



Chair's report. December 2025

17/12/2025

Hibernation or Activity?

Avoid the challenges of change or celebrate creative community in action?

We must be financially robust. We must plan strategically. And we must do both without losing sight of the quieter work and the less obvious people who make this village function every day.

Through Girton Together, we have supported, enabled and, at times, initiated community activity on behalf of the Council.

Regular attendance at the Club 55 computer group has done more than solve IT problems on a Monday morning, (though plenty of those were solved). It has allowed us to hear, directly, concerns about pavement safety, cycle routes, and public transport. Not just routes into the city, but links between villages. Social connection, shopping, and medical access all depend on this. A regular minibus service would not be a luxury; it would be a lifeline.

Every Tuesday we run a Warm Hub. From it have flowed practical results: one-off payments supporting people on low incomes; three successful Blue Badge applications; help with gardens; and now a group of "Crafty Folk" will soon be making Roman blinds for the community building, reusing high-quality curtains, generously donated by South Cambs District Council. Less waste, lower cost, better use of resources. Sensible economics and good community sense.

The Mr Blister recycling scheme is another quiet success. With The George, Girton's WI, and Knit and Natter on board, our first collection box is almost full and ready for dispatch. The contents destined to become composite boarding for work surfaces. Small action. Real impact.

We recently saw strong collaboration between the Parish Council, the Feast Committee and Girton Glebe School at the 'Christmas Fayre' and 'Light Up Girton.' A carousel, Santa, with some helpful elves, craft stalls, food truck and lots of sparkling lights. A village turning up for its children. Now, that matters!



One final story — because it says more than any spreadsheet ever could.

After a six-year wait, Mr and Mrs. Naisbett finally received the dropped kerb they were promised when they were moved, six years ago, due to subsidence. Despite being in his eighties, Mr Naisbett laid his own concrete drive, paid the fee for a surveyors visit and waited. Sadly, many phone calls and enquiries later, he and his wife still could not park safely. Thanks to a visit to 'Crafty Folk' he got support from Julie Fretwell and Sean Gentle at SCDC, They made good on that long standing promise and now, two small cars are safely off the road at last. Dignity restored.

So here is my message as we close the year.

At Christmas we talk about giving and receiving. I asked the children at Glebe School: is it better to be good, or to be kind? I'll ask you the same.

Ask the people who received a £100 support payment.
Those who had help with their gardens.
Those who finally got their dropped kerb.

And if we get our budget right, we will also be able to take the next steps and ask:
the users of a safer active travel route.
families using new recreation facilities.
the community welcoming a refurbished pavilion.
and those who find peace in a beautiful new cemetery space.

Finally! Thank you to Mary Rodger and everyone who helps keep the Cambridge Road telephone box such a lively and generous presence. At Christmas and all year round. And thank you to everyone who turned up and made the Glebe School Fayre such a success.

We are planting seeds. Some will lie dormant for a while. Whether they flourish or not will depend on good governance, clear planning and, yes, disciplined budgeting. Strategic plans require strategic finance.

But above all, success will depend on trust. Across this council. Across this village. So, enjoy the celebrations. Be good to yourselves. Be kind to yourselves. And bring that same energy, generosity, and commitment back with you in the New Year.

The work continues — and it is worth doing well.

Thank you



Stuart Marshall,



Chair of Girton Parish Council