

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Annual Report 2013/14



The Parish of Chaddesley Corbett includes:

The Village, Bellington, Bluntington, Brockencote, Cakebole, Hill Pool, Drayton, Harvington, Lower Chaddesley, Mustow Green (East), Tanwood, Winterfold, Woodrow, Bourne Green

Chairman's Annual Report

Parish Council elections took place on 22 May 2014 and 10 councillors were elected. This leaves a vacancy for one further councillor which will be filled by co-option in our meeting of 7 July 2014. Those elected were:

Stephen Williams
Dave Thomas
Mark Page
Will Mack

Phyllis Pardoe
Janet Fox
Richard Pugh

Geoff Vernon
Bob Green
Leo Stockford

I was re-elected as Chairman for a further year and would like to thank Sarah Pritchard and Martin Walford for their past services as Councillors. It also falls to me to thank all our contractors for their hard work on our behalf and of course the clerk, who this year has had to increase her hours to cope with the extra work as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The creation of the Neighbourhood Plan is a tremendous achievement for the parish, and we are the first in Wyre Forest and Worcestershire to have done this. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in creating this document, and already we are seeing the benefits because Wyre Forest Planners are now using it when reviewing planning applications. After its formal adoption this will be the primary reference document for deciding any proposals in the Parish.

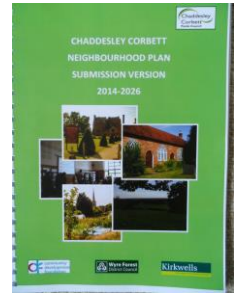
We now need your support. The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum takes place on Thursday 11 September 2014 and will be just the same as any other poll so we need you to turn out and register your vote; if you prefer, you can ask for a postal vote.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes a series of Actions to be taken by the Parish Council in order to achieve its objectives, and some of these are already being implemented. There is still a lot to do over the coming months and years; the plan will stay in force until 2026.

William Mack - Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Our work on the NP is almost complete and the External Examiner has recommended that it can go forward to a Referendum. Subject to confirmation, this should be on Thursday 11 September 2014. This is the first Referendum of this type held in Worcestershire and will follow normal election procedures, with polling cards distributed to all voters in the Parish.



Votes can be made in person at the polling station, or you might like to consider registering for a postal, or proxy vote now. If you are not registered on the Electoral Roll, you can do this now on line.

Postal votes are very useful when you are unable to get to the polling station, or you are perhaps working away that day. The deadline for registering is Tuesday 26 August.

You can also register for a proxy vote (someone voting on the elector's behalf). The deadline for applying to vote by proxy is 5.00 p.m, 6 working days before an election, or in an emergency until 5.00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Those electors who are already registered to vote by post do not need to reapply. Contact Wyre Forest District Council's Elections team on 01562 732928 or email electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Subject to more than 50% voting in favour in the Referendum, Wyre Forest District Council will formally adopt the NP in September 2014 and it will then be the main policy document for assessing any planning applications in the Parish.

The Parish Council would like to thank the many residents and friends who have participated in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, which will guide development in the Parish until 2026.

Cllr Dave Thomas
Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Old School Site

Ever since the school moved to its new position, the Parish Council has been keen that any future uses of the old site should be appropriate to the setting and beneficial to the Village and the Parish. To help ensure this, in 2013 the Parish Council registered the site (under the Localism Act) as an asset of community value.



Many residents replied to the surveys carried out during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), telling us what you thought should happen to the site. In line with these views, the NP supports re-use of space at the rear of the former school site for a range of uses including:

- extension to the burial ground;
- car parking to serve development and users of the site; and
- public open space.

The NP also states that any new development at the rear of the Victorian School Building should be complimentary to the historic context of the village centre and conservation area, and not adversely affect neighbouring properties. In addition, any housing should be suitable to meet local needs (i.e. smaller properties), as identified in the Housing Needs survey carried out earlier this year.

The Education Foundation Trustees recently selected a preferred bidder for the site. Our understanding is that the developer's plans would meet many, but not all, of the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan. For example, we understand that the preferred bidder's plans include building a small number of larger properties.

To help ensure the suitability of any future development of the site, the Parish Council has therefore decided to exercise its Right to Bid for the site, and now has until 12 November 2014 to put forward an alternative proposal to the Trustees.

Old Grammar School

This is an important historic building and the Parish Council is working to help ensure that its future is assured. Once renovated it is proposed that it should be used as a community facility and representatives of various groups around the Parish will be invited to consider its use and future management.



Traffic and Parking in the Village

As well as Planning Policies, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out several priorities for action to reduce traffic issues in the village, including addressing the problems of parking, congestion and speeding. A feasibility study is underway, looking at possible solutions and a working group is discussing the options with the consultants appointed to provide specialist advice.



