

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Chairman's Report - April 2026

In this year's report, I could be providing updates on progress with the new District Plan, the transition to unitary authorities and the latest changes to planning rules; but that is all too depressing.

Instead I will encourage everybody not just to live in Tewin, but to get extra enjoyment from being part of Tewin.

A good place to start is the excellent Tewin website and the Tewin Magazine. Between them they provide details of all the events, activities, clubs, venues etc going on in Tewin, which would welcome your support.

It is better still if you can participate in the running of events. If your life is already very busy, then there are a number of events which just need help for the day, with no other commitment. If you can spare more time, then there are always opportunities to become more involved. New volunteers have been recruited but at times it feels as though a dwindling band of volunteers is keeping everything going. Helping is fun, and the other volunteers are friendly.

Tewin Stores deserves a special mention. It is a village activity which runs virtually every day of the year. It provides a base for the Post Office to operate in the village. It always needs both customers and volunteers.

Every spring, Councillors tour the parish looking for work that needs to be done to maintain the fabric of the parish. Individual parishioners can help throughout the year by reporting potholes, full litter bins, sewage leaks, problems on footpaths etc. Also please pick up litter. Litter attracts more litter. Special thanks go to two residents who have taken a very proactive role in picking up litter this year, one as a solo effort and the other as an organiser of a group of like minded residents.

Other residents run the Tewin Drivesafe operation where they monitor the speed of traffic in the village. Remember that 30 mph is a limit. We may not have any 20 mph zones, but you can drive slower than 30 mph if you think that conditions warrant it.

Do get out and enjoy the countryside around Tewin. Tewin Stores sells footpath maps. We are lucky to have the River Mimram running through the Parish. Another group of residents is working to bolster the protection given to the Mimram Valley, and this work is being extended to cover the whole length of the Mimram as it passes through other parishes. Much of the land between the village and the Mimram was sold off as individual plots. With zero chance of being developed, this land is being reclaimed by the natural environment.

Finally, thanks go to those residents that step in when they see that others are in need of help and support.

So there is a lot to enjoy, despite the pressures of the modern world.

The 2026-27 Parish Precept is £48,500. The household charge is circa £57 pa Band D (£114 pa Band H). The increase is partly to build up the Parish Council reserves which currently stand at about 59% of their maximum permitted level. This is particularly important in relation to our responsibilities regarding trees. Ash trees are already under threat, and now we seem to be losing oak trees. We already spend a significant sum each year on tree work, and we could suddenly find ourselves with a very large bill.

My thanks go to the other members of the Parish Council, and the Parish Clerk for their help and support.

Thanks also go to our County Councillor Ken Crofton, our District Councillor Bob Dearing, and to volunteers who help the Parish Council throughout the year. All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and all Council business is decided by a majority vote. Parish Council documentation is on the Tewin Village website.

Keith St Pier,
Chairman, Tewin Parish Council