

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Annual Report 2017/18



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

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support over the last year as well as residents for their work on the various working groups. This year we said goodbye to Harry Green and Jim Wright and we welcomed our new youngest Parish Councillor, Kyra Robbins. Our sincere thanks go to both Harry and Jim for their work on behalf of the community.

Bob Twining has settled in as our Lengthsman and is doing a good job of keeping our roads and footways clean and free from flooding problems. Also thanks to our contractors Geoff Holding, Don Robbins and Ben Matthews and Lynn Jeffs who is or Sexton. Special thanks to our many volunteer litter pickers who are doing a marvellous job of keeping our parish tidy and our footpaths warden Sarah Green.

Review of Parish Council activities

Under the Localism initiative, the Parish Council has taken over emptying our litter bins on a regular basis, this service is being paid for by the District Council.

The Smartwater initiative was completed and every household had an opportunity to mark their property to help prevent burglaries. There are still some kits available if anyone was missed or if there are new residents of the parish – these are available from The Butcher's shop in the Village. Remember to send off the registration form or the police will not be able to identify the owner of any property which they might recover in the future. Signage around the parish is designed to deter would be burglars so please put your stickers up to support the initiative.

An exciting programme has been put together for the parish to celebrate the end of World War 1 – see programme enclosed. Don't forget to get your tickets for the various events and attend the service at St Cassians Church on 11 November 2018.

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.

William Mack

Chairman

DAFFODIL PLANTING

This year saw the start of an on-going programme of daffodil planting around the parish. Volunteers planted bulbs on Briar Hill at the entrances to The Green and Malvern View and this received much approval from residents. They not only looked attractive but they serve the purpose of reminding drivers that they are in a residential area and hopefully slow down.



TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Like many other towns and villages in the country we are experiencing traffic congestion on our roads and particularly through the conservation areas of Chaddesley and Harvington. Regular delays on the M5 and resulting traffic diversions just make things worse. Commuters using our country lanes as a cut through cause considerable inconvenience, and safety concerns. The best way to improve things is for Mustow Green island to be extended and improved as it is the major bottle neck in the Parish. Both the Parish and the District Council have pushed hard to get this on the long term plan for Worcestershire County Council highway improvements – let's hope it is not too long term.

White gates and signage has been introduced at some of the entrances to our residential areas, and hopefully this will prompt drivers to reduce speed. Further improvements are being made to signage from Bluntington crossroads to the village and at the entrance to the village from the A448.

Double yellow lines have been introduced in the turning circle in Hemmingway and at Mustow Green where parked vehicles were blocking entrances to driveways. Double yellow lines in the village have improved traffic flow, but some drivers still drive far too fast through this area, endangering both pedestrians and motorists. Signage is being improved on the entrances to the village to try to slow traffic down when entering from A448 and from Briar Hill.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Local volunteers have recognised the need to provide support for people who have Dementia. Dementia can lead to loneliness for both the sufferer and the carers. Under the leadership of Diane Dolley, the Parish Council has supported the initiative by providing assistance and funding to set up a monthly Dementia Care Café, which is held on the second Wednesday in each month in the village hall. A programme of entertainment, companionship and education has been prepared together with tea and cakes. Volunteers are always welcome to help on the day or even bake a cake. We would like to thank Elmbridge Parish Council and Friends, Chaddesley Surgery, Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council for their support to get us where we are today.

Please contact the Clerk for further information.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As a Statutory Consultee, the Parish Council has the opportunity to comment on all planning applications, although the final decision rests with the District Council. On several occasions we have been able to object to an application on the grounds that it does not comply with our Neighbourhood Plan.

However, under current legislation quite a lot of development is permitted without District or Parish Council approval and this sometimes raises queries from members of the public. For instance, building a shed in your garden may be permitted as long as they are not to live in, and these can be up to 50% of the size of your garden! It is always a good idea to get a pre-consultation with the District Council before undertaking any development work.

REVIEW OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our Development Plan was completed in 2014 and runs until 2026. However, planning rules are constantly changing and we feel it is necessary to keep our Plan up to date. The District Council are currently reviewing their Local Plan, and as soon as this is complete, we will need to change ours to keep it relevant and up to date. The Parish Council has already started work on this and it should be completed in the next 2 years. This will include a call for suitable sites within the Parish for development of affordable housing, which will have to meet all the criteria for sustainable rural development.

BT KIOSK IN MORTON ROAD, HARVINGTON

This has been acquired by the Parish Council and is currently being prepared by a local resident for use as a small library.

CHESTNUT TREE

Everyone was sad to see the removal of the tree at the entrance to the village but we have been promised a replacement Oak tree which should be planted later this year.

THE TALBOT

Good news that the Talbot is now under new ownership and will we understand shortly be opening up for business offering bed and breakfast and a restaurant. This will be a tremendous asset for the village.

