

ICKLETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall.

Present: Parish Council Chair – Steven Heaney, **Parish Council Clerk** – Barbara Benn, **District and County Councillor** - Peter McDonald, 5 representatives from Anglian Water and **28 Electors**. Three additional electors arrived during the course of the meeting.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the electors to the meeting.

Apologies for absence:

Urban & Civic were unable to attend but they will be hosting a drop-in session on the 12th June 2024 at which the public will be able to ask questions. This will be advertised widely prior to the event.

2. **To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2023**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2023 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Report from the Chair of the Parish Council**

See Appendix A.

Q&As

A parishioner asked if the overgrown area at the end of Brid's Close could be tidied up. This had been raised at the Parish Council April meeting and the Clerk will be contacting a contractor to arrange for the area to be cleared.

A parishioner commented on the speed of traffic through the village. The Parish Council have made an application to the Local Highways initiative for funding towards an initiative to reduce speeding at the Abbey Street end of Butcher's Hill. In addition, the Parish Council have received a report which outlines other possible speed reduction measures for consideration. The Parish Council will share this report with the village.

A parishioner requested that, whilst considering the recommendations of the report, parking spaces should remain freely available outside the village shop if any alterations to the road layout are made.

A parishioner raised concerns about the speed of traffic on Coploe Road and suggested that the Speedwatch team could attend to check speeds.

4. **Report from District and County Councillor Peter McDonald**

See appendix B

Q&As

A parishioner posed a question concerning the standard of pothole repairs. Cllr McDonald stated that the Council are now refusing to pay for substandard repairs.

A Parishioner stated that a number of residents had incurred financial costs due to pothole damage to cars and that claims for the cost of these can lead to penalties by insurers. Cllr McDonald stated that claims are now handled by Northamptonshire and have increased by 30% on the prior year. Cllr McDonald advised that residents should contact him if a legitimate claim is refused.

5. **To receive reports requested from:**

Anglian Water presentation

See appendix C

Q&As

A parishioner asked what the current groundwater level is versus historic levels. Anglian Water did not have the figures for this but state it is higher than previously known. Other parishioners commented that they are not seeing evidence of high groundwater levels in local ditches. Anglian Water are setting up a multi-agency group to address this issue which affects other villages in the region. Parish Councillors have been invited to attend.

A parishioner asked how water which was not generated by households get into the sewerage system. Ground water flooding seeps into the system and can enter through cracks and holes.

A parishioner asked if it is possible significant repairs are required due to breaks. Anglian Water are waiting for the water level to subside in order to investigate further.

A parishioner asked when groundwater may start to subside. The levels usually subside in May. Anglian Water will ask for advice from the modelling team and report back.

A parishioner asked if there were technology available which could be used in water filled pipes. Anglian Water do not have this technology.

A parishioner enquired into the timeframe for repairs. Anglian water replied that this will depend on the type of fault which requires rectifying. Simple faults can take a couple of months to complete.

A parishioner asked how long tinkering would continue for. Anglian Water stated that this will continue until levels in the network subside. They hope to start investigations on 13th May as long as the water has subsided.

A parishioner asked if low lying areas need greater capacity is a new sewerage system required. Anglian Water stated that this was not necessary as the root cause is high ground water levels and the current system is adequate for the removal of sewage.

A parishioner asked if Anglian Water had engaged with the Genome Campus concerning the expansion works. Anglian Water have a formal planning team who engage with planners and developers in respect of larger projects. The modelling used does not take into account extra surface water but the team will comment where this is an issue.

A parishioner asked if Anglian Water engaged with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Water when the issues were first raised. Anglian Water have engaged with both recently and are setting up a multi-agency group to address the issue further.

A parishioner asked why cameras can't be used in full drains. Anglian Water said that such cameras are not available.

A parishioner stated that there is no evidence in ancient ponds, ditches or boreholes that there is increased ground water. If it transpires that a drain collapse is the issue, what is the solution. Anglian water replied that there was no evidence of a collapse from the data they are collecting but that water is inundating from somewhere.

A parishioner asked if the drainage had not been correctly installed at the new development in Great Chesterford could this have affected the water levels in Ickleton. Anglian Water will need to look into this further.

A parishioner asked if Anglian Water had the right to check developments. Anglian Water do have this right.

