

## *Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council*

### Annual Report 2015/16



Pictures by David Hislop

#### **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**

Following on from the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council has been very active in progressing some of the actions contained in the report, quite a few of which have been achieved. These include setting up monitoring groups, progressing extra sports and play activities such as Badminton at the school, carrying out a review of the Conservation Areas, preparing a Local Listing for historic features around the parish, setting out a policy on advertising signs and the purchase of a Vehicle Activated Speed camera.

The Parish Council has taken over litter collection and emptying waste bins from the District Council, and has been active in trying to get something done about traffic in Harvington Hall Lane and speeding, regrettably without much success. Other achievements are covered in this annual report.

The big story of the year has been the closure of Jukes Stores and moving services to the butchers, florist and the garden centre. We must thank the local businesses for filling the void left by this closure and we need to support them if we are to retain these much needed local services.

With the resignation of Bob Green, we would like to welcome a new councillor, Harry Green, who has just returned to the parish and brings with him a wide horticultural experience which will be very useful to us in the future.

I would also like to thank our contractors, Bill, Geoffrey, Ben and Don for their hard work and our clerk for her dedication to the parish. I would also like to thank those residents who have volunteered to collect litter around their area.

William Mack – Chairman

### **Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Gold**

The Parish Council has received a prestigious Local Council Award to recognise its achievements in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, providing a very informative website, and meeting necessary standards in its performance. This was presented to the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2016 by Mr John Duddington.

## **Traffic and Parking in the Village**

Phase one of the scheme is now out for public consultation and will include changes to 'keep clear' boxes, which will be replaced with double yellow lines, new double yellow lines outside Batch Cottages to provide an additional passing point and on the opposite side to those outside Beams End to prevent congestion. Part of the scheme also includes new bollards outside the Swan public house to prevent cars driving on the pavements and protect pedestrians, removal of the central white line in the village and white lines over Hockley bridge to give the appearance of narrowing and hopefully reduce speed.

## **Advertising Signs**

The Neighbourhood Plan states that advertising should seek to balance a positive approach to sustainable development and economic activity suitable to our rural setting and ensure that any advertising is consistent in number, size, design and appearance, with the rural and historic setting of our Village and settlements across the Parish. As a result we have set out our policy, which is available on our website, which will be enforced.

## **Lengthsman Scheme**

Our Lengthsman, Bill Waldron, is responsible for maintenance work on the roads and pavements, and his extensive local knowledge has been very useful in helping us to sort out some long term drainage and flooding issues.

## **Rural Footpaths**

Tina Mack, footpaths warden, and our resident contractor Geoffrey Holding look after our 56 miles of footpaths which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

## **General Maintenance**

Ben Matthews looks after our bus shelters and some general maintenance around the village and allotment site.

## **Community Orchard**

The Community Orchard is now becoming established and we would like more people to take advantage of this fabulous facility within the parish.

## **Burial Ground**

Don Robbins has been maintaining the burial ground to a very high standard so that it is a very pleasant place to visit. When the new housing development is complete the land acquired by the Parish Council for an extension to the burial ground will be landscaped and will provide a seating area for public use.

## **Dog Fouling**

We are becoming extremely concerned about the level of dog fouling in the parish and would encourage residents to report anyone who does not pick up after their dogs to the District Council. This is an extremely unpleasant and unnecessary offence and of particular concern on the footpath from the village to the school. We need to protect children from this health hazard and there are adequate waste bins to use. Enforcement Officers will be active in the parish and will issue heavy fines to offenders.

## **Financial Report - Annual Audit**

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2016 is given below and a copy of the Financial Statement is available on the Parish Council website.

### **Receipts**

Annual Precept	£23,731
Grant Funding – District Council	£ 970
Burial Ground	£ 1,758
Burial Grant Wyre Forest DC	£ 185
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 159
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 2,840
Parish Footpaths	£ 500
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,514
Allotment Fees	£ 705
VAT Reclaimed	£ 1,857
Grants	£ 4,900
Training and Transfers	£ 654
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£39,773</b>

### **Expenditure**

Staff Costs	£ 9,972
Room hire, admin, telephone, website, etc	£ 1,665
New computer	£ 446
Benches (partly donated)	£ 1,738
Grants and Donations	£ 40
Audit	£ 415
Newsletters	£ 1,501
Advertising in Parish Magazine	£ 550
Insurance and Subscriptions	£ 1,455
Lengthsman Scheme and drainage work	£ 3,921
General Maintenance	£ 1,194
Allotments	£ 606
Burial Ground	£ 3,033
Grit bins, waste bins, sundries	£ 567
Community Orchard Grass Cutting	£ 650
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,360
Parish Footpaths	£ 3,428

VAT to be recovered	£ 1,818
Purchase VAS Sign	£ 2,943
PCC Use of Mowers	£ 250
Training	£ 876
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 38,428</b>

### Neighbourhood Watch

For those who are new to the Parish and would like to be kept informed of local criminal activity, please contact Janet Fox either by email:

[janfox2001@btinternet.com](mailto:janfox2001@btinternet.com), or on 01562 777559, and she will add you to the distribution list.

