

# Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council



## CHAIRMANS REPORT 2024 - 2025

Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to present this year's Chairmans Annual Report, reflecting on another productive year for Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to work diligently on behalf of the community, ensuring that local services are maintained and improved wherever possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key activities and achievements.

### 1. Financial Overview.

The council remains in a sound financial position. Thanks to careful budgeting, we have been able to deliver various project while maintaining a modest increase to precept.

A full financial report will be presented by the Clerk later this evening.

### 2. Community Engagement

The council is committed to supporting local community groups and we are very grateful to all volunteers and local organisations for their considerable contributions to parish life making it a fantastic place to work, live and enjoy.

### 3. Planning and Development

The council reviewed and responded to numerous planning applications throughout the past year, ensuring that the interests of local residents were represented.

We will continue to engage with Herefordshire Council on local development issues, including concerns over drainage, flooding, housing density and traffic.

### 4. Community Projects and Improvements

We have successfully completed the installation of a new outdoor gym at the recreation ground, thanks must go to the local 'She Wolves' group for their considerable financial donation to help make this happen.

The Ewyas Harold village noticeboard in has been replaced and upgraded and looks fantastic.

The former telephone box in Ewyas Harold has been renovated to a very high standard, again we are thankful for the financial support from the 'She Wolves' and also the NISA grant to enable this to happen. We look forward to seeing this space developed as a well being information hub in the coming months.

The renovation of the public toilet at the recreation were completed in the Summer of 2024 and they are a marked improvement.

#### 5. Challenges and Priorities Ahead.

Issues such as the development of the MUGA, Speeding, Road Safety, Flooding and Footpath Maintenance remain key concerns and we will continue to work with the relevant authorities to address them.

The Kemble Centre is a key priority for the Parish Council and the Kemble Centre working group are moving the project forwards in a clear and diligent manner. Whilst at times this may feel slow, it is critical that all aspects of the project are carefully considered. We look forward to developing this project further during the next 12 months.

To all our residents – thank you for your ongoing engagement and support. Not every decision we make is popular – there are legal and financial limits to what we are able to do and we must consider what benefits the wider community.

We would encourage all members of the community to follow the Parish Council updates on the Ewyas Harold Village facebook page and to subscribe to the updates on the Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council website.

The Parish Council remain committed to supporting our Ward Councillor Matthew Engle and we thank him for his support and assistance during the past 12 months.

I would like to say thank you to a number of people.

I am sure all would agree that in the recreation ground we have a fantastically maintained community resource. I would like to thank Shire Lawns and Brian and Lesley Chance for their efforts during the past 12 months for grass cutting and toilet cleaning respectively.

Thanks to our Parish Lengthsman, Jamie Probert for his fantastic work throughout our group of Parishes. Jamie has continued to be proactive and on hand during the past 12 months and has undertaken numerous tasks including ditching, cleaning signs, jetting drains, installing, and repairing footpath gates and stiles, bin emptying and generally keeping our parishes in excellent order. We have been able to work with Herefordshire Council to apply for grants for ditching and drainage work which is undertaken by the Lengthsman and this is making a real difference with lots more to come.

Thanks to our Footpaths Officer and Tree Warden for their efforts during the past 12 months.

Thanks for our local Policing team for their support and attendance at a number of Parish Council meetings during the past 12 months and have been very supportive on matters such as speeding, parking and anti-social behaviour.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the Council for their commitment and hard work over the past year. Our Councillors put in countless hours behind the scenes and that dedication shows in all that we achieve. there are some vacancies on the Council, and I would strongly encourage any residents who would like to join to make contact with our Parish Clerk.

I would like to pay special thanks also go to our Clerk Emma Thomas whose support, professionalism and experience are invaluable and instrumental to our success.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community in the year ahead,

Cllr Malcolm Watkins  
Chairman  
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025