

STEEPLE ASHTON ANNUAL REPORT

I am in my second year of my current period as your Wiltshire Councillor in the new Division of Melksham Without West and Rural. This year has become busier as I have rejoined the Wesytern Area Planning Committee, continue to chair the LocalHighways and Footpath Improvements Group for the Melksham Area and I am also taking on more Area Board responsibility.

In the last boundary review we lost Seend, Bulkington and Poulshot with the new Division consisting of Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton and Semington from the old Summerham Division but with the additions of a part of Melksham Without, Berryfield and Broughton Gifford.

There is always plenty of Councillor work in all the villages and across the Division. One matter that I have pressed hard on, and with experienced help from this village, is police presence in rural areas and I think we have got our message across with recent increased police patrols and attendance at the village shop.

I am also really pleased to see the resurgence of Community Speed Watch in the village making a major contribution to local road safety.

The winter, which seems to be hanging on, was not helpful to highways in the area. Potholes and carriageway delamination increased and the roads are in a pretty poor state at the moment. The injection of significant central Government funding for repairs could not have been better timed. However I urge residents to report every pothole that they can using the My Wilts app because if potholes are not reported they will not be repaired.

We have also had issues with drainage in and around the village with blocked gulleys on the High Street and the severe flood damage to the highway on Common Hill. I continue to push the drainage team for repairs and gully clearances so that we can get the highways into a much better state of repair.

I regularly get involved in planning issues in the village and that is part of my role as your Wiltshire Councillor. These range from individual planning applications to bigger matters. I am also happy to help with advice on community planning issues and hope to help with St Marys hall again.

In all of these issues I try to work closely with your Parish Council who do a great job on your behalf. They also need help and they currently have vacancies for Councillors so if you do have time please volunteer to help.

Jonathon Seed