efforts it has proved impossible to obtain straight answers from some NNDC officers over the possible sites and the Council has halted the process. Without proper answers to legitimate questions SPC has already provided notice to NNDC there is no mandate from the village to proceed with such a scheme. An update will be provided to the village.

On a more cheerful note the illuminated Christmas Tree donated by the PC once again made a cheerful and festive sight in the Church Yard.

The future of St Michael's church remains uncertain however I feel sure that the arrival of the new Rector will generate new ideas and rejuvenate the Benefice.

There are a number of new residents in Sidestrand and I would like to formally welcome them to the village. I feel sure some will take an active role in the village and make a valued contribution to life in Sidestrand.

The Parish Council remains in good financial shape, my thanks to our Finance Officer and Clerk for ensuring this is the case.

MJDH