A parishioner asked if the Environment agency were monitoring at Norman Hall. Anglian Water have confirmed with them that they are monitoring.

A parishioner stated that once tankering has stopped in the evening the toilets in the Social Club start to back up and requested an additional tanker removal on a Saturday night. Anglian Water will request this from the tankering team.

Ickleton Lionhearted

An additional report from Rachel Radford Chair of the newly formed society - Ickleton Lionhearted.

A working group has been formed with the intention of making a bid for the Ickleton Lion. An application for registration of a Community Benefit Society has been made to the FCA. In addition, an application has also been made for a Start Up grant from the combined authority. The society will be a legal structure which can raise money, apply for grants and issue shares (this is not a financial investment but a share in the input and running of the pub) the shares will grant one vote per investment and is an opportunity to invest in the community.

The Parish Council were thanked for giving notice of the intention to bid which triggered the full moratorium period which will end on 24th September 2024.

The working group are seeking the views of all residents and will be distributing a community survey and much more information on the initiative.

Q&As

A parishioner asked roughly what percentage can be raised through grants. The response was that historically this varies considerably.

A parishioner asked if the shares were a one-off chance to invest. The response was that shares could also be issued at a later date, if required.

Cricket Club Report - Edmund Harcourt

See appendix D

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – Anita Gilchrist

This service is for residents over 60 and aims to listen to the needs of older people to support with both mental and physical health and will depend on individual needs. Visits range from 15 to 40 minutes and could include:

- Visit to Groups and Clubs
- Referrals
- Research
- Arranging for installation of mobility aids
- Information on local events

The first stage is a home visit and discussion of requirements.

The weekly cost is £10 for an individual or £12 for a couple.

A poster advertising the service can be found on the Parish Council website and village notice board. Contact details are also printed monthly in Icene.

Allotment Society – Hugh Molloy spoke a few words on behalf of society

The Allotments have been thriving since the decline during Covid. The orchard has settled well and an on-site clubhouse is planned.

Ickleton Social Club – Trevor Barwood

See appendix E

Ickleton Society – Rachel Radford

The Ickleton Society is a village amenity society rather than purely a history group. This year they have undertaken research into Ickleton Social Club and the cemetery as well as scanning documents for Church records. The photograph album record of Mrs Brown's grand tour was also preserved.

The Society look after the village archives which include the following information:

- Church records
- History of the Social Club building
- History of the cemetery and chapel
- Ickleton Chronicle
- Gertrude Chamberlain album
- Telephone box.

In the past year the Society have organised various activities, visits and tours including:

- Tour of historic Duxford
- All Saints Church and Jesus College
- Mill Road cemetery
- Old sun Inn
- B17 exhibition

- New Year's Day walk
- Easter egg hunt & picnic
- Village welcomes
- Village litter pick
- 2023 AGM – Hundred Parishes, Ken McDonald
- 2024 AGM talk – the Chamberlain family, Frances Payne

The Society have also commented on local planning and development considerations:

- Greater Cambridge Plan
- Uttlesford local Plan
- Stansted – nights flights consultation
- Aggregate facility
- Icknield Fields, Great Chesterford
- Back Lane proposed new house

As well as supporting the Parish Council's work on establishing a right of way through the pub car park and the community group working towards purchasing the village pub.

Neighbourhood Watch – Read by Steven Heaney

See appendix F

Speedwatch Report – Terry Sadler

See appendix G

Village Hall Management Committee report – Hugh Molloy

See appendix H

Open Forum

A parishioner asked for more information concerning the proposed cemetery extension. The Parish Council intend to consult residents about what they would like to see within the extension.

A parishioner suggested that it would be useful for the layout to include paths between the rows.

Signed: S Heaney

Dated: 6th May 2025

Appendix A- Report of the Chair of the Parish Council May 2024

Finance

The budget and precept were agreed at the December 2024 meeting of the Parish Council. For the 2024-2025 financial year, the Parish has requested an increase in the precept to £35,000. We have attempted to keep the precept as low as possible whilst allowing for provision to be made for future projects for the benefit of the community.

The full audited accounts for the year 2022-23 are available on the website (these can also be requested from the Clerk). Copies of the **draft** financial statements for 2023-2024 will be available from 20th May 2024 on the Parish Council website or by request to the Clerk.

