

Chairman's Report to the Parish – Annual Parish Meeting 6th May 2014

2013 proved to be another wet year and many of our efforts related to negotiations with the Environment Agency, Bristol Water Authority, B&NES and the various members of the community either affected or involved in flood mitigation. The outcome of these discussions has resulted in the development of a Draft Emergency Resilience Plan which will be adopted by B&NES.

We have continued to promote the concept of Affordable Housing but regrettably to limited effect. We will continue to pursue this agenda.

Planning and development has been a regular item at all Parish Council meetings and my thanks must go to all concerned in delivering this process. However, the main issue of the redevelopment of the former surgery site has resulted in major community concern and differing views within the community. We do not feel that B&NES has served us well with this particular development and we will continue to seek to resolve the situation. The car park which is owned by at least two parties seems to be the possible key to unlocking any impasse. However, it does concern me as your Chairman that having spent many hours on this and other Planning issues that we seem to be continually ignored by B&NES Planners on important planning issues. Placemaking and the Joint Neighbourhood plan may well result in an improvement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues on the Council for their commitment and efforts during 2014, this includes the work of the Parish Clerk, Donna McClelland and the support I have received from Ward Cllr Liz Richardson and my Vice Chairman, Nick Scholefield.

I am pleased to recognise the co-option of Cllr Heather Montague and Cllr Simon Jerrome and wish them well in their future with the Parish Council.

Chew Magna is a very special place to live and my thanks go to all of those community groups and individuals and businesses involved in ensuring that it remains a viable and sustainable parish. There are many challenges ahead, not least the age profile of the community. It would be great if we could engage more with young people and schools within the area so as to ensure that we have a succession plan for the future.

Chew Magna achieved a silver award for Britain in Bloom and were awarded CPRE Village of the Year in our category and I would like to thank all involved for their effort.

Cllr Jon Wheatley
Chairman