TOURISM

Many villages and towns have suffered in recent years with shop and pub closures. The Parish Council has set up a Working Group to develop an exciting new Website to promote our Village as a good place to visit, to draw in more people who we hope will contribute to our local businesses

The website will be launched shortly, and will have pages on:

Where to Go

Where to Stay, History

Where to Eat and Drink

What is on in Chaddesley.

If you would like to showcase your business or service on the website, please contact the clerk.

DATA PROTECTION

To see our Privacy Policy please go to

[http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/Website privacy policy Final.pdf](http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/Website%20privacy%20policy%20Final.pdf)

OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Parish Council objected to the recent proposal to convert the old grammar school adjacent to St Cassian's Church into a residential property because it did not comply with our Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan includes a Site Allocation Policy for this building, stating that it should be retained for continued educational or related D1 (i.e. non-residential) use. This is now in the hands of the District Council.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND PLAY AREA

This facility is available to everyone and is a valuable asset which needs to be used more by residents and visitors. Fruit from the trees is there for anyone who wishes to pick it.

BURIAL GROUND

We have acquired extra land to extend the existing burial ground and are hoping to get this landscaped in the next year or so. In the meantime, if anyone would like to donate a memorial bench we would be happy to consider requests. Please contact the clerk.

LOCAL SERVICES

The Parish Council has taken on responsibility for some services previously provided by the District and County Councils, including the maintenance of our footways, verges, drainage, signs, waste bins, litter picking, grass cutting etc. Funding has been provided for this work so residents are not paying twice for the services.

Financial Report - Annual Audit

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2018 is given below and a copy of the Financial Statement is available on the Parish Council website.

Receipts

Annual Precept	£26,164
Council Tax Subsidy	£ 304
Burial Ground	£ 914
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 4
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 1,863
Parish Footpaths	£ 500
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,580
Allotment Fees	£ 778
VAT Reclaimed	£ 3,070
Waste Bins	£ 1,250
Grants	£ 4,200
Insurance Claim Refund	£ 354
Transfers from other accounts	£ 7,266
Contribution to Harvington Sign	£ 216
TOTAL	£48,463

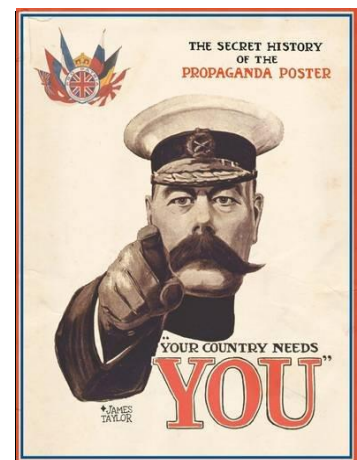
Expenditure

Staff Costs	£11,603
Room hire, admin, telephone, website, etc	£ 1,875
Grants and Donations	£ 1,205
Audit	£ 420

Newsletters	£ 1,629
Advertising in Parish Magazine	£ 550
Insurance and Subscriptions	£ 1,866
Lengthsman Scheme and drainage work	£ 2,538
General Maintenance	£ 1,073
Allotments	£ 953
Burial Ground	£ 2,093
Sundry Expenses	£ 451
Community Orchard Grass Cutting	£ 672
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,403
Parish Footpaths	£ 2,124
VAT to be recovered	£ 3,338
Training	£ 263
Play Equipment Maintenance	£ 330
Waste Bins	£ 1,560
Harvington Sign	£ 360
Traffic Improvement Scheme	£ 2,585
Extension to burial ground	£ 2,990
Smartwater	£ 4,450
TOTAL	£46,331

WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

2018 is the Centenary of the end of World War 1 and the Parish Council has worked with local volunteer groups to put together an exciting programme of events to commemorate the event. You will find a full programme enclosed with this Annual Report with information on the events and where to obtain tickets etc. There is also a very interesting Trail where you can find out where soldiers who died in the war used to live in the parish. Don't miss any of these events as numbers are limited – tickets etc available from local shops. Join us on 11 November for the Remembrance Service and re-dedication of the war memorial, and a fly-past!



Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Annual Report from District Councillors for the Wyre Forest Rural Ward Ian Hardiman, Marcus Hart and Stephen Williams and County Councillor for the Chaddesley Division Marcus Hart
August, 2018

It has been an exceptionally busy year. Wyre Forest District Council approved a council tax increase of 1.9% this year, which equated to an increase of £3.98 per year on a Band D property, making the District Council's portion, £209.00, 13% of the overall bill. The Council has seen its revenue support grant (RSG), the money it

receives from Government reduce to circa £100,000 this year. It was approximately £4 million in 2010 and therefore our overall funding has reduced by approximately 45% since 2010. We do of course now receive new homes bonus for approving planning consent on new homes and business (NHB) rates income that we did not receive before. The NHB is now very limited income and we certainly do not approved consent on more homes than we need to get this income.