### Rural Policing

West Mercia Police launch 'Rural Matters' a campaign to help reduce crime in rural areas.



We are committed to targeting criminals and taking action. If you are a victim of crime in a rural area, please report it - it will be investigated. Please call police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. We work in partnership to find the best, most effective ways of tackling rural crime. Visit our webpage: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ruralmatters>

### Superfast Broadband

The County Council's 'Superfast Worcestershire' project has been making steady progress. If all goes to plan, all of the green street cabinets in the Parish should soon be enabled for Superfast Broadband. The last step in achieving this will be the work to Cabinet 1 at Bluntington crossroads, which is scheduled for the second half of this year.

The conversion of the Village Exchange was completed at the start of this year, but the location of the cabinets has caused some controversy as they have been installed just within the Conservation Area, on land owned by Wyre Forest Community Housing. Many thanks to all of the Village residents who replied to our survey. Of the 59 surveyed, 24 said the cabinets should remain, with 3 against. The Parish Council upheld this decision.

Once your street cabinet has been enabled for fibre broadband, you still need to change to a 'superfast' contract, either with your existing or a different provider. The project's website shows details of a range of providers; just visit:

<http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/broadband-providers>

If your home or business is a long way from your street cabinet, you may find that you're unable to get a fast connection even after the cabinet has been converted. Superfast Worcestershire is supporting the national **Basic Broadband Scheme**, aimed at more remote premises which are unable to receive broadband at a minimum speed of 2Mbps. Residents can apply for a subsidy towards a satellite broadband solution. More details are available at: <http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/other-projects>

## **District Councillors**

This is our first joint annual report as the newly elected Councillors for the Wyre Forest Rural Ward.

You may recall in May 2015, Wyre Forest District Council held an "all out" election following boundary changes. Chaddesley Corbett was previously part of the Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward but is now part of the larger Wyre Forest Rural Ward that is made from the areas of Wolverley, Cookley, Blakedown and Chaddesley and is represented by ourselves.

The year has been an exceptionally busy year. We have been involved in the decision making regarding some of the District's key strategic projects, for example, the decision to close the Glades Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Centre and to reinvest in a brand new, state of the art leisure centre on the Silverwoods (former British Sugar) site in Kidderminster. The two existing facilities are now of some age, costing the tax payer some £900,000 per year in subsidy to run and the capital investment to repair far outweighed the capital expenditure for a new facility. The new facility is costing circa £11.9m and the tax payer's subsidy reduces to some £500,000 per year which is far more sustainable moving forward. The new Leisure Centre is due to open on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and includes a learner pool, six lane swimming pool, climbing wall, sauna, steam room, six badminton courts, sports hall, six outdoor synthetic football pitches, large dance studio and a large fitness suite and cafe.

The District Council's finances continue to be challenging as the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which is the sum of money that the District Council receives from Central Government continues to decline by large percentages year on year and in fact, by 2018/2019 the grant will have disappeared completely. The District Council has to think of more creative and innovative ways to grow its income, for example, expanding trade

waste, garden waste collections and charging for its cultural activities and events such as ones put on at Kidderminster Town Hall, whilst becoming even more efficient but also reducing expenditure in some areas.

The District Council has agreed the setting up of the new Kidderminster Town Council and the transfer of assets such as land and the Town Hall to the new Town Council. This has resulted in a revenue saving to the District Council taxpayers as a whole of some £250,000 per annum, which is a benefit to residents in the parish of Chaddesley Corbett as it has enabled the Council to freeze council tax, not only for this year, but we have also given a commitment that we will freeze council tax in 2016/17 as well.

There has been substantial investment in the public realm of Kidderminster which is a benefit to local residents as Kidderminster is the major town within the District. We have worked with Worcestershire County Council who have invested £1.5m into the project and Wyre Forest District Council has invested £500,000. This is the largest capital investment in the town centre for decades. Whilst the work has taken longer than anticipated and there are snagging issues to resolve, we firmly believe that when all of the work is completed this is a major facelift for the town centre.

We continue with our commitment to demolish Crown House but matters are not straight forward as we as a Council receive a significant annual income by way of ground rent from the owners of Crown House, Telereal Trillium. Dilapidation costs are a key issue in this matter, but rest assured we, and the District Council remain committed to finding a long term solution for this eyesore on the landscape.