A range of possible measures has been discussed, including:

- changes to road markings (white lines etc) to give the impression of narrower, rural roads.
- installing visual cues (eg signs, wooden fencing or planters on verges) at the entrances to the village (and other settlements) to make drivers more aware of the need to reduce speed.

New signs are already in place in the Village, and are planned to be introduced in other areas. When the feasibility study is complete, a formal consultation period will take place when residents will be invited to express their views on the proposals.

Temporary Advertising around the Parish

The External Examiner's report on the Neighbourhood Plan supported our wish to include a policy to control the use of temporary advertising signs, which are unsightly and distracting to drivers. Signs will need to comply with regulations and only be permitted to be displayed for a short duration, as approved by the Parish Council.

Rural Footpaths

Thanks are extended to our Footpaths Officer, Tina Mack, and our resident contractor Geoffrey Holding for his work on our 56 miles of footpaths. Apart from strimming the paths, most of the work undertaken this year was concentrated on Drayton, Harvington, Lower Chaddesley and Woodrow, at a cost of £4,000. We did get a small grant from the County Council of £500. Some stiles are being replaced with kissing gates to improve accessibility.

Lengthsman Scheme

Bill Waldron has again used his local knowledge and experience to keep our roads mainly clear of flooding. Drainage work has been undertaken to clear blocked pipes and drains and more is planned this year. Most of his work is paid for by the County Council and this year we also had a grant of £1000 for the drainage work. Our thanks are extended to Bill for his hard work and dedication.

General Maintenance

Ben Matthews has been busy sweeping the village street and keeping it tidy, cleaning bus shelters and phone boxes and keeping the weeds at bay. Ben's work is paid for by the parish council, and we thank him for his efforts.

Allotments and Community Orchard

All the plots are taken and there is a small waiting list. Ben Matthews has strimmed around the paths and our grass cutting contractors have recently cut the Community Orchard grass. A new field gate has been fitted at the entrance to the allotments with a pedestrian gate to the side. These gates will remain open during the daytime for access, but will be shut after dark for added security.

Geoffrey Holding also mows the pathways around the Orchard on a regular basis so that residents have easy access. We are planning the installation of post and rail fencing and hedging alongside the pedestrian footpath, together with a notice board.

The trees are growing well in the orchard, and were pruned by volunteers this year, under the supervision of the County Council Rangers.

Burial Ground

With only five burials this year, we have made a financial loss and this is likely to continue in future years unless an extension to the burial ground is provided. A health and safety inspection of headstones has revealed a number which are unsafe and need ground anchoring. Many of these are early burials with a 50 year lease which has expired, which means that they are now the responsibility of the parish council. Councillors are carrying out their own survey and will decide how to deal with this problem in the near future. Don Robbins has maintained the burial ground during the year and has re-laid the pathways. The District Council will cease their grant next year.

Financial Report - Annual Audit

This took place on 4 June 2012 and a summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2014 is given below:

Receipts

Annual Precept	£21,783
Grant Funding – District Council	£ 2,205
Feasibility Study – Traffic	£ 1,098
Grant – Neighbourhood Plan	£ 5,202
Burial Ground	£ 2,145
Burial Grant Wyre Forest DC	£ 555
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 495
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 3,340
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,438
Allotment Fees	£ 761
Benches	£ 374
Sundries	£ 40
VAT Reclaimed	£ 1,094
Parish Footpaths	£ 500
TOTAL	£41,030

Expenditure

Clerk's salary	£ 10,424
Expenses, mileage, etc, training	£ 792
Room hire, admin, telephone, website, etc	£ 1,430
Audit	£ 410
Newsletters	£ 400
Insurance and Subscriptions	£ 1,604
Lengthsman Scheme and drainage work	£ 4,667
General Maintenance	£ 1,574
Allotments	£ 530
Burial Ground	£ 3,299
Grit for bins	£ 365
Survey Old Grammar School/Valuation	£ 1,384
Notice Boards and General Maintenance	£ 481
Community Orchard Grass Cutting	£ 975
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,486
Parish Footpaths	£ 4,410
VAT to be recovered	£ 3,073
Grants and donations	£ 5,445
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	£ 11,313
Feasibility Study – Traffic	£ 2,750
Bench and fixing	£ 454
TOTAL	£ 57,266

It should be noted that whilst expenditure exceeded income during the financial year, there was a reserve of £20,000 from the Neighbourhood Plan Grant carried forward from the previous year.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council holds a Planning Committee meeting each month to consider current planning applications. If you would like to be notified of any planning applications in your area please go to our website at www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk and click on “Community Services” and then Planning Applications. Click on the link which will send an e-mail to the clerk who will add you to the circulation list.

