Risby Parish Council – Chairman's report 2025

Highways
The parish council has requested a lorry survey in South Street because of all the damage to the road signs and to ascertain peak periods of traffic flow.

Weed clearance on the paths has been a real problem as it has led to and caused damage to the path surfaces. Suffolk County Council has confirmed they will be using Glyphosate to rectify the situation as the previous spraying strategy did not appear to be effective. We still have the ongoing problem with blocked drains and gullies and insufficient street cleaning, to cope with the straw, leaf litter and grass, which tends to end up in the ponds and lower green sump.

We looked into installing bollards or something similar on the top corner of Lower Green to prevent big vans and lorries causing damage, but this was not supported by Suffolk Highways.

Trees
After the tree survey which is done annually, no urgent work was recommended. Two councilors prioritised the works to be done. The replacement trees which have been planted appear to be doing well. Wildlife areas under the trees will be cut four times this year; this will be reviewed in September.

Parish Council
John Fairlie has agreed to be responsible for the defibrillator in School road and Steve Smith agreed to carry out the Council property inspection.

Planning
Dencora submitted an application on behalf of AJN Steelstock for a steel processing plant in Risby. Risby Parish Council objected because the land is not allocated in the Local Plan for any kind of development (residential or economic). Two residents commissioned an independent noise survey and sought legal advice. West Suffolk Council's Development Control Committee refused this application. AJN have taken this application to appeal. We appreciate and value John Fairlie who helped with the Parish Council's response to this application and the residents who spread the word about the application and encouraged villagers to submit a response.

Dencora also wanted Saxon and Risby Business Park to be recatorgorised as B2 industrial.

Pigeon objected to the fact that Risby has been downgraded to a type A village, as they would like to develop land south of School road further.

My thanks go to our clerk Joanne, who has kept us informed guiding us in the right and proper direction through a very busy, difficult and hectic year, encouraging and helping us to keep going. I appreciate and value the support effort and skills my fellow councillors bring to the meetings and throughout the year.

Risby is a village people like to visit and enjoy living in. This is due in no small part to the many volunteers who weed footpaths, pick litter, deploy the VAS system, deliver leaflets and notices, cut grass and hedges, erect Christmas trees, clear fallen trees and thousand and one other jobs a lot of people often don't notice.

This is what makes our village the great place it is to live in.

Thank you one and all.