

Chairman's Report 2025/26

Parish Council: I was pleased to welcome a new Parish Councillor during 2025/26. Cllr Ron Brett a resident of Chapmore End was co-opted onto the Parish Council in early 2026.

Tonwell Playing Field: Following the successful installation of the new play area, the Parish Council has also upgraded a section of fencing to make the area more secure. Also, to support the continued use of the play area, quarterly operational inspections are undertaken, and any concerns highlighted. These support the annual playground inspection that is conducted each summer.

Finances: We have remained in budget during the year. But due to inflation and to ensuring that there are sufficient funds to conduct the required maintenance for the play area, and to cover any replacement costs the Parish Council took the difficult decision to implement a small increase in the precept.

Health and Safety: Both defibrillators within the Parish are registered on the national Circuit website which provides quarterly reminders for checks to be undertaken. The annual playground inspection was carried out, with some recommendations have been taken forward by the Parish Council. The Parish Council continue to raise concerns around road safety with East Hertfordshire Council following recent accidents within the Parish. This has included making representation for the SLOW road markings to be refreshed on the B158. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this on behalf of its residents.

Contractors: Our contractors for grass and hedge maintenance have remained the same and continue to carry out an excellent job across the Parish.

School: The school is a satellite location for Amwell View School, with the number of pupils having increased for the school year 2025/26. The pupils are also making use of Tonwell Field and the added outdoor space that provides. It is good to see that the building being used in this way.

Fly-tipping: During the year, additional signage has been put up along the BOAT at Chapmore End to discourage fly-tipping. These were installed following intervention from Local Councillor Aubrey Holt. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Litter Bins: During the year East Hertfordshire Council conducted a review of litter bins, which resulted in the litter bin in Chapmore End being removed. Following intervention by the Parish Council, who owned the bin, it was reinstated.

Planning: We have seen several planning applications during the year. The Councillors have discussed and dealt with these in a professional manner.

Community: As in previous years the Parish Council were pleased to purchase two Christmas Trees for Tonwell. One was donated to the school, and the other was erected on the green in Tonwell and was decorated with lights.

I would like to thank Neil, Matt, Jayne, Ron and Victoria for their continued support. I would also like to thank Ken Crofton and Aubrey Holt for their continued advice and support.

Cllr Tony Ellis