

Chairman's Annual Report 2019

Welcome to the 124th Annual Parish Meeting of Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council.

I would like to thank Councillor Jocelyn Street for her support as Vice Chair during the year as well as my fellow Parish Councillors for their contribution to the life of the Parish over the last year. I would also like to thank Rev Kerry Tankard for his services as Parish Chaplin during the year, sadly Rev Derrick Leach our former Parish Chaplin passed away in August 2018.

I would also like to thank the employees of the Parish Council for their hard work and commitment during another busy year.

Cllr Guy Martin passed away in May 2018 – he had served on the Parish Council for 15 years – 2 of which he was Chairman.

Guy's family presented the town hall with a magnificent lectern in his memory.

Guy's death caused a by-election and Nigel Gourlay was elected in July 2018. The Council also co-opted Charles Lawley, David King and Jason Adshead to fill vacant seats.

I am pleased to report that there has been no increase the Parish Rate. The Council have increased the Parish Precept by 2% for the coming year but the number of new houses in the Parish has offset any increase in the Parish Rate.

The Amenities Committee and council staff worked tremendously hard on an Heritage Lottery Bid for the Memorial Park but due to significant reductions in lottery grants our bid was unfortunately unsuccessful but the Parish received a bequest for the Memorial Park and are creating flower beds at each of the entrances and gained a grant from DCC to erect a new flagpole.

A new noticeboard has been erected at Needham Recreation Ground and Combs village recreation ground has a new external table tennis table.

The Parish were also successful in attracting exhilarating BMX demonstrations by 'Extreme Wheels' in the memorial park and at the Chapel High School.

The Town Hall facilities have been enhanced by extensive lift repairs and a new carpet in the installed in the Annexe.

A programme of refurbishment at 47/49 Market Street with the object of splitting the flat from the shop premises to make two self-contained units.

The Council have continued to work with High Peak Borough Council to bring forward the Economic Regeneration Project in Chapel East Ward as outlined in the Economic Regeneration Masterplan. With a significant number of new houses now in the Parish it is important that there are skilled jobs available locally to match the increasing workforce.

The Footpaths Working Group have been looking at the Warmbrook Trail and Peak Forest Tramway as outlined in the Community Plan. They have liaised closely with the Greenways Officer at Derbyshire County Council and have submitted their report to the Council.

There was another outstanding display of lights in the town at Christmas and I would like to thank Chapel Business Association, Rev Kerry Tankard and Rev Colin Pearson, Girls and Boys Brigades, Chapel Town Band and the Carnival Queen who switched the Christmas lights on.

The Parish Council continue to work for the benefit of the local community and provide quality local services and are looking forward to projects coming to fruition in the coming year.