Council

The Council had several changes of personnel over the last 12 months. Councillors Ed Harcourt and William Wombwell stepped down and **Emily Gittins and John Gidley were co-opted** to fill the vacancies. Both Emily and John bring significant experience and additional perspectives to the Council which are very welcome.

A Parish Council, and in particular the Chair, relies very heavily on the capabilities, good judgement and diligence of our Clerk. After four years serving in that role **we said goodbye to Leanne Smith in August** of 2023, who left to take up a full-time position at the Anglian Ruskin Law Clinic.

We were very fortunate to **welcome Barbara Benn as our new Clerk**. Barbara had previously worked as the business manager at the Great Oak Multi Academy Trust (Great Chesterford and Debden Primary Schools) and came with a wealth of experience and skills.

Also, after 4 years, **Cllr Sian Wombwell stepped down as the Chairman**. Thankyou Sian for your efforts and supervision of the Council. Cllr Steve Heaney, was elected to take up the Chair role.

Community

We have **many excellent community groups that are an intrinsic part of our village environment and life**. Thanks to Age UK Community Warden, the Allotment Association, Froglets, Ickleton Cricket Club, Ickleton Social Club, Ickleton Society, Ickleton United Charity, Neighbourhood Watch, Speedwatch, and the Village Hall Management Committee. All of these are run by volunteers and their time and efforts deserve to be recognised and celebrated. There are two specific areas of our community where the Parish Council has been directly involved - which is the expansion of the cemetery and the future of the Ickleton Lion pub.

Managing the cemetery and burials is a direct responsibility of the Parish Council. **Our cemetery is projected to reach capacity in the next couple of years** and it was clear that action needed to be taken to address this. We are very fortunate therefore that **the Parish Council were offered the option to purchase the field adjacent by the owner**. The offer has been accepted and we are now building a plan - which will include funding from grants and drawdown of PC reserves - to allow this to go forwards. Not only will this allow burials to continue at the cemetery for many years to come, but the land secured is sufficient to create a public space for all the community to use. We intend to consult on this in the coming months.

Regarding the pub, many of you will be aware that **Greene King have recently put the Ickleton Lion on the market** after a long period when it was not operating and efforts to find a new tenant were unsuccessful. Because the Parish Council had previously listed the pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), Greene King were required to consult with the community around the sale. In response, **the Parish Council enacted the Community Right to Bid**, providing a moratorium of 6 months to raise the finance to purchase the pub on behalf of the community.

A newly formed group of villagers - working under the title of the Lionhearted - are working with advice and funding from the Plunkett Foundation to take this forward. **A Community Benefit Society (CBS) will be formed in the next few weeks with officers having been nominated and elected**. This will provide the legal structure for the pub to be purchased as an asset for the benefit of the community.

Environment

District planning

With respect to planning and development, a good deal of our time and consideration has been given to the Genome Campus expansion and, more recently, the aggregate processing at the Boro Farm site.

With the work on the **Genome Campus expansion** well underway we have been regularly engaged with the Welcome Trust development partner, Urban & Civic, focusing on the impacts of the construction work on the immediate environment, particular when it comes to changes in traffic patterns.

The other major focus has been on challenging the continued operation of the **aggregate processing at the Boro Farm site** operated by Norwood Construction. Operation started on the site in 2021 and in February 2022 the Essex County Council enforcement officer was notified that the site was operating without permission. From that point there has been an ongoing series of revised applications and appeals from Norwood Construction which means that the site continues to operate. The Parish Council remains determined to help see this operation closed down, however long it takes.

Local planning

We continue to review and respond to all applications for buildings and trees work within the parish although it has been observed that the **objections raised by the Parish Council have on occasion been overridden by the planning team at SCDC**. While the SCDC has advertised its willingness to work closely with Parish Councils after concerns raised from multiple sources we are waiting to see how this translates in practice.

Both relating to district developments as well as local planning **we continue to rely very heavily on the expertise and diligence of Cllr Terry Sadler** in helping the Council with responses to planning applications and wider consultations.

Natural environment

We continue to look to reduce the amount of management of the natural environment while ensuring that our public spaces are still usable and safe. Our contractors, **Charles Frank and Dominic Pallet, continue to provide excellent service cutting verges and the recreation ground** as well as many other jobs around the village.

