

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Annual Report 2016/17



New Spalding House

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

William Mack – Chairman

I would like to thank Councillors and the Clerk for their support over the last year and residents for their work on the various working groups formed to implement initiatives from the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as volunteers for litter picking etc. Welcome to our new Lengthsman Bob Twining and sincere thanks to Bill Waldron for his years of service and his long notice period to help ensure continuity. Marcus Hart has been appointed as our County Council representative in the recent local elections and he will continue as our District Councillor alongside Ian Hardiman and Steve Williams.

Review of Parish Council activities

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council and Councillors who have attended many meetings and have read and responded to numerous consultations. In September last year we established a grant funded play area next to the Orchard which has proved popular, and with regular inspections, should give good service for many years. The first stage of the Traffic Improvement plan had been implemented and double Yellow lines in their new positions appear to be helping traffic flow and have reduced the incidents of vehicles mounting the pavements. We are still considering whether bollards are needed in front of the Swan car park.

A new bus shelter on Briar Hill was designed, built and donated by A&H Construction and our thanks to Barry Adams for making this happen. With funding raising by Chaddesley Farmers, the donation of the defibrillator itself from Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service and help from Steve and Kathy Cashmore, we now have a public defibrillator in the village telephone kiosk.

Looking to the future, work continues on remaining initiatives from the Neighbourhood Plan, including traffic Improvements, affordable housing and landscaping the additional land in the burial ground and consultations are currently taking place with the Education Trust on future use of the Old Grammar School.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, who during the last year, has undertaken specific jobs or volunteered to support the many working groups and initiatives, like litter picking, that help maintain and improve Chaddesley to the level it is today.

William Mack
Chairman

Smartwater



By now everyone should have received their free Smartwater. If you have not received your kit there are still some available from the Butchers in the village. The parish council, together with the Police Commissioner, have invested in providing this to every household free of charge to help reduce incidents of burglary. “We don’t Buy Crime” villages are those where every residential property has the opportunity to mark their possessions free of charge with Smartwater. Property marking, together with signage, acts as a strong deterrent to would-be burglars, and if your property is stolen and recovered by the police, the Smartwater registration number will tell them who owns it, so it can be returned to you. Don’t forget if you see anything suspicious report it immediately to the Police by ringing 101.

DEFIBRILLATOR

A defibrillator is now available in the telephone kiosk in the village and training courses have taken place to make residents aware of what to do in an emergency. Let’s hope we never need to use it, but if you have an emergency all you have to remember is to dial 999.



If a defibrillator can be helpful, you will be directed by the Ambulance Service on how to access the equipment. The device itself guides you on how to use it. It could save lives. Many thanks to the residents and groups who provided funding for this project and the West Midlands Ambulance Service who donated the defibrillator.

Local Heritage Listing

This has now been completed and many historic buildings and features have been recorded. This was Action 15 of the Neighbourhood Plan. To view the Local Heritage List on line visit the Parish Council website:

<http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/20160204-Draft-LHL-Chaddesley-Corbett.pdf>

Play Area

The new play area has been very successful and is being enjoyed by many. It is regularly checked and a formal inspection will take place every 3 months to ensure that it is safe to use. If you notice any problems with the equipment please report it to the Clerk immediately.

Allotments

Some of our long term tenants are unable to continue with their plots so we do have vacancies at the moment. If anyone would like to grow their own vegetables and enjoy the great outdoors, please contact the clerk.

Broadband

Bringing fibre-enabled or 'Superfast' broadband to the whole Parish has taken a while, and has been complicated as some residents' landlines are connected to green cabinets in Belbroughton and Blakedown. At last, fibre-enabled broadband is now available across the parish.

Our rural location means that, unfortunately, not everyone will be able to get 'Superfast' download speeds (defined as 24Mbps or better) - this depends on how close you live to your green cabinet. If you're more than 3/4 of a mile from your cabinet, you may not be able to get 'Superfast' speeds, but even up to 2 miles away, you may be able to get better speeds than before. To access fibre-enabled broadband, you must change your existing contract. Talk to your internet provider and see what they say is available. Also check what the competition is offering, and be prepared to haggle - you could well find better deals than even your current (slower speed) contract.

Not sure which cabinet you're connected to and whether it has been upgraded?

Visit: <http://dslchecker.bt.com/>

For more information on cabinet status and other news, visit:

<http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/>

Traffic Improvement Scheme

The new yellow lines in the village of Chaddesley Corbett seem to have improved traffic flow and we are still considering whether to install bollards outside the Swan car park to protect pedestrians. When the road surface on the bridge has been repaired, white lines to visibly reduce the width of the road at this point should help to reduce speeds entering the village. We are still working on a solution to reduce vehicle speeds when entering the village from

the A448. In the outer areas, white gates have been installed to make drivers more aware of the speed limits and signage will follow. We are also considering some wild flower and daffodil planting in strategic places around the Parish – to this end volunteers to assist with bulb planting would be welcome.

Rural Footpaths

Our footpaths are maintained by Geoffrey Holding under contract, but we do have a vacancy for a Footpaths Warden. If you like walking, all you need to do is report any problems to the clerk so that they can be quickly rectified. If you are interested please contact the clerk.

