

Eggington Parish Council

Annual Chairmans statement 2025 – 2026

Another year has passed within Eggington and Clipstone with possibly one of the busiest for the Parish Council.

Firstly I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for giving up their time free of charge to help support our Parish. The role has no benefit to the individuals and sometimes it can seem that our Parishioners do not understand this is a voluntary role and have limited responsibilities. However if we didn't have Simon, David, Lee, Sara, Martine and Kerry the council would not exist and achieve the things we have this year.

Also this is a big thank you from me personally and the Parish Councillors for the outstanding job Josie does as our Parish Clerk. I have had the privilege of working with Josie now for 3 years and would not be able to do my role without her. Josies attention to detail, processes we have to follow and smile makes my job easier both from a time perspective but also from an enjoyment to serve our Parish.

Before I give a summary of key achievements I do have to also inform the Parish that Kerry Gorton has decided to step down from the Parish Council after 6 years of service. Kerry has served longer than most would and always was willing to volunteer to take on actions from our council meetings. Her warmth, energy and calmness will be missed and we wish Kerry well and would welcome her back at any time.

This does give us a vacancy on the Parish Council and if you are reading this and you would like to know how you can join and help our Parish please contact myself or Josie and we can talk you through what your responsibilities would be.

So what was achieved by your Parish Council in 2025 – 26. Here are some of the highlights both big and small but not comprehensive.

- **CBC consultation of split in Eggington and Clipstone**
 - With the help our Liberal Democrat colleagues within Leighton Linlade Council we believe that we have managed to once again stop our parish from being split. The latest consultation had over 625 responses to CBC. 80% of those from our Parish so thank you all for taking the time to respond. Only some 30 (less than 5%) responses supported Clipstone to be incorporated into the LLBC parish and we are looking forward to formal notification at the end of April so that we can focus on being one Parish moving forward and continuing to help you our Parishioners in any way we can.
- **Eggington Cricket Club**
 - Towards the end of our year the sale of Eggington Cricket Club was put up for sale by the Trustees. There were significant questions around the legality of the Trustees to do this and would not have been the desire of the original trustees from Eggington village back in the 1960's. The Parish decided to take legal advice to understand if there were grounds to prevent the sale. Unfortunately the world of legal has moved significantly over the years and the Parish Council had no grounds to be able to stop the sale and not have the benefit for any funds that the Eggington Cricket Club trust received from the sale.

- **Eggington Village Hall**

- The Parish is in advance stages of taking a 10 year lease for the Eggington Village Hall from CBC at a nominal annual fee. We would like to recognise the hard work done by the Village Hall Committee and especially Lynda Sear for looking after the Hall to this point. Anybody who has ideas on how we might be able to upgrade the hall and use more please contact Martine on the Parish Council who will be working up ideas for the council to review.

- **Football at Eggington Park**

- This year we have had Under 7's and Under 8's from Leighton Buzzard Corinthians using the Eggington Park as their home ground. They were struggling to find a place to be able to play and the Parish Council agreed to enter into a trial for a season to see if it worked for both parties. As the season comes to an end we look forward to the teams coming back next year and the sounds of many goals by the Corinthians beating all who come to play

- **Dog Waste Bins Clipstone**

- Whilst it may sound easy we have worked hard this year to get two new locations for Dog waste bins to support all the walkers in Clipstone to be able to keep our parish tidy more easily

- **Allotments in Clipstone**

- After much pushing we look forward that in 2026 we will be able to allocate allotment plots in Clipstone to over 50 people. Sara from the Parish Council has volunteered to take on organising a Allotment committee to manage the allotments so please contact either Sara or Josie as clerk of the Parish to request a plot or volunteer to be part of the committee. Already we have more people wanting a allotment than we have so we are working to get our second area within Clipstone up and running as early as possible but realistically this will be 2027 at the earliest.

- **Sports Centre in our parish opening**

- At the end of June 2026 our parish will have the new Leighton Buzzard sports centre opening. Please watch out for when it opens and how you can take advantage of the facilities to keep healthy.

- **Play area upgrades in Clipstone and Eggington**

- This year the Parish Council added new equipment to both Clipstone and Eggington Play areas.

- **Formal hand over of Clipstone to Central Bedfordshire Council**

- The next stage of us as a Parish is to have the Clipstone estate be formally handed over to Central Bedfordshire Council from the existing builders. This is a long process that the Clipstone representatives on the council have been actively pushing over the last year with the first phase in sight of going through a

hand over process. This again is not a straight forward or easy process and takes time and effort from your councillors to continue to push all parties to do this.

My firm belief is that the Eggington and Clipstone Councillors are working to build a cohesive community for the future. We are in the fortunate position to also have funds available for improvements with the Solar Farm agreement and if anybody wish's to request funding to help the community you can do this by looking at our website for instructions

So as we look to 2026 we hope to improve the parish for all, as much as we have the power to do, and develop further ties as a community for all.

Craig Ramsay

Chairman, Eggington Parish Council