

Shoscombe Parish Council Annual Report 2019

Following the publication of the Parish Plan last year we now have regular quarterly reviews to progress the actions that resulted from ideas highlighted by residents from the Parish Plan questionnaire results. We are pleased to say that many of these tasks have now been completed or continue to be undertaken regularly. Details of the reviews of the Action Plan and working group activities can be seen on our website with the more significant ones also described below.

The Parish Council are the Trustees of the Village Hall, but its management and maintenance is the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic Committee who work very hard to increase the range and volume of events held in this important community venue. The hall was repainted earlier this year, bookings are increasing and they are to be commended on the recent excellent news that the National Lottery grant application for £10000 to help fund a renewed roof has been successful.

During the past year the Council have made further improvements to the playing field facilities indicated in the parish plan such as the new football goal posts & nets and upgraded fencing of the play area, all of which have encouraged greater use of the new activities.

There has been a reduction in the amount of litter being collected at the two community litter picking events this year. A special thanks to the children of Shoscombe School for assisting in this. The scrape of the cinder path undertaken in the Spring was well supported by residents (and completed in under an hour).

Efforts to improve communication between the school and community have been successful and the Welcome Pack has been well received by new residents to the village.

One of the concerns raised by Parishioners has been to restrict the speed limits of vehicles passing through Shoscombe. In response, Councillors are campaigning for current advisory 20mph speed limits to be extended beyond the areas around the school and to be changed to mandatory status. Some serious accidents and 'near misses' have been brought to our attention. Although we are fortunate to be part of the network of Sustrans cycle routes, pedestrians and horses are now vulnerable to speeding cyclists. Requests to B&NES for repainting white lines and for additional signage have been highlighted for attention. These concerns about road safety have been raised by Shoscombe Councillors in statements to B&NES Community, Transport and Environment panels. We await responses to the decisions on how we can be helped to maintain road safety in Shoscombe.

Attempts to develop further the links between Wellow and Shoscombe beyond the joint burial ground and its governance are progressing such as to share responsibility for conservation of the Wellow Brook. Groups formed following Parish Plan activities have been successful in working to preserve the environment and to develop ideas on energy sustainability.

During the past year we have commented on a number of local planning applications where we only have an advisory role and on the wider ranging and long term Bath & North East Somerset draft strategic plan.

Finally, a significant longer term project that has come to fruition this year is the provision of a defibrillator in the village. Donations and fund raising for its purchase, installation and refurbishment of the old telephone box have successfully been achieved so that the unit has now been purchased and will be installed in the next few weeks. Training in its use will be advertised in the newsletter and it is hoped as many residents as possible will attend.

I would like to thank all the Councillors who have served during the past year, the Clerk and the numerous residents who have supported the many initiatives the Council have taken on in the last year. This has helped create a greater sense of community and care for the unique environment we are all so fortunate to share.