

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Annual Report 2014/15



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

It has been a very busy year for your Parish Council.

We had a Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan; a Traffic Feasibility Study was prepared and consulted upon and is now awaiting County Council consideration, a piece of land was purchased to create an extension to the burial ground and the Parish Council went digital paying accounts by BACS. Quite a year!

Our success is due to the contractors who carry out work for us, residents who have assisted in our bigger projects, a dedicated clerk and of course my fellow Parish Councillors. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and enthusiasm.

We have had to slightly increase the Precept this year to meet increased costs, but during the last financial year all expenditure has been covered from reserves and grants.

We still have some opportunities ahead but by working together with residents and other groups in the Parish anything is achievable.

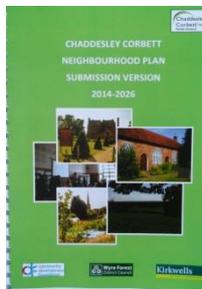
William Mack – Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

It's ten months since Chaddesley Corbett made history with the first Neighbourhood Plan in Worcestershire; what's been happening since then?

The NP is now enforced by Wyre Forest as our Planning Authority, but every time the Parish Council's Planning Committee comments on development plans, we make reference to any relevant policies in the NP. As well as the policies, the NP sets out a range of actions for the Council to take, and we have set up a number of Working Groups to address those actions. Many of you are aware of one Working Group's recent consultation exercise about the proposals of the Traffic Feasibility Study, aimed at addressing speeding and congestion in the Parish. Other Working Groups are now reviewing a wide range of topics, including our Public Open Spaces, Conservation Area boundaries and Sport and Play facilities. Please do visit the Parish Council website on <http://chaddesleyplan.org.uk> to read about the progress being made by these Working Groups.

Dave Thomas



Traffic and Parking in the Village

A Feasibility Study was prepared for the Parish Council by outside Consultants and its recommendations were adopted by the Parish Council in April 2015. Proposals have been submitted to Worcestershire County Council and discussions should take place shortly on how these can be delivered.

Key objectives were:

- No reduction in parking places
- No driving on footpaths
- Passing points that work
- Improved safety for pedestrians
- Improved visibility
- People can still park close to the shops

A range of possible measures have been recommended, including:

Anti-speeding measures:

- Flashing signs (move around key locations)
- Gateway signs and planters as visual cues
- White lines to visually narrow the bridge
- Removal of centre lines
- Changed colour of road surface in Conservation Area
- re-engineered junction with A448

Anti-Congestion measures:

- Re-locate double yellows from Beams End
- Replace 'Keep Clear' boxes with double yellows
- Replacement double yellow lines opposite the Swan car park to create a passing point.

The Old School Site

The site of the old school was sold to A & H Construction in January 2015.

The Parish Council was able to acquire a section of land at the rear of the site for an extension to the burial ground, which includes some land for landscaping and providing public open space.



Old Grammar School

The Education Foundation Trust retained ownership of this building when the site was sold, and once renovated it is proposed that it should be used as a community facility. Representatives of various groups around the Parish will be invited to consider its use and future management.



Temporary Advertising Signs

The Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy to control the use of temporary advertising signs, which are unsightly and distracting to drivers. Temporary signs need to comply with regulations and will only be permitted to be displayed for short duration. However, 'Deemed Consent' makes this policy difficult to control and we will need to enlist the goodwill of businesses and organisations to seek Parish Council approval before placing signs.

Rural Footpaths

Thanks are extended to our Footpaths Officer, Tina Mack, and our resident contractor Geoffrey Holding for their work on our 56 miles of footpaths. We would also like to thank landowners who have co-operated with the Footpath Officers to ensure that our footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. Most of the work on our footpaths is paid for by the Parish Council with just a small grant from Worcestershire County Council.

Lengthsman Scheme

Bill Waldron has spent most of the year keeping our roads free of drainage problems, including cutting back grass and weeds from verges and footways, clearing ditches and digging gulleys. Most of this work is paid for by the County Council with the Parish Council adding to the budget when required. Our thanks are extended to Bill for his hard work and dedication.

General Maintenance

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

Community Orchard

The Community Orchard pathways are maintained by Oakleaf Contractors and this year, thanks to a grant from The Big Lottery, new gates, fencing and a notice board have been fitted along the footpath side of the field. This is primarily to reduce the incidents of dog fouling so that families can enjoy the facility. Dogs are still permitted as long as they are under control and owners clean up after them. The District Council carried out an awareness campaign in an effort to 'clean up' the footpath to the school and residents are reminded that dog excrement not only carries a heavy fine, but can cause diseases and blindness.

