

Mrs Yvonne Scriven
Clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council
clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

31st January, 2021

Dear Yvonne,

Re: Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting – 1st February, 2021

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors.

Chaddesley Issues

I am very sorry to say that Paul Green is still off sick and the officer allocated to cover Alex is still getting to grips with the list of 40 strong issues I have given him. I met with him the week before last and am meeting with him on 2nd February and sorry the updates will miss this report. Many issues are ongoing but I have put what updates I have in brackets in the list below:-

Gateways and signage. (Alex has now spoken to Yvonne and he is going to sort a new post at the Brockencote gateway to finish this matter off.)

A448 speed survey results update. (He is still getting to the bottom of whether these have even been done now!!!)

The speed limit review update. (This is ongoing.)

The fence at Winterfold. (This is going to be done but exact details as to what will be done and when are still ongoing. He has spoken with the landowner now.)

Steps outside Dame Mary Yate Alms Houses. (on going)

Egg Lane, Drayton flooding issues. (Two residents contacted me as there was a flooding issue last week and I have asked for a further urgent site meeting and Alex has spoken to Bill Waldron for some background information.)

Road surface issues, Drayton. (ongoing)

Road surface issues on A448 at Brockencote. (These have been reported.)

The London Plane tree on the A448. (still to be inspected.)

Highway bollards at Cakebole Lane, Lower Chaddesley. (In the work programme to be done.)

Speed survey at Woodrow. (ongoing).

Regarding double yellow lines by the triangle on the bend as you turn into the village from the A448 this is being progressed.

The drain in the village that Yvonne has recently raised with me has been reported.

The yellow grit bin on Briar Hill reported for re-filling and the green one reported to Yvonne who kindly sorted.

I am looking into the request for a yellow grit bin in the Hillpool area at the request of a resident.

Wyre Forest Issues

WCC highways work on the Churchfields is virtually completed and the new network is flowing well.

As reported previously, the additional funding for the Hoobrook island has now been agreed as part of the budget and we should see this scheme commence this year to tackle this major congestion hotspot in Kidderminster. This work which is a £3.6 million project is starting now and will see the 3 A road arms be signalised.

Strategic Issues County Wide

Primary Schools and Secondary schools are all teaching remotely save for key worker's children and vulnerable children. The latter definition has recently been enlarged to anyone who cannot learn at home due to no lap top or no work space. There is a lot of variation on how many pupils are in schools but it is broadly ranging between 20%-50%.

The County Council has been heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.)

Our household waste sites both remain open and the Worcester Road is still operating a booking system.

Libraries are remaining open, but largely for essential IT and digital services to residents who cannot get on line at home.

Council meetings are still taking place virtually and I suspect the first time that Full Council may be able to meet in person is in May as these measures are going to be with us for some time yet again!

The County Council will set its budget on 18th February. Council tax is proposed to go up by 1.5% and there will be an Adult Social Care levy of 1%, effectively giving a 2.5% Council tax increase. The maximum increase allowed without a referendum is 5%. On a Band D, the increase will be £32.78 per annum, 63pence per week. The County Council makes up 70% of the overall bill.

There will be an allocation of £500k towards flood defences at Beales Corner in Bewdley. We will be investing a further

We continue to apply the National Funding Formula for mainstream schools and since 2018 schools funding for Worcestershire has increased from £314.6m to £368.2m so very much going in the right direction but still more to do to ensure fair funding across other Local Authority areas as we are still near the bottom.

Higher Needs funding still remains a pressure, despite an additional £8m from Government taking our allocation to £68.4m.

The overall budget is proposed to be a net revenue budget of £355.5m. In addition, there will be a capital programme of £382.3m, local to Wyre Forest are Kidderminster Train Station, Hoobrook and Churchfields.

The percentage spent on Adult's and Children's social care in total is 60.4%. That is £140.1m net for Adult's social care and £74.6m net for Children's social care giving a total of £214.7m out of a total net budget of £355.5m.

As it presently stands, County Council elections are scheduled for 6th May, but I think they will be delayed by at least a couple of months. We await a government announcement, watch this space!

If you have any further issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

Keep safe.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr. Marcus J. Hart
County Councillor – Chaddesley Division

Copy to: District Cllr Ian Hardiman, Wyre Forest District Council
District Cllr Lisa Jones, Wyre Forest District Council

Marcus Hart
Cabinet Member with
Responsibility for
Education and Skills

Electoral Division
Chaddesley

Silkwood Barn
Crundalls Lane
Crundalls Court
Worcestershire
DY12 1BN

County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Home:01299 402424

Tel: 01905 846650

Email
mhart@worcestershire.gov.uk