

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ON 13TH JUNE 2006

Dear Members

We have, during the course of the last 12 months, had a very busy year and a year, I hope, of some achievement.

First I was still very involved with chairing the committee for bringing broadband to Filleigh, West Buckland and East Buckland and after 3 years of fighting for the right for our parishioners to have broadband we finally received it on 21st February 2006. It has been a great success and many businesses in our area are benefiting through the speed and the ability to be able to use their telephone at the same time as being on their computers.

We have also been involved, through the Codden Alliance, in preparing a Parish Plan for the next 10 years. I was very pleased when the questionnaires went out that 80% of households returned them completed. We have been working with a group of parishioners to finalise our priorities and tonight we shall be submitting the final plan.

During the course of the last 12 months I have also attended several meetings of the South Molton Area Forum and also the North Devon Area Parish meetings. These meetings are always useful as you do meet parish councillors from many rural areas and we seem to all have a common objective in mind. At one of our area meetings I was very pleased to support Paul Smalley who spoke on the project at Aller Cross – Gateway to North Devon. That was held at Witheridge village hall.

In January this year the South Molton Area Forum was held at George Nympton and the speaker was Head of Planning for North Devon District Council, Mike Kelly. This was a very useful meeting as we dealt with all aspects of planning and affordable housing for our local people.

I also attended the AGM of the Devon Association of Parish Councils at County Hall. This was a very useful day when many subjects of interest to us all were discussed. I travelled up with Lady Arran, who is the president, and this was the first change of venue for several years as we usually meet at Exeter University.

The Parish Council were also involved with Filleigh Fete, selling hot dogs and cold drinks, and our turnover was just over £600, of which we get a percentage of the profit which is added to our community fund.

I endeavour to meet with Mr. Govier several times during the year and he takes me in his van around the parish to see what improvements and repairs are necessary for the maintenance of our roads, hedges and footpaths. I do appreciate his help but I am also aware of the heavy financial restrictions he is under, but he always endeavours to do his best for our parish.

I am also very appreciative of the help and guidance we receive from our Devon County Councillor, Joe Tucker, who has been most helpful and if he is asked to look into any matter I always appreciate how prompt and efficient he is in coming up with the answer.

Rural Watch we hope to have working within the next few weeks and I am grateful to Roger Bowen for his help as the main co-ordinator. Like everything, it has taken us longer than we thought in getting the boards and getting the packages to all the local co-ordinators.

We are also pressing ahead with 2 bus shelters, one near Filleigh School and the other at Stags Head. I have been in touch with the gentleman responsible and he hopes to come and visit the sites

shortly. We, as a Parish Council, have had a site meeting and we hope the sites will meet with the approval of everyone concerned.

We are also involved with a Memorial for the 3 Scouts who died during the Lynmouth Flood Disaster and we hope to have a special ceremony on August Bank Holiday Monday. Lynton Town Council have kindly donated 3 boulders from Lynmouth and I am at this moment organising transport and an appropriate JCB to remove them from the beach.

We have, during the course of the last 12 months, had several planning applications, one concerning Torridge Transport and the other Norbord and these we always write back to the planning authorities stating that we cannot agree to any further developments at Hill Village until a suitable road is put in to take these large lorries away from the Stags Head and Hill Village area. A few weeks ago the Parish Councillors were invited by the directors of Norbord to visit the factory. We were looked after and the whole process with regard to their manufacturing was explained and after a 2 hour visit around the factory we then came back to the boardroom where they kindly gave us lunch. I would like to thank Roger Bowen for organising this visit and I feel it is most important to have good relations with the company as they have helped us first in donating the kitchen units and also helped us financially with the extension to the village hall.

Finally I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Veronica Cook, for all her help and guidance and also to all the Parish Councillors who have always given me their full support. This concludes my report.