

## Chris Johnson - Candidate for the Braunston Parish Council Election May 5<sup>th</sup> 2016



I have been a parish councillor for the last year with responsibility for the Greenway and the closes.

I have also been a member of the neighbourhood planning group for the last two years.

I am not a member of, nor do I have any allegiance to any political party. We are very privileged to live in such a pleasant environment, relatively free from the stresses and pressures of city, town or urban living. I will seek to retain what we have and to avoid any unnecessary large developments that would destroy it.

Key issues -

**Street lighting** – we should maintain our street lighting and not switch off or remove as has been done elsewhere. We can reduce the costs by replacing lamps with more modern energy efficient units over the next few years.

**Village maintenance** – we should continue to keep the village clean and tidy, mowing, trimming repairing e.t.c. when and where needed.

**Village Hall** – we're so lucky to have this building, and many improvements have recently been completed by the Parish Hall committee. There are still things that can be done in the short term; long term we must also plan to maintain and develop this important community asset.

**Road safety** – we should continue to run the speed awareness sessions. Braunston is a small village with narrow streets and parked vehicles, so keeping to the 30mph limit (or less) is in everyone's best interests.

**Playing fields and play areas** – these are a great asset to the village, and should be maintained and improved. The Welton Road play area should be upgraded for the benefit of younger children.

**Cycleway to Daventry** – this has been a project long in preparation, and now the feasibility study is nearing completion. I support the idea and currently Braunston Parish Council does also, but we will make no financial contribution to it. I like to cycle and have had some excellent holidays in France where the “Voie Verte” network of paths offer many opportunities for safe cycling, skating or just walking as a family with pushchairs, in a traffic free environment.

**Jetty Fields** – is the “jewel in the crown” of Braunston and I believe should be used for the maximum benefit of all the residents. The Jetty Fields committee has done an excellent job so far and I hope will continue to do so in future, and they have my unreserved support.

**Skateboard park** – again this is a long running project that still has a way to go. At the parish meeting in 2014 the majority of parishioners present voted to support it up to the cost of £50,000 by way of a loan to be repaid over 20 years. My concern was that this is a big legacy to leave for the future so I voted against it, but will support it unless the majority view changes.

**Community car** – the bus service is about to be reorganised and there are concerns about the long term future of services to Braunston. So to have this is an excellent advantage to the residents especially those of limited mobility. But it runs with an ageing vehicle so I would like to see some plan made to put it on a more secure footing, possibly with the change to a people carrier or small minibus. Obtaining funding for that would be challenging but may not be impossible.

**Your Cafe** – my wife Jean volunteers for the cafe and has told me how it has become a real social hub for the village as well as drawing cyclists and boaters from further afield. It is a great asset to the community and the team responsible are to be congratulated for a job well done. My view is that the Parish Council should continue to fully support this venture.

I've tried to give you some idea of my thinking and the reasons for wanting to be re-elected as a Parish Councillor, to maintain or improve the quality of life in Braunston for the residents. If you agree with me and would like to help me do that please give me your vote on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Thanks in anticipation, Chris Johnson