

## **Chairman's Report May 2009**

The past year (2008-9) has been a relatively quiet one for Harbury Parish Council. We have continued with our normal tasks of routine maintenance of public areas, supporting village organisations, and making sure that the Parish's concerns are noted at District and County level. Much of this work goes on quietly, efficiently, and with minimal fuss. Broken things are repaired, areas are tidied up, services are paid for, and we should be extremely grateful that we have such an excellent Parish Clerk who actually makes these things happen. Nicola certainly makes my job much easier than it might be.

The next year, and perhaps the next few years, will be different as the community struggles through tough economic times. The Parish Council will face steep rises in some bills, (electricity for example,) and some new costs will have to be paid when the old mercury street-lights are phased out. The Parish Council was concerned that some village organisations might find themselves in difficult times in the coming months, and we have increased the amount set aside in the budget for grants. We have also recently undergone training on the new "Power of Well-Being" which means that we can spend money on a wider range of activities and act to preserve services in the village were necessary.

The proposed development at Bush Heath Lane has progressed slowly during the year. Parishioners will have their chance to comment on the plans at the open day on May 21<sup>st</sup>. With the help of our County Councillor, Bob Stevens, we were successful in securing money for traffic calming in the village, and we hope to have some plans for consultation shortly.

Aside from thanking the Clerk, my thanks also go to my fellow parish councillors who help to make the parish council run smoothly.

**Dr Tim Lockley**

**Chairman, Harbury Parish Council**