



St Mary's Harvington

January 2011 Newsletter NEWSLETTER



Harvington Hall

Chairman's New Year statement

I'm delighted to introduce the first Newsletter of the year, which provides a view of our activities to support and encourage our community.

Last year was very important for the Parish and I am pleased we can look back on 12 months of achievement - for us, those with whom we work, the residents and the local employers whose interests we promote.

In November the Parish Council approved the 2011 budget and once again determined that there would be no increase in the Parish precept following a rigorous assessment process which highlighted the positive aspects of the Council's work. The good economic practice recognises areas of commitment and investment in meeting the modest needs of the Parish and I commend this thrift to your attention.

We have successfully maintained our Quality Parish Council status with the Regulators, this means we have continued to increase the competence and authority of the Council's offering to all partners with whom we work and in a wide range of influence.

Councillors, with the Parish Clerk, have continued to review the systems, processes and structure in order to provide the best service possible for residents and have often been commended for the excellent service and quality of the representation that we undertake.

For this, I would like to thank our Clerk Yvonne Scriven, our Lengthsman Bill Waldron, the footpath wardens and so many others for ensuring this has been possible. I would also like to thank my colleague Councillors who help set, direct and support our strategy for the business and for their commitment and contribution towards the success of the Parish Council.

I genuinely feel that the Council is well equipped to take on any of the challenges that lie ahead and with our commitment to providing a service for the community, I believe we can continue to improve the quality of our response to the many demands which are put upon the Parish and deliver greater satisfaction over the outcome of the problems which remain.

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Affordable Housing in the Parish

In November Wyre Forest District Council and the Community Housing Association, held a joint public consultation on proposals for four affordable properties on the Green, Chaddesley Corbett. More than 60 residents attended and many useful and constructive comments were received and will be taken into account.

Affordable housing is required to accommodate people who have a connection with the Parish and want to live here.

Two of the properties will be to rent and two available for part ownership. If you would like to register an interest please contact Wyre Forest District Council.

We are pleased to report that there has been a change in the policy on letting community housing and in future anyone who applies under the Home Choice Plus scheme, who meets the criteria and has a local connection, will be given priority for these properties over other applicants.



Proposed 3 x 2 bedded and 1 x 3 bedded houses

Planning Applications

The District Council is responsible for advising residents if a planning application has been submitted in their immediate locality, and notices are published outside the property.

Sometimes this means that people who ought to know about an application don't and this can cause problems. The Parish Council publish details of forthcoming planning applications on their website.

The Parish Council are also willing to e-mail details of planning applications to those who would like to receive them. If you would like this service, please send your e-mail address to the Clerk.



Engaging with Young People of the Parish

A Working Group has been set up to explore ways of encouraging young people to participate in the many activities available to them in the Parish.

Initially it has been agreed to prepare a leaflet spotlighting the groups and organisations who offer services to young people and who would welcome new members.

The leaflet is enclosed and is designed to be attractive to young people of all ages. Contact details are given and we would ask parents to encourage their children to take part.

There is so much to choose from - football, rugby, cricket, hockey all are available at the Sports Club in Fox Lane. For those who require quieter pursuits there is amateur dramatics, history,

bell ringing, singing, gardening and many more.

There may be an opportunity to form a Youth Club, and the Parish Council would like to hear from any resident who is interested in organising this, or any other activity such as Guides, Scouts, etc.

Full details are available from the website.

Emergency Planning and Neighbourhood Watch

Emergencies can happen at any time, anywhere and can affect everyone. All we can do to protect ourselves is to be prepared.

Your Parish Council has formulated a Community Emergency Plan and has already circulated extracts of this plan to all Residents. This local Emergency Plan has now been incorporated into the District and County arrangements and in the event of a problem in our area, the emergency services should respond quickly and use local contacts where applicable.

Each resident should have their own individual emergency plan, where to go, what to take, and who to contact, etc. The Parish Council has a number of 'emergency kits' provided by E-on, for use when electricity supplies are cut.

If you would like one of these please contact the Clerk.

Police Alerts are organised by Kate Easthope, our Community Support Officer with West Mercia Police. The network of co-ordinators receive information by e-mail and they notify people in their area of any potential problems. If you would like to receive this information direct, please contact the Clerk who will arrange for you added to the circulation list.

The Police have issued some crime prevention tips, which might help to protect you and your garden from burglars:

Boundaries on your property are the first line of defense - make sure that garden fences are high enough to prevent climbing and use a trellis to add additional height.

Gates and garages should be kept locked at all times.