General Maintenance

The Parish Council is now responsible for most of the routine maintenance around the parish, work which has been delegated to us from District and County councils. This includes the Lengthsman scheme, emptying waste bins, cleaning bus shelters, urban grass cutting, litter collection and general maintenance. Ben Matthews and Geoffrey Holding are our main contractors for this work, with Oaks Community Housing doing the urban grass cutting. Ben Matthews also looks after the village area and keeps it tidy. Our thanks to all our contractors for their work on behalf of the Parish.

Community Orchard

Trees are now maturing and this is a wonderful public area for everyone to enjoy. Let's make greater use of this facility – why not take the family for a picnic!

Burial Ground

Investigations are continuing to obtain planning permission to use the additional land for burials, followed by landscaping prior to being open for new burials. There are still some new plots available in the existing area and this is also open for re-burials. Don Robbins looks after the burial ground for us.

Lengthsman

Bill Waldron has now retired as our Lengthsman, and Bob Twining has taken over. The parish is extremely grateful to Bill Waldron for his many years of service and his valuable local knowledge, which he is passing on to Bob as required.

Recycling

A new leaflet has been produced setting out clearly what can and what cannot be recycled, a copy of which is enclosed with this report.

Severn Trent – New Pipeline

1.2m people in the Birmingham area rely on water from Elan Valley. The existing pipeline is over 100 years old and needs modernisation. The new pipeline will provide a water supply to Birmingham residents whilst the old pipeline is repaired. The project should be completed by 2020. It is expected that work around Chaddesley Corbett parish will commence in July/July 2017 and will probably affect the area for 1 week. Work will be undertaken during daylight hours and there will be a certain amount of noise generated. The pipeline could be laid at the rate of 800-900 metres per day. When crossing a major road, drilling will tunnel under the road although some disruption to traffic might occur.

Financial Report - Annual Audit

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2017 is given below and a copy of the Financial Statement is available on the Parish Council website.

Receipts

Annual Precept	£24,918
Grant Funding – District Council	£ 903
Burial Ground	£ 994
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 118
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 2,840
Parish Footpaths	£ 500
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,544
Allotment Fees	£ 751
VAT Reclaimed	£ 5,580
Training	£ 140
Transfers from other accounts	£ 5,000
Play Equipment Grant	£15,000
Sundries	£ 22
TOTAL	£59,264

Expenditure

Staff Costs	£11,269
Room hire, admin, telephone, website, etc	£ 1,747
Grants and Donations	£ 300
Audit	£ 320
Newsletters	£ 1,542
Advertising in Parish Magazine	£ 550
Insurance and Subscriptions	£ 1,688
Lengthsman Scheme and drainage work	£ 4,256
General Maintenance	£ 1,214
Allotments	£ 656
Burial Ground	£ 2,206
Grit bins, waste bins, sundries	£ 1,213
Community Orchard Grass Cutting	£ 659

Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,378
Parish Footpaths	£ 2,440
VAT to be recovered	£ 4,889
Training	£ 224
Play Equipment	£15,887
Defibrillator	£ 904
New Project Burial Ground	£ 2,000
New Projector	£ 372
Transfers	£ 5,000
TOTAL	£60,714

Precept 2017/18

Each year the Parish Council has to prepare a budget in order to assess how much Precept will be required for the forthcoming year. This year we had to ask for a 5% increase over last year, in order to meet new expenditure items and inflationary increases. The increase represents £1.23 per annum on Band D Council Tax.

District Councillor Report

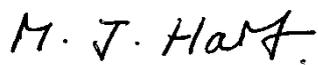
Cllr Marcus Hart has now been elected to represent Chaddesley Corbett on the Worcestershire County Council, as well as being one of our District Councillors at Wyre Forest District Council.

Wyre Forest District Council operated a £12m annual revenue budget and provided services to include waste collection, street maintenance, licencing, planning, play areas, leisure and environmental health. Last year the District Council raised income of £6m per year from Council Tax and then an additional circa 7.5 million per year from car parking, concerts, weddings at the museum, charities and the new homes bonus. The Council still had to save £1.8m in the next 3 years to balance their budget.

Assets had been transferred to local parish and town councils to save money, including emptying waste bins and litter collection, and closing the leisure centres in Kidderminster and Stourport, which were subsidised by the taxpayer to the sum of £900,000 per annum, and replacing them with the new one had saved some £500,000 per annum in subsidy. They also received income of approximately £250,000 per year by renting office space in the new Wyre Forest House. They had a £11m fund for infrastructure development, some of which would be used to open up Worcester Street area to traffic. Kidderminster is a low wage area so the District Council needs to encourage better paid industry and commerce.

A draft new Local Plan would go out for consultation in June and would cover 2017-2034, with a need to provide 300 new homes every year for the next 17 years, of which a substantial amount would be on brownfield sites, although some greenfield and green belt sites would have to be considered. The District needed to have a 5 year land supply at any one time.

Worcestershire County Council is responsible for adult social care, children's services and highways of which children and adults account for 2/3rds of the budget, with a staff of approximately 3,500. £5m had been allocated to improve congestion, and improvements to Mustow Green are being considered.



