

Chedzoy Parish Council. Chairman's Report. 20th May. 2019.

Looking back over the last year, the Brexit debacle seems to have dominated almost every aspect of national news, and now threatens to carry us into an uncertain future. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the situation may be, at a local level, we still have to get on with our lives and business, in spite of all the rancour, inertia and indecision.

In the 2018 Chairman's Report, I identified several areas that merited special mention. I take this opportunity to refer to them again, in the light of present circumstances, conscious of the fact that there is still unfinished business. There are also significant changes afoot. Chedzoy Parish Council will need to be well informed and decisive.

1. Broadband. I am disappointed to tell you that we are no further forward regarding the provision of Fibre Broadband in Chedzoy. Giggaclear have yet to deliver, and are now at loggerheads with Connecting Devon and Somerset over breach of the contract. I'm afraid we have to persevere, frustrating though it is, and let CDS resolve the issue.

2. Sedgemoor Local Plan, 2011 – 2032. The Local Plan was finally adopted in February. It sets out the policy framework for future development in Sedgemoor. Under the newly created tiered settlement hierarchy, Chedzoy is the lowest at tier 4. Small scale infill, in keeping with the character of Chedzoy, merits care and empathy.

3. Chedzoy Parish Council. I am pleased to report that we shall welcome some new faces to the PC. It is important that that we have some new expertise on the PC to take us through the next 4 years. I shall be stepping down as chairman, but I shall be happy to contribute with any help that may be necessary, during the initial overlap period.

4. Chedzoy Community. The enthusiasm, commitment, energy, skill and good old fashioned friendship in Chedzoy, is just amazing. The number of activities and events organised for the benefit of everyone in the village, and many charities, is wonderful and also very humbling. This is a remarkable village, and it is the people who make it.

Martin Allen. Chairman Chedzoy Parish Council. 9th May 2019.