Install security lighting

Keep hedges at a height you can see over, keep the bottom of hedges trimmed so you can see through them. If you cannot see out, then no one can see in!

Use defensive plants such as Berberis, Pyracantha, Holly, Hawthorn, etc, around vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, drainpipes etc

Don't store expensive items in a shed, or shackle padlock them to the door, fit grilles or mesh to windows - make it harder for an intruder to see inside. Invest in an alarm for the shed.

Make sure that bicycles and other large items are chained together - it is much more difficult to carry away a lot of heavy items at once.

Ensure that ladders are not left outside the property - this is an invite to thieves. Lock them in a shed or garage. This also applies to wheelie bins (thieves have been known to stand on them to gain access into a garden). Keep them out of sight.

Have your property security marked where possible - contact your Community Support Officer to arrange this.

Check that your household insurance covers items in your garden.

Remember to report all incidents and receive an incident No. PACT post-cards can be obtained from the surgery and will be collected regularly.

Alternatively ring Kate Easthope Community Support Officer on 0300 333 3000 or by e-mail: kate.easthope@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Transport Helpline

Volunteers are needed in our local community to help people who cannot use public transport. Volunteer drivers take those who are not able to travel by other means to the doctor, hospital, shops, dentist, library, or other essential journeys. You receive expenses per mile for use of your car and will only be called upon for times and days to suit. **Contact 01299 405820 for further information**

Police Surgeries will be held at local garden centres to give you the opportunity to meet your local policing team.

Barnett Hill Garden Centre -

2 February, 27 April, 8 June, 17 August, 12 October and 7 December
Between 5.00-7.00 p.m.

Rowberry's Garden Centre -

13 February (3.00-5.00pm)
9 April (10.00-12 noon)
4 June, 14 August, 22 October, 4 December (11.30-1.30 pm)

Lengthsman Scheme, Maintenance and Footpaths

We are very lucky to have Bill Waldron as our Lengthsman, and to show our appreciation of his work we nominated him for a National Award. He came Runner-up and enjoyed a day in London to receive his certificate.

Our paths and verges are better maintained than anywhere else in the area, and recently the pathways on Briar Hill and the Green were included in his schedule.

Snow clearance is a major problem in rural areas, and extra grit bins have been requested from the County

Council to ensure that residents can reach essential services and shops. Unfortunately our request has been refused, but we are pursuing this.

The Lengthsman will also assist with snow clearance from pathways in essential areas, but residents and businesses should not be discouraged from clearing their own paths.

The Lengthsman scheme is very popular and should continue to receive some financial support from the County Council in coming years, despite the proposed cut-backs.

Our Parish Footpath Wardens continue to look after our 50 miles of public footpaths. One bridge has had to be dismantled near Swancote Farm and another needs replacement during the next 12 months. Maintenance work on footpaths will have to be prioritised due to financial cut backs. Please report any defects to the Clerk.

The footpath across Chaddesley Racecourse should not be closed during race meetings, but may be diverted for health and safety reasons, and a warden appointed by the organisers to escort walkers safely across.



Community Notice Boards

Currently there are three Parish Council Notice Boards in the Parish - the village, Drayton and Harvington. In addition there is a Community Notice Board outside the village school.

In order to improve communications with residents on Briar Hill, the Green and Malvern View, it has been decided to erect a new Community Notice Board on the Bus Stop on Briar Hill.

This Notice Board will be available to anyone in the Community who wishes to

advertise an event, meeting, group or association. The Parish Council will also use it to keep residents informed about their activities and meetings.

Anyone wishing to use the Notice Board can obtain the key from the Post Office, or from the Clerk.

Residents are invited to participate in the many groups and organisations available to them. These groups are organised for your enjoyment by local volunteers, and they welcome new members.

Join now and be part of the Big Community.

More information on the services and activities available in the Parish can be obtained from the Parish Magazine, which is available from businesses in the village and St Cassian Church.

Alternatively visit our web-sites.



Chaddesley
Corbett
Parish
Council are
pleased to



announce that they have been awarded re-accreditation as a Quality Parish Council for a further four years.

The Council was commended on the quality of its presentation to the examining board and their level of communication with the electorate.

Community Orchard

Chaddesley Corbett is unfortunate in that we do not have a village green, although we have been able to use the school playground for local events such as the Village Fete.

In 2008 it was decided to use part of the allotment site as a Community Orchard, and residents and friends donated money for the purchase of trees. In 2009 and 2010 we held planting days when residents were invited to come along and help

plant the trees. In January 2011 work will start on a central Espalier of apple and pear trees and pathways will be laid out, leading to a central grassed area, which can be used for local events.

