

Chairman's Annual Report 2021

It has been an interesting and challenging year but thanks to the Zoom platform SPPC managed to continue parish business as usual by holding virtual meetings incidentally also saving money on rent of the village hall.

The fight for our pub continues with some inroads being made and a great deal of support from East Herts.

Proposals for a solar factory in Berden were unanimously opposed by SPPC banding with Manuden and Berden to fight the scheme. Though obviously not opposed to green and sustainable energy it was agreed that more suitable sites, other than prime farmland, should be used.

More recently plans for a battery storage facility have been lodged at East Herts Council with SPPC again objecting.

Sadly, zoom meetings have been outlawed throwing all involved in local government and Parish Councils into confusion as to what the new laws are. Most are angered at the decision pointing out how well these platforms worked, if not better, including more public attendance.

Now some good news.

A joint collaboration between SPPC and the Village Hall Committee for a new playground continues with a grant of 8K from East Herts and money pledged by both the Council and VH committee.

On another positive note the village VE day celebrations on May 8th were a huge success with the sound of spitfires booming from a PA to the village 'doing the Lambeth Walk', all undertaken within the covid rules.

The Cricket Club, SPPC and Village Hall Committee are planning a celebration, subject to covid restrictions, of the Centenary of the Cricket Club and opening of the new playground on July 17th.

I am looking forward to what will probably be another challenging year but can say that SPPC will continue to serve the community to the best of its ability and please remember all members are always available to help parishioners in any way.