We have spent some time considering **our approach to managing trees on grounds owned by the Council** prompted by the loss of a large bough on the chestnut tree on the village green. Following this, work was done to reduce the crown of this specific tree, and we have subsequently surveyed trees in the cemetery which have not been managed for many years.

Water and Sewerage

Water and sewerage does not often make it onto the annual report but this year has been exceptional. From the early part of the year a number of villagers noted problems with slow drainage, and problems built to the point where, **starting in mid February, we had major issue with foul water overflow** in several locations including into residential gardens at the bottom of Coploe Road, on the meadow between Abbey Farm and the top of Abbey Street, and on Brookhampton Street.

After multiple complaints from individual residents and then the Parish Council, Anglian Water started in mid-March pumping out and removing foul water directly from the sewers. This has kept the problem in check at the Coploe Road end of the village, but levels remain stubbornly high.

There is general consensus that our issues are caused by **large volumes of ground water getting into the sewers** (a situation apparently seen in a number of locations in the region) and the pumping station on Mill Lane being unable to cope with the volumes of inflow.

Through March and April, **Anglian Water were onsite on a number of occasions to meet with residents and the PC** and to investigate but, to date, have been unable to locate the source or offer any prospect of a long-term solutions. Tankering continues with no immediate end in sight.

Policing and Safety

Thankfully, we continue to **see low levels of crime in and around our village**.

Reporting from www.police.uk shows 17 reported crimes over a 12 month period to March 2024 classified as burglary, violence and sexual offences, anti-social behaviour, and vehicle crime in order of frequency.

While we still technically have a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) assigned to Ickleton, the individual is one of a team of five officers (termed the South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team) who cover over 100 villages in our area.

However, our assigned contact remains happy to discuss any concerns and contact details can be provided by the Clerk if required.

Transport and Streets

The **SpeedWatch team continues to play an important part in slowing down traffic through the village**, particularly on the approach from Great Chesterford and down Abbey Street, and their work has resulted in official letters being sent by the Police to the owners of speeding vehicles.

Also, two Parish Councillors spent several hours on the ground in the village with a **senior transport and urban design consultant introduced by Urban & Civic** to look at what opportunities there were to make “low-key improvements to the public realm to enhance the character and rebalance pedestrian and vehicle needs”. The subsequent report that was delivered provided many useful insights to how we could improve the street environment and at the same time address issues around traffic flow and speeds.

We will look to **incorporate these ideas into any future applications for Local Highway Improvement funding** made to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). To conclude, it's important to recognise that the Parish Council is just one of the many bodies and individuals that collectively contribute to the life of our village. Some have been mentioned already but also thanks to all that publish and distribute the Icene, look after Coploe Pit, participate in the annual litter pick and many other activities that make our village what it is.

Appendix B – Report from District and County Councillor Peter McDonald 2024

I have represented Duxford Division since February 2020 which includes Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford, Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford.

In December '23 I reported that we were facing a £23m gap in County Council funding for 2024/25 as a result of inflation and other factors. This has now been closed to c.£2m.

The revised proposals focus on sustaining social services, continuing to provide free school meal vouchers for eligible children during holidays, progressing the council's commitment to pay the real living wage to people providing adult social care, and prioritising highways and cycleways maintenance across the county. However, even with a proposed council tax rise of 4.99% – 2% of which will be dedicated to adult social care services – the combination of demand for services, inflation and the ending of some government grants will still leave a £2m gap in the 2024/5 budget.

Included in the proposals for the coming year are for the council to:

- Invest £57 million to sustain children's and adult social care services.
- Further the Council's commitment to the Real Living Wage, which has increased to £12ph outside London, to take account of the Government uplift of the legally enforceable Living Wage, being paid by adult care providers.
- Prioritise £3m to continue to provide holiday food vouchers for all children eligible for free school meals, despite the government support being likely to end in the next financial year.
- Invest £2.2m to deliver other anti-poverty initiatives – such as support to make sure that vulnerable people are claiming all the welfare benefits that they are entitled to.
- Put £1.3m into delivering more accessible libraries to support vulnerable communities.
- Prioritise investment of £23m into making highways, footpaths, and cycleways safer – on top of a recently announced government allocation of £2.3m. This will be to deliver improvements which both repair and prevent potholes, deliver improved drainage schemes, and reinstate cycleway maintenance and weed clearance.
- Put additional funding into schemes for people experiencing mental health issues to prevent them reaching crisis, particularly focussing on younger people.

