



**David Lyon has been Chair of Haddenham Parish Council for the last six years, having been on the Council itself**

**for eight years. He has lived in Haddenham for 24 years; before retiring he worked as a chartered civil engineer.**

**How does the Parish Council work, e.g. do you have committees or working groups?**

“Our Parish Council has both; we have committees for Planning and Finance which are serviced by the Clerk or Assistant Clerk and then we have Working Groups for road safety, environment, recreation, allotments and burials, and communications. These groups run themselves and report back to the main Parish Council at its regular meetings.”

**Does the Parish Council have a business plan?**

“We don’t have a formal plan but I see my role as Chair leading the Council to be more business-like. In my view, local councils need to make things happen; they can’t just drift along. There’s always more you can do. Some councils aren’t using the powers gifted to them by the Localism Act to their full extent.”

**What are the key priorities for the Parish Council over the next year? And over the next 3 years?**

“This is my last year as Chair. I’m going to be stepping down and the Council will need to seek a new Chair. In the time I have left at the helm, I’d like to see the skate park finished; a 30 mph speed limit put on Station Road; interior refurbishment of the pavilion undertaken and I’d like to get the community in Haddenham engaged in Cambridgeshire ACRE’s *New Life on the Old West* project, as I can see huge benefits to getting local people more involved in our community green spaces. Over the next three years, I’d like to see land identified for new football pitches and a new pavilion.”

Hopefully, we will see a number of new Councillors taking on the challenge of looking after our villages.”

**How has Haddenham changed over the past 10 years?**

“The biggest change has been the growth in population as a result of new housing with lots of infill being built. To address the need for new homes, the Parish Council initiated a Community Land Trust (CLT) in Haddenham and five parish councillors are actually on the board of trustees for the CLT.

Planning permission was granted for a site at West End in February 2018 for 54 homes of which 19 will be affordable. So much has been achieved in a relatively short timescale and it’s a great community effort.”

**How do you think Haddenham will change over the next 10 years?**

“I believe the Community Land Trust will identify further sites for development within the village. The CLT is totally accountable to local people, with rules to ensure that assets will be owned forever by the community, so this is a good way for the community to get the new homes it needs whilst retaining some control over how and where they are built and who occupies them.”

**Does your Parish Council work with the Parish Councils in any of the surrounding villages?**

“Not really, although we did work with the Parish Council at Wilburton to get a 40mph speed limit imposed between the two villages.”

**Is your council a member of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)? If so, what do you find the benefits to be?**

“Haddenham Parish Council is a member of CAPALC and we rely on them for sound advice and information, including useful training and templates.”

**What does being Chair of the Parish Council mean to you?**

“As Chair, you have to build a strong working relationship with your Clerk and I believe Jenny and I have done that and we’re a mutually supportive team.”

“I find it immensely satisfying on a personal level as I can influence things and get things done for the community. However, you need to put some effort in and it is quite time-consuming. My mind is always ticking over about what to do next!”

*Interviewed Apr-2018*