

Bishops Sutton Parish Council

2024-25 Yearly Report: Village Website, SLD support and Defibrillator

Mark Allen

The Village Website

The online collaboration with the Whispers Of Chalk Stream Project with Dr Sharon Witt & Dr Helen Clarke continued to the Project's conclusion with much of the team's outputs on the site and as the final engagement with the village closed, discussions for the last pieces to be added. The wonderful community work, education and awareness of this hyperlocal environment are manifested in this public online output of the project and will be available permanently as a testament to what can be achieved when technology and nature find a medium. Helen also has spent a significant amount of time with camera traps along the river capturing wildlife - otters, voles, swans, herons, ducks, egrets and so on and we are looking at how we may add this as an incredible video library for the villagers and wider audiences to enjoy.

I have been working with the Village Hall committee and have supported them in their requirements identification for their cinema equipment, and collaborating between the two websites to support their transformation of their online presence and get information to the villagers. Hats off to Julia for her amazing work on this and it is paying off as the village hall has become a focus for the community, especially since the Ship closed.

Along with the wildlife videos, there are more ideas in the pipeline for the village website coming up over the next year, with further development of the village history aspects.

Defibrillator

My stewardship of the village's defibrillator has continued, with regular checks and tests of the equipment and replacement of consumables. In her report, Cllr Macintyre has already mentioned the HeartStart training evening for the defibrillator which was well attended and raised its profile. However, we now have a smaller number of 'first responders' - those who in an emergency could be called by the emergency services to get the defibrillator quickly to where it is needed, and this is something I want to resolve over the next year.

Speed Indicator Device support

I have continued my assistance to Chair Cllr Monkwell on the Speed Indicator Device, moving it between its two locations regularly, and together we have been implementing a strategy for using solar to power at both ends of the village. The efficacy of the device where it is used seems to be at the same levels as it has been in the past, with a 20% reduction of traffic speeding - equivalent to 400 vehicles a day, proving that it is a worthwhile influencer.

The Telephone Box Island

The long and complex work to identify an owner of the Telephone Box Island in School Lane has led to its adoption as 'Lost Land' by the Parish Council and resulted in the safe removal of the dying Ash trees which were becoming a danger. Once green returns to the remaining Field Maple and the hazel bushes we will be able to look at how we may further tidy up this little parcel and allow some height to return for the future.