

## NRA Chairmans Report for AGM January 2015

Firstly we must thank Tristan and Rebecca for the continued use of the Rising Sun during last year for our meetings, which on a number of occasions have been very well attended, giving us all the opportunity to meet, discuss our concerns and agree ways forward. Although I am concerned that we may have outgrown the pub and I know that after our October meeting Tristan did have some adverse comments from customers, so we may need to think about venues for this year. Indeed we are I think very fortunate that Jilly Marcusson has very kindly offered the use of her excellent barn for our AGM this evening.

At the beginning of the year we kept a close eye out for the final version of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment report issued by HDC. This report identifies land within each Parish that may be suitable for future development. The report was issued in March and 9 sites were listed for Pulborough Parish, 4 sites were considered developable, Stane Street, Oddstones, Stane Street Nursery and Church Place. Whilst 5 were considered not currently developable which included land at Carpe Diem. Mr. Osborne subsequently assured the NRA that he has no desire to have large scale development on Carpe Diem land.

Unfortunately we lost our Secretary in April as Diane Smith resigned her post but we should repeat our thanks for her hard work over the past few years. We have been unable to attract a replacement but hopefully that can be addressed this evening as well as possibly adding a Social member to the committee.

Our Neighbourhood Watch scheme is now very well established and Andrew Moffat will speak more on that shortly. Needless to say Andrew's efforts as Co-ordinator are very much appreciated.

Vehicles speeding within the 20 MPH zone has continued to trouble us during 2014 and we have attempted a number of initiatives, recording and reporting vehicles when they are observed and applying to join the Community Speed Watch programme, unfortunately after assessment by the police it was decided that 20 MPH zones are not covered by this scheme and also that in any case there was nowhere safe enough to stand with the speed detection equipment.

I think we have had some success with reducing oversized HGV coming through the village, perhaps as a result of new signage, although I am sure that we did have a single decker bus come past the pub one evening or did I have one too many ....I'm not sure.

During the summer NRA members undertook some minor remedial works to keep up the appearance of our phone box.

A number of issues were raised by the Nutbourne Conservation and History Group regarding our local footpaths and in particular barbed wire being used alongside them. Fortunately a number of landowners have rectified this and Frank Riddle deserves our thanks for getting the owners' consent and then removing the very ugly and in some places dangerously high barbed wire fencing that ran up the footpath adjacent to the mill pond. Frank will update us in a minute or two on his more recent tour of local footpaths.

We did, I think, get some resolution regarding the ownership and naming of the track to the common. After several years of dispute a number of issues were resolved:-

- Ray Qusted agreed that PPC would not get involved in any way regarding ownership of the track.
- At our July meeting Mr. Osbourne stated categorically that he neither owned or indeed wished to own the track, good news indeed.
- PPC did reiterate their support for HDC's letter sent in April requesting that Mr. Osbourne's 'Carpe Diem Way' sign be removed.
- Frontagers to the track erected their own sign, approved by HDC, identifying the track as an extension of Nutbourne Road to remove any existence of doubt.

The saga of ongoing tree maintenance work and the Heather Heathland project at Nutbourne Common continued throughout last year, with many residents expressing concern at the perceived loss of this woodland area to the Heather Heathland project.

Despite much effort expended by this committee and others we have been unable to persuade PPC that we should have a greater say in how the common is managed on our behalf. However at the most recent meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee, Ray Qusted repeated his assertion that Bracken Spraying should be restricted to the clearing only. He also offered the view that perhaps PPC had been a little over zealous when it came to ongoing tree maintenance. So perhaps that is some progress.

Last year we were encouraged by Ray to get involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Pulborough Parish. Nutbourne was represented on two of the forum groups that were established to help determine the areas of concern and formation of questions for the forthcoming survey questionnaire. PPC was pleased with the overall response rate of 37% from parish residents and set about analysing the data. To this end a number of Nutbourne residents assisted with data entry although credit must go to Mike Sherwood in particular who processed 5 times as many questionnaires as some people, me actually !! PPC produced a Stage 1 Report from this data for their Planning Workshop held in December which identified the key issues highlighted from the data and attempted to identify possible ways forward.

In something of a departure from my usual report I feel that the NRA should offer our sincere condolences to the families of Jim Noble, Lorraine Osbourne and Mick Smithers all residents of Nutbourne who sadly passed away last year.

Well that is it for me, in some ways 2014 was a controversial and confrontational year, let's hope we can enjoy a more constructive and also more sociable year in 2015, thank you.