

Chairman's Annual report from West Crewkerne Parish Council May 2025-May 2026

West Crewkerne Parish Council meet bi-monthly in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall on the fourth Thursday in the month in the main hall at 7.30pm. Dates of these meeting and agenda information can be obtained from the clerk, notice board at the village hall, and on the new WCAG compliant website <https://westcrewkerne-pc.gov.uk>

Reviewing the past year there are always matters concerning highways which are inevitably discussed at our Parish Council meetings.

Potholes and road erosion.

Exactly the same words I used last year, caused by flooding, heavy vehicles, wide farm machinery wheels and a lack of overall maintenance.

Flooding, with the heavy downpours overwhelming the gullies and drains causes numerous problems within West Crewkerne. After numerous complaints the drains and gullies along the B3165 from the Hewish- Seaborough crossroads to Clapton did have the access to them cleared, however they were not then jetted. It showed that they had not been maintained for years. The sustained rain during late winter and early spring caused drains to silt up, many huge potholes to appear, edges of roads extensive damage, and even now there are still many requiring repairs. To keep reporting with photos is advised. However, with the amount of road damage there currently remains many months of road repairs outstanding.

Emergency plan

Currently under discussion with our neighbouring parish of Wayford is to agree a joint emergency plan to assist residents in case of primarily road closures caused by flooding.

Speeding, through West Crewkerne, but especially through Roundham, with its high level of traffic, has been a concern for decades. After many years two Speed Indicator Devices have been installed in Roundham. The agreement obtained from both Police and Highways is that they are permanent. Residents have reported a noticeable decrease in traffic speed and that their houses do not shake as much. However large vehicles during the night time seem to pay little attention to these SIDs.

Planning applications.

Very few planning applications during the past year. The most contentious is for a solar farm in our neighbouring parish of Wayford. In May 2026 the Appeal Decision by the Planning Inspectorate stated that the planning permission for the proposed Solar Farm is refused.

Still to be determined is the planning application from 2024 for a farm shop at the far end of Roundham towards Chard.

I would like thank our clerk Rose Richards for her valuable support through the year, especially for the time spent with sourcing our new website. Also, my thanks are to fellow Parish Councillors and our two Unitary Councillors for their support of our West Crewkerne Parish.

Julia Borland

Chairman West Crewkerne Parish Council
May 27th 2026