Burial Ground

This year there were five burials, two being new plots, so we made a small profit. Five headstones had to be secured, the cost of which was paid by the Parish Council. We also installed a notice board with a plan of the burial site. Don Robbins has maintained the burial ground during the year and we thank him for all his work.

Annual Parish Meeting

This was held on 18 May and was well attended and lively with residents asking many questions and enjoying the social 'party' afterwards. The main topics of the meeting were Rural Policing, Severn Trent Water new pipeline and Broadband. A copy of the Minutes is available on the parish council website.

Financial Report - Annual Audit

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2015 is given below and a copy of the Financial Statement is available on the Parish Council website.

Receipts

Annual Precept	£22,570
Grant Funding – District Council	£ 1,795
Burial Ground	£ 3,164
Burial Grant Wyre Forest DC	£ 370
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 260
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 3,832
Parish Footpaths	£ 500
Grants Neighbourhood Plan	£ 678
Grant Big Lottery	£ 2,950
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,477
Allotment Fees	£ 680
VAT Reclaimed	£ 3,073
TOTAL	£41,349

Expenditure

Staff Costs	£ 10,107
Expenses, mileage, etc, training	£ 1,004
Room hire, admin, telephone, website, etc	£ 1,742
Audit	£ 410
Newsletters	£ 2,458
Insurance and Subscriptions	£ 1,460
Lengthsman Scheme and drainage work	£ 4,522
General Maintenance	£ 2,084
Allotments	£ 671
Burial Ground	£ 2,819
Grit bins	£ 382
Community Orchard Grass Cutting	£ 1,266
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,332
Parish Footpaths	£ 2,600
VAT to be recovered	£ 1,857
Grants and donations	£ 550
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	£ 1,595
Feasibility Study – Traffic	£ 2,905
Land Purchase and Valuation	£ 31,632
Fencing etc Orchard	£ 2,345
Gates for Allotment Site	£ 750
Hire VAS Equipment	£ 300
Election Fees	£ 200
PCC Use of Mowers	£ 1,000
TOTAL	£ 75,991

Rural Policing

Superintendent Alex Franklin-Smith had recently been appointed to North Worcestershire under the new Warwickshire and West Mercia strategic alliance, which consisted of Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch. Safe Neighbourhood Partnership Teams would continue and for Chaddesley Corbett contacts were Sgt Neil Jarvis, PC Sarah Brookes, PCSO Becky Rushton and Niall Ryland. It was stressed that the police needed information from the public and all incidents however small should be reported and a crime number issued.

Allotments

There is one vacant plot on the allotments and at present there is no waiting list. If anyone is interested please contact the Clerk.

POST OFFICES SERVICES IN CHADDESLEY VILLAGE

We have been advised by the Post Office that they propose moving the current services from Jukes Stores to Rowberry's Garden Centre, Lower Chaddesley.

Subject to a successful application and consultation Post Office services will be changed to a new local style branch. This change is part of a major programme of modernisation taking place across the Post Office network, underpinned by Government investment and will see up to 8,000 branches modernised.

What will this mean for customers?

Post Office services will be offered from a till on the retail counter in a modern open plan branch

Longer opening hours – 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sundays

Majority of Post Office products and services will still be available

Improved accessibility

Consulting on the proposed new location

A 6 week consultation starts on 10 June 2015 to 22 July 2015. Before the plans are finalised the Post Office want your views on the proposed location, particularly:

How suitable is the new location and premises and how easy is it to get there?

Are the new premises easy for you to get into and is the inside easily accessible?

Do you have any concerns about the new location?

Any local community issues which you think could be affected by the propose move?

Anything you particularly like about the proposed change

Please send comments or questions by email:

www.postofficeviews.co.uk

or write to Julia Marwood, Regional Network Manager, at 'FREEPOST Your Comments' – this is the full address to use.

More details are available from Jukes Stores, The Village, or from the Parish Council website:

www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Severn Trent Water

Simon Hinsley gave a presentation on the need for a new water supply for Birmingham. The old Victorian pipeline runs from the Elan Valley in Wales to Birmingham and is in need of repair. It is not intended to replace this pipeline, but to provide an alternative source of water for Birmingham for several months of each year so that essential repairs can be undertaken on the Victorian pipeline.