The proposals include an increase of council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted by Government before a public referendum is needed – with a total of 2% of this increase dedicated to adult social care services across the county, and £17.6m of identified additional savings – from areas such as:

- moving to LED streetlights which are set to deliver £1m in energy savings each year.
- £1.5m across the next three years from rationalising the council's office accommodation.
- more than £2m from reviewing the highest cost children's placement costs, and home to school transport routes – to bring children closer to home and reduce travel time.
- £0.5m from driving down the amount of bad debt.
- reviews of income raised by permits and parking charges are also proposed to raise just under £1m.

My responsibilities are serving on:

- Highways Committee,
- Strategy & Resources Committee (the budget setting Committee),
- County Farms Group as a member

Currently we are working on 20 mph implementation, and Civil Parking Enforcement.

Cllr Peter McDonald

April 2024

Appendix C – presentation by Anglian Water

Anglian Water: Gavin Elliott, Water Recycling Network Manager; Linda Elliott, Stakeholder Engagement Programme Lead; Emily Linsdell Regional Engagement Executive; Chris Bower Maintenance Support Technician; Colin Rogers Senior Network Technician.

Drainage issues in Ickleton

Following a very wet winter which saw 10 named storms since October, record rainfall and high groundwater levels, we have seen flooding incidents across the region.

- The issues experienced in Ickleton, like many other areas, are being caused by groundwater overwhelming the sewer network.
- There isn't a specific issue with the system. It is operating to its full capacity to try and deal with the excess water that has inundated it.

- This means that while our network is operating the best it can, there is much less room for the wastewater that the network is designed for and regulated to carry.
- Unfortunately, as our assets are operating as they should be, there is little impact we can make until the water levels subside. • Throughout the flooding, our pumping stations have been performing as they should. Following a very wet winter which saw 10 named storms since October, record rainfall and high groundwater levels, we have seen flooding incidents across the region.
- We're continually checking our pipes and pumps to make sure our network is operating to the best of its ability, as well as removing blockages to keep drains clear.
- In some areas, like Ickleton, we have introduced tankering to prevent pollution from our assets as a result of ingress and infiltration from rain and surface water into the sewer network.

But tankering is not the ultimate solution: - As water levels are so high, there is only so much that tankering can achieve and our resources to do this are not limitless. - It is a short-term solution to a complicated problem which includes the whole drainage network of groundwater, rivers and drains and therefore we need a collaborative, multi-agency approach.

- Recognising the need for such an approach, we have scheduled multi-agency meetings across our region to tackle the root cause to develop a plan for surface water and groundwater management, and reduce future drainage issues.
- The first multi-agency meeting which includes Ickleton (and other South Cambridgeshire villages with similar issues) has been scheduled for 24th May. We have invited the Parish Council. Our response: protecting the environment and supporting customers But tankering is not the ultimate solution: - As water levels are so high, there is only so much that tankering can achieve and our resources to do this are not limitless. - It is a short-term solution to a complicated problem which includes the whole drainage network of groundwater, rivers and drains and therefore we need a collaborative, multi-agency approach.
- Work with all the agencies responsible for water management, flood risk and welfare within Ickleton starting at the first meeting on 24th May.
- Tankering will continue in the village until there is no longer a risk of pollution from our assets and flows within the network drop. The deployment of tankers is, however, constantly assessed on a prioritisation basis. As a result, tankers could temporarily be deployed elsewhere in an emergency.
- Once the flows drop in the network, we will carry out investigations including spot checks and CCTV for infiltration and groundwater.
- Looking to schedule investigations from 13th May and will report back our findings to the Parish Council. Next steps for Ickleton Continue to contact us for issues with sewer flooding or flooding from our manholes.

Contact the Environment Agency for issues with river flooding. Contact the County Council for flood risk, and the Highways department for surface water assets. Contact the District Council about any welfare issues.



