

## **Chairman's Report – 2024**

Dear Parishioners and fellow parish council members

As we conclude another fruitful year in the life of our parish, it's my pleasure to reflect on our collective achievements, challenges, and aspirations as we run through 2024 and move forward together as a community

### **Community Engagement:**

Our parish continued to thrive through active community engagement initiatives. From regular social gatherings to supporting community events, such as the pensioners Christmas lunch, summer fair and continued support of the heath common classic car show, we strengthened bonds and extended our support to those in need. I commend each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to making Warmfield cum Heath a welcoming and supportive community and engaging with both council and community events.

### **Supporting others**

Throughout the year, a number of the parish council members have taken part in various community activities with groups such as PACT, the Church, Heath residents association and the I love heath common group who remain steadfast in the fight against the proposed battery park, I hope this great work will continue over the next year and beyond.

### **Stewardship of our assets**

Our commitment to stewardship and sustainability of our assets remained a focus. Through responsible management of resources and conscious practices, we upheld our duty to preserve and protect the beauty of our parish for generations to come, financial provisions have been made for 2024 to allow us to continue important maintenance of areas such as the community centre and other parts of the parish, unfortunately this did mean the precept did have to go up for 2024, this increase was the first in a number of years and is reflective of the current forecasted running costs of community assets, I will note future sustainability is important to us all as we continue to be guardians of this great parish.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

While we celebrate our successes, we also recognise the challenges that lie ahead. Economic uncertainties, an increased cost of living for all residents, and evolving needs within our community remind us of the importance of adaptability and resilience. Together, we will face these challenges head-on.

However we do recognise that members of the community still need to feel that they are part of our parish and its important that over the coming year we continue to engage with our residents through events and supporting local groups and will endeavour to contribute both physically and financially to key events.

### **Gratitude:**

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our parishioners, council members, staff, volunteers, and district councillors for their tireless dedication and selfless service. Your contributions have made a profound difference, and for that, I am deeply thankful.

Looking Ahead: As we turn our gaze towards the future, we should be looking for opportunities for us to serve one another and our wider community in the coming year, we will continue our support of local events and engaging with our friends and neighbours in the community at every opportunity

In closing, I am honoured to serve as your chairperson, and I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our parish, I thank you all for the continued support and commitment.

Regards

Joseph Wilby

Chairman, Parish of Warmfield cum Heath