We still have a £1.6 million funding gap at the end of 20-21, of which we are taking a number of measures to address, namely growing our income from being more commercial and increasing fees and charges, reducing some services, reducing costs and streamlining procedures to become more efficient and we have seen the setting up of a capital portfolio fund where we are now investing in commercial property to bring a revenue stream to the council, the first acquisition being shops at Worcester Street and High Street, Kidderminster, which is also a commitment by the Council to attempt to regenerate this area.

Ultimately not all of the funding gap can be plugged and this will inevitably lead to difficult budgetary choices moving forward but we have recently appointed a commercial manager as we have a relentless drive to grow our traded services and bring in income to the Council. We do have circa £3.7 million of unallocated reserves but by the end of 20-21 this will be circa £2.1 million and therefore you can see it is vital we address the underlying ongoing issue of income over expenditure. It is essential that we continue therefore to embrace the localism agenda and work with our partners such as the Parish Council and transfer services and assets where mutually beneficial. The District Council's spending power is limited, in stark contrast to Parish Councils.

Work on the £4,000,000 transformation and redevelopment of Kidderminster train station has just commenced which is great news for residents and commuters. The facilities will be transformed, including new toilet and cafe facilities. We are continuing to ensure that there is development on the Silverwoods site and have just seen a pub restaurant approved for that location and hope to see industrial units on the site soon too.

Our local plan consultation, subject to the Government publishing the NPPF, revised standard methodology and our housing figure by the summer, should commence in the Autumn. We will have to see considerable growth in the District over the next 15-20 years and inevitably this will mean releasing green belt land for development as we simply do not have sufficient brown field sites. However, we are determined to bring as much brown field land back into use as possible and have in the last few months approved the usage of compulsory purchase orders for land in the Horsefair and at Market Street both in Kidderminster, should they be needed, to kick start these areas for redevelopment as opposed to being redundant eyesores.

We will also see the development of the Horsefair and land at the former Duke House (known as Churchfields) commence later this year and a spur road off the Horsefair island to open up the building of 200 houses and the new road layout will mean a one way system for leaving and entering Kidderminster via the Horsefair. Locally, in Chaddesley Corbett we continue to receive a wide variety of case work pertaining to the District Council, often about planning matters, but also regarding litter and fly tipping and we deal with those as efficiently as we can. We always reply to all casework enquiries and one of the three of us always attend the Parish Council meetings and provide a report.

Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) 2018/2019 budget saw a 1.94% increase in Council Tax and a 3% increase in its Adult Social Care Precept, in total just shy of a 5% increase. The maximum that WCC could increase by is 6% (3% plus 3%). The increase on a Band D property is circa £56 per annum as the WCC part of the bill is 70%. The Council currently spends approximately 70% of its net revenue budget of £324 million pa on children's and adults social care, protecting the most vulnerable in order to fulfil its statutory obligations. This is roughly 12,000 service users out of a Worcestershire population of approximately, 580,000.

Approximately, 90% of schools in Worcestershire remain good or outstanding and Worcestershire schools should see their per pupil funding go up for 18-19 as we have received an extra £10 million overall in our designated schools grant. However, whilst this is a step in the right direction, Worcestershire schools are still poorly funded compared to our near neighbours. The Ludlow Road short stay provision for children with disabilities, situated in Kidderminster will remain open for 2018-2019 and is subject to further review.

I am lobbying the Council for a permanent solution to tackle Mustow Green island but this will be costly and in the current climate funding is not available but rest assured I continue to make the case for action at County Hall as I know it gets terribly congested at peak time and is the cause of much rat running through the lanes, in particular Harvington Hall Lane.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council has a very informative website – please take a look at:-
<http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/>

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.

LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICING

Inspector Jake Wright, Wyre Forest Safer Neighbourhood Team, wants us to make more use of our local policing teams for any problems which don't require a 999 emergency response. Local officers are not intended to replace the 101 system to record crime, but Inspector Wright has provided the work mobile telephone numbers for officers in our area. The intention is that communities get to know exactly who their local team are and know how to contact them directly to seek advice or guidance.

PC Derya Mustafa
07773 047606

PCSO Becky Rushton
07773 044108

PCSO Cath Palmer
07773 046282

Or Email: kidderminstereast.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman	William Mack	01562 777789
Vice Chairman	Dave Thomas	01562 777315
Chairman Planning Allotments Community Orchard	Leo Stockford	01562 777746
Vice Chairman Planning Burial Ground	Richard Pugh	01562 777419
Police and Neighbourhood Watch	Janet Fox	01562 777559
Trustee Education Foundation Trust and Village Hall Trustee Margaret Delabere Charity	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969
Tenants Association	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365
Worcs CALC Village Hall Trustee Wyre Forest Area CALC Lengthsman Scheme	Mark Page	07989 338803
Trustee Margaret Delabere Charity	Stephen Williams	01562 777536

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE CLERK

Telephone: 01562 777976
Mobile: 07415 207244
e-mail: clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk



New Parish Website:

Parish Council Website: www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk

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

