



Chair's December Newsletter

A thank you to all our parishioners who joined the meeting at St Richard's Church on Monday December 4th. The theme was the Parish Priority Statement which was delivered to the South Downs National Park in October and will provide an evidence base to both inform the Park's Local Plan and the Parish Council's 5 year Business Plan and the projects it undertakes in the future.

Your views, imaginative ideas and suggestions helped to form the written submission as well as giving the Parish Council food for thought about what is liked and needed by the parish as well as what might be considered undesirable.

Mike Imms and Ann Watts from The Working Party gave a very comprehensive presentation on the content of the Statement...lots to consider for Slindon's future development. This was followed by Jan Rees (Chair), Sarah Linfield (Clerk) and Katie Vanneck-Smith (Councillor) in conversation about both the opportunities and limitations for the Parish Council, what it can actually do with money being a major consideration. The discussions covered the parish relationship with the National Trust, how the precept works and, with little money from any new building in the village, the importance of the precept coupled with grants and community fund-raising to finance projects.

Tracey Wright, a councillor on the Working Party, had summarised the key points of various issues (on...wow!...as many as seven spread sheets) and Sarah provided a document which attempted to address many of these. This is an initial form and we hope to receive some feedback before we post the revised form through your letter box in the New Year.

Once again, our thanks to Ann Watts, Tracey Wright, Peter Fenton, Mike Imms and Norman Dingemans for their hard work on the Statement and their super organisation of the whole evening.

We'd welcome any enquiries about joining the Parish Council and are happy to chat to anyone who thinks they might have some time to give to the management of our village. The December 4th meeting has already generated some interest, which is encouraging. Our thanks also to a few parishioners who turn up regularly up to our meetings, often simply to support us. Please drop in occasionally for the public session to listen or make comments, with no pressure to stay for the whole meeting!

Lastly, our good wishes to everyone for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jan Rees, Chair, for Slindon Parish Council