Ickleton Cricket Club Parish Council Report 2024

The cricket club has gone through some drastic personnel changes in the last year, which has resulted in the appointment of a new secretary, new club captain, the creation of a new role (senior teams manager) as well as a new groundwork team. The ground work team contains three non-playing, villagers who are happily giving a few hours a week to help get the grounds in a playable condition. With such sizeable changes for a small club, there were plenty of concerns as to whether the club would cope, but at present, we are delighted to say that we are ahead of the curve. We have increased our diversity, and now have two women who attend committee meetings. I understand this to be better than the norm when compared to other cricket clubs.

The club has just submitted a large (40-50K) funding bid to Awards for All for the construction of the two-lane all-weather net and a new roller. The bid has been shaped around creating a more environmentally aware future for the club. For example, the roller that the club would like to purchase is an electric one, rather than diesel. As such, the club would be supportive of any further exploration by the parish council of installing a charging point in the village hall car park. In addition, should the bid be successful, we will be commissioning a consultant to explore how we can reduce chemical use and offset the necessary monoculture that a cricket pitch requires. Having in mind our recent communication with the PC over weed spraying, we would be happy to share any findings with you.

We have just secured the services of a level 4 coach (the highest you can get) who will oversee the development of a new women's only team. We hope to have this up and running in a couple of months.

On the field, 2023 saw two of the four teams retain their positions in their particular leagues, with the other two advancing up a division.

The VP's Day (Vice President's Day) which is a celebration for all those who contribute to the club, will be held on the 6th July. We would be delighted to see representatives from the Parish Council there. We will get back to you with more details in due course.

Edmund Harcourt
Chairman
Ickleton Cricket Club

Appendix E – Report from Ickleton Social Club

Ickleton Social Club

History in brief

24th of May 1912, Saffron Walden Weekly News

Reported that a new conservative hall had opened in Ickleton, Given by Mr and Mrs George Bowen, a large club room to the rear, for dances to be held.

It was affectionately known as, The Con Club in the early 80s.

2024 – The Social Club

The Club is a members club, staffed entirely by hard working volunteers, run on a Not for profit basis, and a wonderful village asset to be enjoyed by all.

In 2022, the committee reached out looking for volunteers to help man the club. Myself and Tim Pavelin initially stepped up, full of enthusiasm and bright ideas, much to the bemusement in some cases, of the committee who have given freely many years, most in excess of 30 years.

With a lot of effort, the club membership has since quadrupled. The many other achievements for our members and non-members (subject to a guest fee of £1) to enjoy are,

Regular music and general knowledge quiz nights, usually sold out.

Increased opening hours, to keep pace with membership needs.

Monthly music is offered by the Ickle-gigs team

Ickleton Supper Club, Bi-monthly suppers - Always a sell out!

The Ickleton Jazz Collective - Sunday Lunchtime Jazz, periodically

Easter Egg Bingo - for families

Christmas Carol Sing Song

Christmas Day Drinks

New Year's Eve Party

Future Hopes - To keep raising funds for maintenance of the building and its furnishings, to ensure its safe passage onwards for future generations of Ickletonians. We are most grateful to all of our members for the loyalty and affection for this institution. A number of volunteers recently redecorated the Hall, making a huge difference to building, and increasing the appeal to more villagers. As I mentioned previously, this IS a wonderful village asset, please cherish it, we would ALL be much the poorer if it were ever to be lost,

Thank you for listening.

Appendix F – Neighbourhood Watch Report May 2024

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safer places to live and where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. Glynis Hammond is the co-ordinator for Ickleton, 07918 647504 (mobile) 01799 530127 (home), glynis.hammond @googlemail.com

Whilst, we know that crime in Ickleton and the surrounding area is low, it is important for all of us to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour.

Crime

Top reported crimes within the Cambridgeshire police area during 2023/24 include violence and sexual offences, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, vehicle crime, burglary and theft from sheds and garages.

Nationally Cybercrime now feels like more of a threat than physical crime, for an increasing number of households across England and Wales, according to research carried out in conjunction with Avast a cyber security leader in the

UK. Phishing and Online Fraud are continuing to increase, it accounts for more than half of the UK's reported crime. Try to report all phishing – scam emails can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk calls to home phone or mobiles can be reported to Action Fraud, there is a link on the Police website to the Action Fraud website or you can report it by telephone on **0300 123 2040**.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) recovered just under one million pounds worth of suspected stolen property last year. The team, which deals with agricultural, environmental, heritage, hunting, and wildlife crime, also seized 163 vehicles used in crime, attended more than 1,700 incidents and prosecuted 83 suspects, between April last year and March 2024.

