July 2015 to June 2016 has been a spectacularly busy and successful year and there has been a lot to show for the efforts of the HVPIG.

Before I highlight the Groups achievements I’d like to take you all back to 8.00pm on Tuesday 7th July 2015, our inaugural meeting as the Hatton Village Plan Implementation Group.

In attendance were myself, Andy Lett, Liz Wareing, Ian Tickle, Alan Merrett, David Jones, Margaret Winstanley, Robin Brocklehurst, Judith Godley with a further five, having shown an interest in the Group unable to attend.

Since that evening we have seen a few changes around the table and I would like to thank all those who have been a part of the Group at any point throughout the past 12m but are no longer able to attend.

You will remember that on that night I reminded everyone that our role was to act as 'Custodians and Trustees of the Village Plan' and to implement the wishes of the residents of Hatton as set out in that plan.

Little could I have known that evening just how brilliantly you would set about the work you had all agreed to do!

A review of the level of activity we have undertaken these past 12m is staggering:

* **Community & Social Activities** opened with 2 Key Areas (KA) resulting in 11 actions (primarily events in our social calendar.) **Completed all tasks and added events new for this year**
* **Communications** started with 7 KA’s – with an unbelievable 39 individual tasks. **Completed 37** *(remaining is just the database build)*
* **Transport and Road Safety** had an initial 5 responsibilities and have taken on a recent addition Weight Restrictions**Completed 4** *– (remaining Road Maintenance and Traffic Light sequencing)*
* **Services** had 9 KA’s with 23 specific actions to address– **Completed 13** *(remaining Renewal Energy, Mobile and Internet signals)*
* **Environment** brought 6 KA’s with some 36 different activities – **Completed 20** *(remaining Motorway Noise and Street- lighting)*

In addition to these planned actions we have set up a Group to look into the feasibility of having our own Village Hall. That Group, of course, now reports directly to the Parish Council.

Thanks are absolutely due to you all individually and as a team for delivering such a tremendous and constructive impact on Village Life here in Hatton. On behalf of all the residents and others who have benefitted from your commitment – Thank YOU.

I should also take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council as their support for our aims and chosen routes to achieve them has been both warm and generous. I would also like to thank Judith for her financial due-diligence and agreeing to the role of Treasurer this year.

So what evidence is there of our achievements these past 12m? The list is simply breath-taking:

Our ***Environment Team*** has been busy enhancing our space; we have new plants & planters, new trees, new bird & bat boxes, a verge-cutting regime, a weeding squadron, a dedicated litter picking team – with all the proper equipment and safety clothing, the birth of the Hatton Walkers and so much more! The village can only be enjoyed even more by those of us lucky enough to live here.

Our ***Communications Team*** have brought visibly improved communications to the village via our newsletter and a brand new website combining Village and Parish Council life. We have joined Social Media, Hatton Life flourishes and we have our new notice-board. No longer do residents get a dozen separate items through their letter-box! The standard you have brought to the communications is so professional and engaging and it’s great to see and hear such positive comments about this fundamental aspect of village life.

Our ***Services and Transport Teams*** have been helped our new PCSO to focus on speeding within the village. They arranged a hugely successful village meeting to get the Rural Watch scheme up and running, with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Chief Inspectors and their staff working with us. Weight restrictions and lower speed limits within the village boundaries are in the process of implementation and they continue to address the internet issue on our behalf.

We now have a very active and diverse ***Community and Social Activities Team***. As well as the usual two dozen or so social activities that take place over the course of the year we continue to bring new events to further our sense of Community: New for this year were the Easter Hunt, the Hats On Festival, Tallest Sunflower competition, Walks, a trip to the theatre and Edinburgh. Let us also remember that the Film Night was a child of our Steering Group and continues to flourish.

Crucially though, more than simply what we have done, is that we have facilitated new engagement across village members, with our offers to organise, help or just join in with various projects. More time is now given up to make these projects successful by an ever increasing number of villagers – we have truly enhanced our feeling of community spirit and built a lasting legacy by which we should be very humbled. Every villager, young and old, will be able to see a positive difference to their life in the village.

As I look to the next 12 months, many of our remaining tasks are the longer term actions and, of course, there is the sizeable ongoing mission to maintain our existing successes.

Of course we can always do more, and I know that although there will be some challenges along the way; I also know that this team will emphatically overcome them to add even greater value to our village.

It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to be involved with this Group and you should all be rightly proud of what you have achieved since that July evening in 2015.

Roger Dickin

Chair