

Great Gransden Parish Council  
**Chairman's Report – to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025**

It has been a quiet year in the Parish and life has quietly ticked with little change...

All of the village societies and groups continue and the success of the Croquet club is of particular note, having bought a new lease of life to the existing facilities at the Bowling Club which will also host a new solar panel array to help the Reading Rooms green credentials and operational costs.

We still have the perennial issues related to roads and traffic, mostly potholes both new and reoccurring and of course speed. Weekends currently see an increase in traffic due to A428 closures which is likely to be long term until the new road is completed but at least an increase in traffic has the effect of lowering average speeds through the village.

There is the continuing success of the Reading Rooms especially the pup-up Pub, Café and live music events. As ever it remains an invaluable asset to the village and recognition must be given to all those involved give up their time help with these events and those that support them.

The long running saga which is the Crown and Cushion rolls on but with a recent refusal of permission to convert to a residential property and the forthcoming community right to buy the chances of it becoming open again one day are heading in the right direction.

Gransden Woods have remained open and this is greatly appreciated by the local residents as it is a significant contributor not only to local wildlife but also to community wellbeing. The woods are particularly beautiful right now with one of the best wildflower displays seen in recent years.

HDC are still considering four sites for development in the village and due to their need to increase housing delivery it is highly likely at least one of these sites will be approved. The village needs development to continue to be sustainable and our role has to be to ensure that appropriate design and village infrastructure is considered.

We still have challenges ahead with perhaps the Sportsfield providing some of the most significant. Adequate facilities for the Football Club and Nursery are still an issue, the pavilion requires improvements and the car park is as bad as ever. However, we have secured half the funding required to resurface the car park so now we need to find the rest!

But we have the summer to look forward to and we should have no excuses for not enjoying everything our wonderful village has to offer.

As ever I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Clerk and RFO for their input, efforts and commitment over the last 12 months. I would like to say a special thank you to Sharon our Clerk for keeping us as organised as is possible and Councillor Pett Vice Chair without whom the role as Chair would be impossible.

To all those volunteers who help keep grass cut, litter picked, bins emptied, events organised and defibrillators checked!

Quite simply our volunteers are our biggest community asset.

That concludes the Chairman's report.

Thank You