It is proposed that water will be extracted from the River Severn at Stourport through a new pipeline to cross Chaddesley Corbett on its way to the Frankley Pumping Station.

This new pipeline would be used during the winter months when the water level in the River Severn was at its highest. Two alternative routes were being considered and soil tests were currently being undertaken. When this work was complete a further consultation would take place on the preferred route. It was expected that the project would be completed by 2020.

Superfast Broadband

Good news! We understand that, with help from MP Mark Garnier, all of the Parish should now be covered by the County Council's 'Superfast Worcestershire' project to implement superfast/fibre broadband. The conversion programme has been progressing; the status of our cabinets is shown below:

	Location	Status
Cabinet 1	Bluntington	Estimated July 2016 - June 2018
Cabinet 2	Mustow Green	Live – check if you can upgrade
Cabinet 3	A448 (opp. Fox Lane)	Live – check if you can upgrade
Cabinet 4	New cabinet	June – Sept 2015 (in conjunction with upgrade to the Exchange)
Exchange	Village	July 2015 - June 2016
Belbroughton 2	Belbroughton	Live – check if you can upgrade (affects residents in the North of the Parish)

Cabinet 1 at Bluntington had not previously been included, but it seems that lobbying by our MP and the Parish Council has influenced the programme. The Parish Council will keep the pressure on for a speedy conversion. Businesses are particularly disadvantaged and should be

prioritised. A new scheme has been launched in Worcestershire to enable eligible businesses and voluntary organisations to claim grants of up to £3000 towards the cost of upgrading to superfast broadband.

Please remember – even if your cabinet is upgraded, you need to change the contract with your internet provider to benefit from faster internet speeds.

To check which cabinet you're connected to, go to:

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

For more detailed information and useful links, please visit the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk/>

District Councillor – Steve Williams

The parish of Chaddesley Corbett is now within the Wyre Forest Rural Ward of the District Council and is served by three councillors:

Cllr Ian Hardiman – Deputy Leader of WFDC – 01562 631139

Cllr Marcus Hart - Leader of Council WFDC – 01562 851769

Cllr Stephen Williams – Chairman of Planning Committee WFDC – 01562 777536.

We look forward to serving you on all matters concerning the District Council in the next 12 months.

Wyre Forest District Council Cabinet comprises:

Cllr Marcus Hart – Leader and member for Strategy

Cllr Ian Hardiman – Member for Operational Services

Cllr Nathan Desmond – Member for Resources

Cllr John Champion – Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration

Cllr Sally Chambers – Member for Health, Well-being and Housing

Cllr Sara Fern – Member for Transformation

Further details are available on the district council website at:

<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>

County Councillor Stephen Clee

This is my sixteenth year of writing an annual report for the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council, an organisation that has been doing a great deal of work for the good of all parishioners over the past year 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 and to thank you, the electorate, for your continued support.

During the past year I was happy to host meetings with County Officers to help and support Chaddesley Corbett's Neighbourhood Plan and help deliver improvements to items of Highways wherever possible. I continue to help fund small projects be it parish or work the lengthsman carry out using my small budget which makes a huge difference when controlled locally. I have continued to support many local organisations in my division with funding to help provide support for community groups and organisations. 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 sjclee@tinyonline.co.uk

At County Hall we have seen a massive shortfall in budget over the last 4 years with £160 million pounds needed to be found from efficiency saving across all service directorates. Over the past 12 months savings of £6.4m in capital receipts from the sale of redundant properties have been achieved. We are in a time when rather than providing services local councils are now commissioners with the voluntary sector plugging many gaps. With all those savings we have still been able to invest £17 million on Highways including £2.9 million on pothole repairs.

£3.7 million has been invested into a faster broadband project where I hope Chaddesley Corbett and surrounding villages can benefit from fibre broadband speeding up connections for residential and business users. It is projected we will have 55,000 premises in rural villages connected to the scheme by 2016.

Following the Schools Review we have finally invested £2.3 million in the partial rebuilding of Burlish Park Primary School one of the remaining Wyre Forest Schools affected by the schools review programme.

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@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
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@gmail.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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Worcs WR9 ONQ.
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e-mail: clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk



New Parish Council Website:

The website has been completely redesigned and is now much easier to use.
We invite you to view this on www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk

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