Across the county, business burglaries with an agricultural and heritage element fell by 33%. Coursing, lamping, and poaching continues to be low across the county. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have launched a dedicated online page to help members of the public report agricultural, environmental, heritage, hunting and wildlife crime. The dedicated online reporting pages for rural and wildlife crime can be found on the force website www.cambs.police.uk

Glynis Hammond

Appendix G – Speedwatch Report May 2024

Ickleton Speedwatch Group, so the police tell us, is one of the two most active groups in the County. The frontrunners are us and Wisbech apparently.

To give you an idea of the scale of our activities, in 2023 we held 122 sessions, counted 16,098 passing vehicles, of which 1,697 were reported to the police for speeding.

Speedwatch is meant to educate rather than punish, and to act as a reminder that a speed limit applies that all too many drivers choose to ignore.

Does Speedwatch work? It certainly does when a kerbside session is in progress, as may be seen by the frantic braking that occurs as drivers see the gathering of hi-vis vests in the distance. Unfortunately, they have usually been picked up by the monitor before managing to slow down.

In 2022 and 2023 the percentage of vehicles reported for speeding was constant at 10.5%.

When we started off, the % speeding was very much higher.

So far this year the % speeding is 7.3%. Is Speedwatch working? Perhaps 20 mph limits gradually being rolled out in other communities are having an impact on driver behaviour. We can but hope.

What an active Speedwatch group does indicate is that a community has persistent problems with speeding traffic, and that some residents are doing something about it. This is helpful when your Parish Council is bidding for funding for minor highways improvements. When the panel examining bids asks what is your village doing about this problem and you answer ...er, nothing, it doesn't go down well.

New volunteers to the group would be very welcome. We would like to be able to hold more sessions and have more impact. If you can only manage an hour a month, that's fine. Contact details are in Icene.

I may be the official Speedwatch coordinator for Ickleton as far as the police are concerned, but the person who voluntarily takes on the bulk of organising the group's operations – including the truly onerous task of devising the rota of kerbside sessions – is Penny Fletcher. All of us that take part are tremendously grateful for what she does. Thank you, Penny.

Terry Sadler

Appendix H – Village Hall Committee Report May 2024

A number of Trustees stepped down during the past year, including Acting-Chair Madelaine Smith, and Treasurer, Roy Smith. We thank each of them for their outstanding service. Katie Ward is our new Treasurer, and Louise Stokley & Glynis Hammond are new Trustees. I was co-opted as Chair in January.

2023/24 has been the first full year of operation for the Solar Panels on the Village Hall roof. They are producing a very significant amount of energy - stored in two batteries onsite. Due to the installation, nearly **2 tons** of CO2 emissions have been avoided to date. Excess energy is exported to the Grid. For technical reasons, we do not 'currently' (*excuse the pun...*) get any financial benefit from exporting power, but this will be resolved in September.

The Hall's cleaning, caretaking and bookings system have been reviewed and revised. These changes are designed to benefit all users, and to reduce the operational burden on Trustees.

We receive occasional complaints from users - saying that the premises were 'not as they would have expected' in terms of tidiness or cleanliness. May I take this opportunity to remind all users that it is a condition of use that the premises are left clean and tidy after every hiring. A thorough cleaning is undertaken every week by our recently appointed cleaner, Aisha Graves, but we cannot possibly clean the site after every booking.

Plans for the coming year include restoration of the clock overlooking the recreation ground, and the installation of a system for the building's heating to be controlled remotely, thereby further increasing energy efficiency.

Use of the facilities has returned to pre-Covid levels: A healthy mixture of weekly activities, and occasional bookings. The Village Hall is a fabulous resource serving not only Ickleton, but the wider local community too.

A huge 'Thank you' to all of the Trustees, and others, who give of their time, energy and expertise to ensure that Ickleton Village Hall is kept in excellent condition, at the heart of our community.

Hugh Molloy

Chair, IVH Trustees