



Chair's Report – Ansford Parish Council

Wellbeing & Safety

Speeding continues to be a concern across the Parish, and I want to extend sincere thanks to our Speedwatch volunteers who have been active again this month. Their commitment makes a real difference to road safety and community reassurance. We are waiting for confirmation from the Bowls Club to install another SID post on their land in CCTC as we are unable to find a location on Ansford land. This will benefit both communities

Repairs to the sink hole on Station Road are progressing, although the projected completion date has now slipped to the end of July. We remain in close contact with the relevant authorities and continue to press for timely updates. Fingers crossed the revised schedule holds.

Parishioner Engagement

Cary in Bloom and The Newt have entered Castle Cary Station into the South West in Bloom competition. This is a positive initiative, but I have reminded them that any work on the platform must be carried out only by those who are appropriately trained — forgive the pun. I have also asked that they notify the council in advance of any events taking place within Ansford Parish. We have received emails from the organiser of Cary in Bloom that we are not participating in their Cary in Bloom event. I have written to explain we have limited time (Cary in Bloom have numerous mtgs), limited funds and we receive grants for Station flowers, saving spending residents money. We also enter Station in Bloom every year which is our Ansford chance to shine and we repeatedly win prizes. Last year the event didn't take place and this year we have not entered as so much work was planned on the platform. Next year will be another story.

There has been some concern expressed on social media regarding our donations to the library. We have been clear and transparent about this: while the contribution to the library has been reduced, we have offset this by providing direct grants to our local schools. This ensures that support for learning and literacy remains strong within our community.

Amenities & Community Benefit

The most important operational update is that work is now underway to recruit a new Parish Clerk. This is a key role for the effective running of the council, and we are committed to finding the right candidate to support our growing workload and ambitions.

We have kept our parish precept as low as we can, I remain convinced that we must continue to demonstrate that Ansford Parish Council provides value for money. Much of

what we achieve is thanks to volunteers who freely give their time and energy for the benefit of the community. Their contribution is central to delivering amenities and services at low cost, and we should continue to highlight this whenever possible.