



# WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

## Chairwoman's report

We continue with our voluntary work as parish councillors to make Wakes Colne a better community in which to live and work. There will always be those who enjoy complaining rather than making a contribution, but sometimes we are even appreciated. You can see the range of our responsibilities and activities in the minutes published on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne/> and we are looking for another councillor to join us.

An important but frustrating aspect of our concerns relates to safety and speeding on our roads:

- the Clerk and I undertook another survey of the highways repairs still needed, which total around 20 instances of potholes, collapsed banks and inadequate signage;
- we held a well-attended public meeting about road safety, especially in Station Rd and at the crossroads with the A1124; some useful old and new suggestions were made; it was agreed to prioritise a speed reduction 40-30-20 application, starting from around the railway bridge on Bures Rd, to Spring Gardens Rd, then Station Rd. the County Councillor is seeking to take this forward with Essex County Council; we have to remain hopeful that even after 25 years of campaigning and requests some improvements will be made before there is a fatality;
- an application has been made to install a vehicle activated system on the A1124 near the Village Hall, and permission is awaited.

Although we have some volunteers to help erect the flood barriers at the Post Office, we are looking for more to call upon when needed. Training will be given. It takes about 30 mins.

Some good news: we received permission to locate four large planters, two outside each bus shelter, on either side of the A1124. These are to be funded from the Community Facilities aspect of S106 money which is released by Colchester Borough Council when a unilateral undertaking has been made in respect of an agreed new planning development. The planters are in honour of Her Majesty's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and will be planted out in appropriate colours in mid-May.

At our April meeting we thanked Cllr. Peter Chillingworth for his innumerable services to Wakes Colne over countless years, first as a Parish Councillor and its Chairman, and for the last 20 years as a District Councillor and our Ward Councillor. A presentation was made to mark his retirement at the end of April. We hope it will be long, healthy and relaxing, including more painting and gardening.

Even so, Peter Chillingworth has kindly agreed to reopen The Plant and Seed Swap in the bus shelter near the PO on Saturday 21st May at 11am. Please bring your surplus indoor and outdoor plants and any seeds you don't need, though there is still time to sow them! Volunteers are needed to water the donated plants and the Jubilee planters, using water from the onsite water butt. If there are enough volunteers we can have a rota.

In May the Footpath Working Group will also be starting some footpath maintenance to keep the paths in good order for those who enjoy walking in the lovely countryside around us. We should welcome others to join us once a month out in the fresh air.

So, if you care about Wakes Colne and where you live, please give just a little of your time to help us to help the community. You may find you even enjoy it! Please contact the Parish Clerk ([parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)) if you can help.

Monica J. Taylor (Dr., Chairwoman WCPC)