Superfast Broadband

Worcestershire County Council has set a target to connect 90% of households and businesses by 2016. A contract was awarded to BT in August 2013 which will provide a further 55,000 premises with access to superfast broadband. 330 new fibre cabinets would be installed and 69 exchanges converted. Parts of Chaddesley will be connected by the end of 2014 and residents would need to change their broadband contracts to take up this service. To see when you might receive the service visit www.superfastworcestershire.com and enter your postcode.

District Councillor – Steve Williams

As a result of the election held on 22nd May the District council does not have a majority political party and the Conservatives and Liberal independents have formed a strategic alliance with 21 members to lead the administration and run the council, with the help of the chairman’s casting vote. I am delighted to say that I have been appointed Chairman of the Council, so as you can imagine I look forward to a very interesting year. I have just re-joined Chaddesley Corbett parish council and hope to be able to work closely with the chairman Cllr Will Mack to foster good relationships between both Wyre forest district council, Chaddesley Corbett parish council and Worcestershire county council

County Councillor Stephen Clee

This is my twelfth year of writing an annual report for the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council, and I would like to pay tribute on your behalf to the Parish Councillors who have worked closely with me over the past year for the betterment of all residents in Chaddesley. The council is ably clerked by Mrs Yvonne Scriven and I would like pay tribute to the strong representations that the Parish Council makes to the County and District Councils on behalf of Chaddesley residents. We value greatly Chaddesley Corbett's contribution and long may that relationship continue.

During the past year I was happy to host meetings with County Officers to alleviate the "muddy footpath" between the village and the new school. After considerable investment the issue was resolved in late autumn 2013. I was also happy to fund funding to help the parish lengthsman to carry our flood alleviation works which makes a huge difference when controlled locally.

I am pleased to support many local organisations in my division with funding to help provide support for community groups and organisations. During the last twelve months I have supported a range of local groups from, Age Concern, a Local Childcare Group, Chaddesley School for new Tables and Benches, a contribution to local swimming group for classes in teaching youngsters to swim, the 12th Brownies and donated a Queens Diamond Jubilee bench which has been installed at Harvington Hall and looks very impressive. If you run a local group or are involved with community activities and would like to be considered for a grant please contact me on 01299 – 402338 or sjcleee@tinyonline.co.uk

At County Hall we see a massive shortfall in budget over the next 3 years with £75million pounds needed to be found from efficiency saving across all service directorates. We are in a time when rather than providing services local councils are now commissioners with the voluntary sector plugging many gaps.

I will end by thanking you, the electorate, for your continued support.

Contact details for Worcestershire Hub:

Telephone Customer Service: 01562 732926
Emergency Out of Hours: 01562 850053
Fax Number: 01562 67673
Website address: www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
E-Mail address: worcestershirehub@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Or visit: Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar Street,
Kidderminster, DY10 1DB

Contact Details for West Mercia Police

Emergency 999
Non-emergency incident 101
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Visit their website www.westmercia.police.uk

Parish Council Web-Site: www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan on: www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk

Worcestershire Hub: www.worcestershire.gov.uk and enter your postcode.

Village Web-Site: www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk

Village Hall: www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk/village_hall.htm

The ideal venue for business or social events.



YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman	William Mack	01562 777789	w_mack@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman Neighbourhood Plan	Dave Thomas	01562 777315	dave.thomas28@homecall.co.uk
Chairman Planning Allotments Community Orchard	Leo Stockford	01562 777746	leo.stockford@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Vice Chairman Planning Wyre Forest Area CALC	Richard Pugh	01562 777419	rpugh@doorbars.co.uk
Police and Neighbourhood Watch	Janet Fox	01562 777559	janfox2201@btinternet.com
Trustee Education Foundation Trust Lengthsman Scheme	Bob Green	01562 731681	bobandhelgagreen@yahoo.co.uk
Trustee Education Foundation Trust and Village Hall Trustee Margaret Delabare Charity	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969	phyllispardoe@btinternet.com
Tenants Association Burial Ground	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365	
Worcs CALC Village Hall Trustee Wyre Forest Area CALC	Mark Page	07989 338803	markp125@googlemail.com
Trustee Margaret Delabare Charity	Stephen Williams	01562 777536	Stephen.williams@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Emergency Planning	Jim Wright	01562 777398	jimwright@wrightsilverwood.co.uk

Contact details for the Clerk:

Yvonne Scriven
Urloxhey House, Elmbridge,
Worcs WR9 ONQ.
Telephone: 01299 851654
Mobile: 07415 207244
Fax:01299 851444
e-mail: clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

