

Calvert Green Parish Council

Chairman's Report – May 2026

It has been another busy and challenging year for the parish council and, much like previous years, many of the pressures on our community continue. HS2 construction and other major infrastructure projects remain disruptive, with ongoing road closures, diversions, potholes and traffic issues continuing to affect residents and isolate our village at times. At the same time, we continue to experience reducing service levels from Buckinghamshire Council, resulting in the parish council increasingly stepping in to help maintain standards within the village.

I'd like to thank our Parish Clerk, Tracy Horsfield, who continues to handle the day-to-day parish council matters and keeps the council on track. With the growing number of projects and administrative demands placed upon the parish council, Tracy's workload continues to increase significantly. In addition to supporting the council operationally, the growing requirement for policies, procedures and governance documentation places additional pressure on what is already a stretched resource. Tracy continues to go above and beyond for the parish council and community, and her commitment is greatly appreciated.

We remain a small parish council currently operating with only four councillors and carrying three vacancies. This inevitably places additional pressure on those councillors currently serving, all of whom volunteer their time alongside full-time employment and family commitments. Despite these challenges, the parish council continues to deliver projects, respond to local concerns and represent the interests of Calvert Green.

I would like to thank Cllrs Gary Atkins and Ross Yarker for their continued support and commitment over the last year. Both councillors continue to assist with a wide range of parish council activities, including weekly village hall checks, liaison with the Calvert Green Community Association, and other projects including the solar farm and mega prison. I do recognise and appreciate just how much time they spend on parish council business.

I'd also like to thank Cllr Carl Blakeley, who (in addition to other responsibilities) has taken on responsibility for progressing the Neighbourhood Plan following the departure of previous councillors involved in the project. Carl has worked tirelessly to bring it back on track to formal submission. Given the complexity and longevity of this process, this has been a significant undertaking and one which is sincerely appreciated.

The parish council has been fortunate that interest accrued from the HS2 community enhancement fund has enabled us to purchase a ride-on mower and further employ the services of John, a local contractor, to help mitigate the decline in Buckinghamshire Council maintenance services. This has enabled the parish council to maintain standards within the village which otherwise would not have been possible.

I'd also like to thank our Buckinghamshire Council ward councillors, Cllr Frank Mahon and Cllr Patrick Fealey, who continue to support the parish council and fight our corner on numerous local issues. Their assistance and support are greatly appreciated.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those parishioners who have attended parish council meetings throughout the year. Public attendance remains relatively low, but those who do attend provide valuable feedback and support which is genuinely appreciated. I would again encourage members of the community to consider becoming parish councillors. Additional councillors would

not only help share the growing workload but would also help shape and enhance the future of our village.

Observations and Main Achievements

The parish council has continued to progress several important projects over the last year despite our limited resources.

One of the most significant achievements has been the successful application to the HS2 Road Safety Fund. This funding has now been approved and will deliver a new pedestrian crossing traffic island at the front of Calvert Green together with improvements to the footpath across the farmer's field leading towards the village. These are important safety improvements for parishioners and a positive outcome following considerable work by the parish council.

As previously mentioned, the Neighbourhood Plan has also progressed to formal submission. While this has been a long and challenging process over several years, it remains an important document for helping shape the future development and protection of Calvert Green.

We were also very grateful to receive the donation of an outdoor table tennis table from EKFB which has now been installed on the former children's play area at the junction of Tudors Close and Cotswolds Way. It is encouraging to see additional recreational facilities being provided for the community. We also still plan to convert the other former children's play area on Tudors Close to a community garden, subject to grant funding.

The relationship between the parish council and the Calvert Green Community Association continues to strengthen. I would like to thank the CGCA committee for their ongoing hard work in managing the village hall and increasing the number of social events taking place within the community. In particular, I'd like to mention the success of Calvert Fest, which the parish council was pleased to help support financially. It was encouraging to see such a well-attended community event and we will also be providing a financial donation in support of the event this year.

Summary

Over the last year we have continued to face many challenges, but despite operating with limited resources and increasing demands, the parish council has still achieved several positive outcomes for the community. These achievements are only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our councillors, Tracy our parish clerk, and the support of the CGCA and parishioners who continue to work with us for the benefit of Calvert Green.

Phil Gaskin
Chairman, Calvert Green Parish Council