Closer to home, the three of us ensure that at least one of us attends every Parish Council meeting and provides a report.

We have supported the parish area by making grants from our Community Leadership Fund to local organisations, including supporting the Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall.

We have also been part of the decision making of the Council that set up a Localism Fund where Parish Councils and Community Groups are able to bid in to the District Council for funding and are pleased that Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council has had £185 for a new waste bin.

We were very pleased to be able to assist with the transfer of litter picking and bin emptying to the Parish Council on a one year trial basis, with the securing of a £1,000 grant for the Parish Council to be able to undertake this

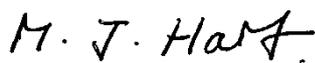
at a more local level, which will bring benefits and efficiencies for both the District and Parish Council's working in partnership together.

We have also supported the shortfall grant to Parish and Town Councils remaining, despite the grant from Government reducing substantially. This had a benefit to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council in the last financial year.

We continue to be very proactive within the Community, attending village and community events when we can and liaising with parishioners and members of the Parish Council over a variety of casework issues, in particular regarding planning applications.

Whilst we do not have the remit for highways, we do our very best to liaise with the Highways Officer and our local County Councillor to try and get things done for the benefit of the Parish.

It has been a most busy year and we can look forward to continuing to represent residents throughout the Parish.



**Cllr Marcus Hart**



**Cllr Ian Hardiman**



**Cllr Stephen Williams**

### **Ward Councillors for Wyre Forest Rural**

#### County Councillor Stephen Clee's Annual Report 2015-16

This is my seventeenth year of writing an annual report for the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council, an organisation that has continued doing a great deal of work for the good of all parishioners over the past year. Congratulations need to be given to the Council and in particular the Clerk for achieving Quality Gold Award Status in the way they operate. One of the First in the County and Country at large.

The Council and I have worked very well over the past 17 years and I look forward to working with the council over the next municipal year. The Council continues to make representations to the County and District Councils on behalf of Chaddesley residents and we value greatly Chaddesley Corbett's contribution very much.

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. During the last twelve months I have supported a range of local groups from, Chaddesley Corbett School, AGE UK, 12<sup>th</sup> Brownies Group, Chaddesley Corbet PC, Citizens Advice Bureau, Chaddesley Corbett Cricket Club, Night Stop, Dial a Ride and support to my parishes to purchase VAS Speed Signs.

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 [stephenjlee@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjlee@gmail.com)

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 2 years savings of £12.4m in capital receipts from the sale of redundant properties have been achieved by bringing more staff from buildings around the county into County Hall to work.

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.

The £3.7 million that has been invested into a faster broadband project includes Chaddesley Corbett and surrounding villages and the feedback and benefits from fibre broadband speeding up connections for residential and business users has been very positive.

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

Stephen Clee  
County Councillor Chaddesley Division  
June 2016

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman	William Mack	01562 777789	<a href="mailto:w_mack@btinternet.com">w_mack@btinternet.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Dave Thomas	01562 777315	<a href="mailto:david.thomas28@homecall.co.uk">david.thomas28@homecall.co.uk</a>
Chairman Planning Allotments Community Orchard	Leo Stockford	01562 777746	<a href="mailto:leo.stockford@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk">leo.stockford@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk</a>
Vice Chairman Planning Wyre Forest Area CALC	Richard Pugh	01562 777419	<a href="mailto:rpugh@doorbars.co.uk">rpugh@doorbars.co.uk</a>
Police and Neighbourhood Watch	Janet Fox	01562 777559	<a href="mailto:janfox2201@btinternet.com">janfox2201@btinternet.com</a>
Burial Ground	Harry Green	01562 777842	<a href="mailto:harrygreen779@hotmail.com">harrygreen779@hotmail.com</a>
Trustee Education Foundation Trust and Village Hall Trustee Margaret Delabare Charity	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969	<a href="mailto:phyllispardoe@btinternet.com">phyllispardoe@btinternet.com</a>
Tenants Association Burial Ground	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365	
Worcs CALC Village Hall Trustee Wyre Forest Area CALC Lengthsman Scheme	Mark Page	07989 338803	<a href="mailto:markp125@googlemail.com">markp125@googlemail.com</a>
Trustee Margaret Delabare Charity	Stephen Williams	01562 777536	<a href="mailto:Stephen.williams@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Stephen.williams@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
Emergency Planning	Jim Wright	01562 777398	<a href="mailto:jimwright@wrightsilverwood.co.uk">jimwright@wrightsilverwood.co.uk</a>

Contact details for the Clerk:

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Mobile: 07415 207244  
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**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](http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Neighbourhood Plan:** [www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk](http://www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk)

**Village Hall:** [www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk/village\\_hall.htm](http://www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk/village_hall.htm)

