

Annual Report of the Local Member
Bugle Parish Council Annual Meeting
Councillor: Steve Trevelyan
Date: [Insert meeting date]

Introduction

I am pleased to present my annual report as your Local Member. Over the past year, I have continued to represent residents' concerns, raise local issues, and work with officers, partner organisations, and community groups to support Bugle and the surrounding area.

Much of this work is ongoing and not always visible, but I remain committed to ensuring that residents' voices are heard and that concerns are pursued wherever possible.

Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour

During the past year, there has been a noticeable increase in antisocial behaviour within the parish. This has included vandalism, theft, the unauthorised use of e-bikes, and concerns relating to the sale of drugs. These issues have affected residents' sense of safety and wellbeing.

I remain concerned that without stronger preventative measures, these problems risk worsening. In my view, a more visible and permanent police presence would act as a deterrent. The potential introduction of CCTV in key locations should also be considered to support enforcement.

It is vital that incidents are reported when they occur. Without consistent reporting, it is difficult for the police and relevant agencies to respond effectively or justify additional resources.

Local Businesses and Community Facilities

One of the village public houses closed briefly during the year. While I do not have full details surrounding this closure, there have been longstanding concerns within the community regarding antisocial behaviour linked to the premises.

I hope that moving forward, the pub can become a safe and family-friendly asset for the village. A well-managed local pub can play a positive role in village life and community cohesion.

Parking and Highway Safety

Parking remains an ongoing issue within the village, particularly in Springfields, New Street, and Fore Street. On-street parking can create difficulties for residents, visitors, and emergency vehicle access.

While parked vehicles can provide some traffic calming, they also create hazards such as restricted visibility and congestion. A balanced approach is required, working with residents, the Parish Council, and the highways authority.

Traffic and Heavy Goods Vehicles

Despite some perceptions, my own observations suggest that overall traffic levels through the village have reduced, with increased use of the link road.

However, unnecessary use of residential roads by Heavy Goods Vehicles remains a concern. Where alternatives exist, such as the link road, these should be used.

To help address this, I have written to local businesses asking them to advise drivers to use the link road wherever possible. Engagement and cooperation remain key.

Councillor's Community Chest

I am pleased to confirm that the Councillor's Community Chest is now open for applications. The fund remains limited at £1,400, but can still support worthwhile community initiatives.

I will aim to distribute funding fairly and will prioritise groups that may have missed out previously. Local organisations are encouraged to contact me with requests.

Casework and Resident Support

I continue to undertake casework for residents who contact me with issues or concerns, raising matters with council officers and partner organisations and pushing for action where appropriate.

While some cases take time to resolve, I remain committed to supporting residents and ensuring concerns are pursued.

Use of Glyphosate and Weed Control

There is ongoing debate around the use of glyphosate for weed control. On a personal level, I am not opposed to its use provided conditions are met, including clear warning signage and consideration of application timings.

Until cost-effective alternatives become available, I recognise that a financially constrained council has limited options. A cautious and transparent approach is essential.

Community Pride and Appearance

With the band contest and other events approaching, it would be appreciated if residents were able to tidy the front of their properties where possible.

A well-presented village creates a welcoming impression and reflects community pride.

Thank you to those residents who already contribute to this.

Engagement with Residents

A significant amount of councillor work takes place behind the scenes through correspondence, meetings, and liaison with multiple agencies.

Residents are always welcome to contact me with concerns, ideas, or questions.

Ongoing communication is vital, and I remain committed to being accessible and responsive.

Closing Remarks

I would like to thank Bugle Parish Council members, officers, volunteers, and residents for their continued engagement and support. I look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead.