



Thaxted Parish Council

Chairman's Report - Annual Parish Assembly (13th March 2025)

Welcome all and thank you for braving the cold to attend this, our Annual Parish Assembly.

I'd like to offer a summary of the council's activities and achievements from May 2024 to date, however before I do, I'd like to start by offering thanks to my fellow councillors, some of which you'll hear from shortly, and our dedicated officers, **THANK YOU** all for your support and constant efforts to keep Thaxted such a special place.

So, to start, our **council structure** from May 2024

- Me, Cllr Andy Frater elected as Chairman
- Cllr Victoria Knight as Vice Chairman
- New committee memberships established across Finance with Ray, Open Spaces with Jenna, working closely with Terry on Assets, Personnel sits with Victoria and planning with Alex.
- Co-option of three new councillors: Cllr Tom Breen and Cllr Nicky Tisseyre and Cllr Robert Silver

Community Projects and Initiatives

- Outdoor Gym Equipment successfully installed at the Recreation Ground
- Mental Health Bench installation approved for the Recreation Ground
- Speedwatch initiative progressing with volunteer recruitment
- Pavilion repurposing for community use approved
- Support for 20's Plenty campaign to improve road safety
- Thermal camera grant approved to support local environmental initiatives
- VE Day celebrations being planned in collaboration with the Royal British Legion

Planning and Development

- Regular review of planning applications with consideration of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Council has maintained stance on applying Neighbourhood Plan policies to planning decisions
- Objective approach to development applications with particular attention to conservation areas

Neighbourhood Plan or NP2

- Working party established with Cllr Young appointed as Chairman of the NP Steering Group
- Housing Needs Survey distributed in partnership with RCCE
- Vision Statement for revised Neighbourhood Plan approved
- Community consultations planned

Financial Management

- Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements approved
- Successful conclusion of audit for financial year ending 31st March 2024
- Budget for 2025-26 approved with precept set at £152,482 (January 2025)

Heritage Management

- Windmill preservation project support, now and in the future
- CHG Wall repairs being addressed through listed building application
- Permanent loan of Fire Engine to Essex Fire Museum approved

Looking Ahead

- Vision for more active community engagement with local schools, please see the posters, which you can vote a winner to be used round the town
- Continued development of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Progression of pending infrastructure projects

In summary, I hope this brief update demonstrates our council's commitment to improving Thaxted while preserving its heritage and character but please let me know if you would like any specific areas expanded for the Annual Parish Assembly presentations in future.

Thank you.

Andy Frater