Cllr Marcus Hart



Cllr Ian Hardiman



Cllr Stephen Williams

Ward Councillors for Wyre Forest Rural

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council has a very informative website – please follow this link to view:- <http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Every month the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting is posted on the website 5 days before the meeting, together with draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting. The website also contains many documents which show how the Parish Council is governed, finance, Councillors contact details, community services, minutes and reports from the last six years and notices of current events.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, usually followed by a Planning Committee meeting when current planning applications are considered. Members of the public are welcome to attend any of our meetings and a time is set aside for you to address the meeting on any matters of local interest or concern. If you don't have access to a computer, agendas, minutes and notices are placed on 4 notice boards around the Parish every month. Perhaps you would like to be more involved in what is happening in your local community, so come along to our meetings or contact the clerk or Councillors direct. The Parish Council is completely non-political.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is a public meeting held in May of each year, when the Parish Council invites residents to come along and meet councillors and other guest speakers. This year we met our new Police Superintendent, James Ashton, representatives from Severn Trent Water, Kate Stott from Severn Waste Recycling and Marcus Hart from Wyre Forest District Council. Residents expressed their appreciation of the interesting topics discussed and enjoyed refreshments after the meeting. Next year, we plan to start with a 'Questions from the Public' session, so do come along and take part. Details are published well in advance in the local Parish Magazine and notices are placed on our 4 notice boards around the Parish.

Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall

This community facility is available to all and gives everyone an opportunity to get out and meet others. A wide variety of events take place there including Womens' Institutes, Keep Fit, Quilting, Film Club, Chaddesley Dramatic Arts (CATS), Mothers and Toddlers, Pilates, Historical Society lectures, Gardening, etc. Forthcoming events are publicised in the Parish Magazine every month.

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Magazine

For a small donation, you could receive this informative magazine every month, and copies are available to purchase from St Cassians Church and village shops. Order your copy now and keep informed on forthcoming events, films, theatrical performances, church activities, as well as complete copies of Parish Council minutes of meetings. There are also lots of useful local contacts if you have maintenance requirements.

Wyre Forest District Council

Public Space Protection Order Consultation - Wyre Forest District Council wants to hear your views about their proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) pursuant to dog control. If you would like to comment visit the website and complete the online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PSPOControl>

Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation.

This document identifies to potential approached to how the District Council might meets its development requirements in the period up to 2034, along with proposed strategic, development management and allocations policies. If you would like to comment visit the website and comment on the options by 14 August 2017. <http://wyreforestdc-consult.limehouse.co.uk>

FUTURE OF THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, CHADDESLEY CORBETT

an update from Hugh Richards, Chairman of Trustees

As many local residents will know, the Trustees of the Chaddesley Corbett Educational Foundation (“CCEF”) have been looking at bringing the Old Grammar School building next to St Cassian’s church (“the OGS”) into use as a community hall in line with the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. However, it is now clear that it is going to cost a great deal more money than it was originally thought would be needed. Before the Trustees commit over £100,000 to the project, we need to make sure that there really is a demand for a new community hall in the village and that investing so much is in accordance with the rules governing charities such as the CCEF. The Trustees cannot lawfully simply refurbish the OGS and make it available to the community without getting a return on its investment.

An alternative to use as a community hall would require planning permission for an alternative use (perhaps a business use or residential for letting out to local people) that would benefit the local community and the CCEF. The Trustees held a public meeting on 8 May 2017 advertised locally and in the Kidderminster Shuttle to try to establish whether there was any interest from individuals, groups or organisations to commit to taking a lease of 3 years or more on a refurbished OGS to run it as a community hall for the benefit of the local community and what the interest is in using a refurbished OGS on a regular or occasional basis. Understandably, it appears that local groups are unwilling at present to contemplate a financial commitment. Concern was also expressed about an OGS-based community hall adversely impacting on the viability of the Village Hall. Since then the Trust has agreed to work with the Parish Council in trying to take the matter forward.

If the Trustees feel that it would not be prudent to invest significantly in refurbishing the OGS as a community hall, then they will look to alternative uses and make any necessary application for planning permission for redevelopment and change of use. The Trustees do not intend to dispose of the OGS on the open market.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman	William Mack	01562 777789	w_mack@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Dave Thomas	01562 777315	david.thomas28@homecall.co.uk
Chairman Planning Allotments Community Orchard	Leo Stockford	01562 777746	leo.stockford@hpe.com
Vice Chairman Planning Wyre Forest Area CALC	Richard Pugh	01562 777419	susiepugh@ymail.com
Police and Neighbourhood Watch	Janet Fox	01562 777559	janfox2201@btinternet.com
Burial Ground	Harry Green	01562 777842	harrygreen779@hotmail.com
Trustee Education Foundation Trust and Village Hall Trustee Margaret Delabare Charity	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969	phyllispardoe557@gmail.com
Tenants Association	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365	
Worcs CALC Village Hall Trustee Wyre Forest Area CALC Lengthsman Scheme	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:

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Mobile: 07415 207244
e-mail: clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk



Parish Council Website: www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk

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

