

Chairman's Annual report for West Crewkerne Parish Council May 2024-May 2025

West Crewkerne Parish Council meet bi-monthly in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall.

Agenda information can be obtained from the clerk, the notice board by the village hall and on line at our website.

Reviewing the past year there are always matters concerning highways which are inevitably discussed at our Parish Council meetings.

Potholes and road erosion. Generally agreed by all to be caused by flooding, heavy vehicles, wide farm machinery wheels and a lack of overall maintenance. Reporting issues by all parishioners is encouraged, especially online and with photographic evidence.

Flooding, with the heavy downpours overwhelming the gullies and drains causes numerous problems within West Crewkerne. Primarily, but not exclusively along from Clapton Farm to Hewish crossroads and along Cathole Bridge Road towards Roundham. Unfortunately, these roads do not receive annual clearing of the drains and gullies. The damage caused to a drain, which we have now been told is repaired in Cathole Bridge Road is at time of writing this report still awaiting jetting.

Speeding, through West Crewkerne, but especially through Roundham, with its high level of traffic, has been a concern for many years. Finally, the parish council has obtained permission for two permanent speed indicators devices. A grant of £5000 has been obtained, but has taken a year to finally obtain these funds, despite numerous chasings by the clerk. Having purchased the equipment, we now must have two new poles to have them attached onto. This itself is not an easy quick process, however we are hopeful this will be achieved over the next couple of months.

There have been only a handful of planning applications during the past year. The most contentious is in our neighbouring parish of Wayford. This is for a solar farm. We held an emergency Parish Council meeting in June 2024 to discuss and listen to residents about their concerns. Also present at this meeting were two representatives from Greentech the Solar farm applicants.

After careful consideration Councillors agreed to object to the application. Government guidelines state that solar energy plans should be on level brown fields, contaminated lands, or industrial/public buildings. The location in Wayford is none of these.

Still to be determined is the planning application for a farm shop at the far end of Roundham towards Chard.

I would like thank our clerk Rose Richards for her valuable support through the year and fellow councillors including our Unitary Councillors, equally for their support of West Crewkerne Parish Council.

Julia Borland

Chairman West Crewkerne Parish Council
May 22nd 2025