An official opening of the Community Orchard will be held in September and everyone will be invited to come along with their friends and families to enjoy a barbecue and entertainment.

Benches will be provided so that residents can meet to relax and enjoy this community facility.

If you would like to donate a memorial bench to a loved one, please contact the Clerk.



News from the District Council

The Government have announced that the Grant from Central Government funding will be reduced in 2011-2012 by 15.8% and by 13% in 2012-2013. In 2009-2010 the Council achieved 8% cost reductions, which included a 35% cut in senior management costs, and have firm plans to make further savings, including over £500k a year from their new offices which will open in 2012.

The Chief Executive, Mr Ian Miller, along with John Champion, Leader of the Council, have made strong representations to the Department for Communities and Local Government to press for fairer funding for Wyre Forest.

20 mph Speed Limit in the Village

Worcestershire County Council surprised us all by installing two high visibility solar flashing lights by St Cassian's Church and outside Beams End Cottage. As this is in the centre of the Conservation Area consultation should have taken place prior to their installation, but this was done hastily because of a report from the school crossing patrol. The Conservation Officer at Wyre Forest District Council

immediately took action to try to reduce the impact on the Conservation Area by asking for the signs to be moved further away from the centre of the village, but at the same time still being effective in reducing the speed at which cars travel through this congested area of the village.

Initial suggestions are shown on the plan, but negotiations are continuing for the sign by

Hawkway House to be moved to the Bridge at the bottom of Briar Hill. The signs themselves will be repainted black so they are not so obtrusive when not in use.

Obviously the safety of children using the school is paramount, but there are clearly laid down rules about signs in Conservation Areas, which is also reiterated in the Parish Design Statement.



Proposed relocation of signs

Parish Councillors can be contacted as below. Councillors also have particular responsibilities as shown below:

Chairman	Jonathan Swift	01562 777268
Vice Chairman, Burial Ground, Budget , Staffing	Ken Bartlett	01562 777453
Chairman Planning Allotments, Community Orchard, Web Site	Leo Stockford	01562 777746
Vice Chairman Planning Transport, Parking	Dave Thomas	01562 777315
Lengthsman Scheme	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365
Community Housing		
Police Consultative	Janet Fox	01562 777559
Wyre Forest Area CALC Engaging with Youth Parish	Martin Walford	01562 777325
Wyre Forest Area CALC Rural Matters	Richard Pugh	01562 777419
Parish Plan	Will Mack	01562 777789
Councillor	Bob Green	01562 731681
Trustee of Charitable Organisations	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969
Clerk	Yvonne Scriven	01299 851654

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council is a Quality Parish Council. Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month at the Village Hall and residents are invited to come along, address the Parish Council, or just observe. There are eleven Parish Councillors, all elected, and elections are held every 4 years, the next one being in May 2014. The Agenda for meetings is published on our website at least 5 days before the meeting, and Minutes of previous meetings are also available on the website. There are three Council Notices Boards, situated in the Village, Drayton and Harvington. In May of each year we hold an Annual Parish Meeting when all residents and friends are invited to come along, listen to the speakers, and get involved in what is happening in your Parish.

Every year the Parish Council hold a public meeting which is open to anyone, friends and residents. This meeting gives you the opportunity to find out how your money is being spent and to ask questions of the Councillors.

This year's meeting will be held on Monday 16 May 2011 at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments are provided on arrival.

Web Sites: www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish
Contact Clerk: www.yvonne.scriven@btinternet.com

The Big Society

Chaddesley Corbett Parish is very fortunate because we have had a Big Society for many years! So many of our residents already give their time and expertise to organise clubs and associations, stage first class amateur dramatics, manage various charitable organisations, the Sports Club, Womens' Institutes' and many others; too many to mention them all, but most are listed on the back of the monthly Parish Magazine, available from the Post Office.

The Government 'Big Society' anticipates that the community will take on some of the jobs local authorities will no longer be able to provide. We don't yet know what this will involve, but Chaddesley Corbett Parish is well prepared and is already involved in the Local Strategic Partnership through 'Wyre Forest Matters'.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who already participates in community activities and who give their time freely and generously.

Age Related Benefits: It is estimated that up to 9 million old person households fail to claim all their benefit entitlements, particularly in rural areas. Advice on Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Carers Allowance or just extra help in your home can be obtained in the first instance from the Worcestershire Hub, by telephoning 01905 363948, or on line at www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Whatever your requirements Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall is the perfect location.

Conferences, lectures, training, workshops, birthday parties, social events, pilates, keep fit, etc.

Visit their new web-site

www.chaddesleycorbettvillagehall.org.uk

