

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

28th February, 2021

Dear Yvonne,

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

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

Chaddesley Issues

I am very pleased to say that not only is Paul Green back a work, he has been authorised that he can attend site visits with me as of this week if necessary so I am booked in to meet Paul in Chaddesley to look at several issues on the 9th March. I have had a meeting with Alex and Paul last week so Paul is aware of all outstanding issues.

1. Gateways and signage. (Alex has now spoken to Yvonne and a new post is on order for the Brockencote gateway to finish this matter off.)
2. A448 speed survey results update. These have not been undertaken yet and Paul is in liaison with the Safer Roads Partnership to do these at the 4 agreed locations.
3. The speed limit review is ongoing but I am pressing for action.
4. Regarding the fence at Winterfold, I have been keeping the landowner updated. (This is going to be done but exact details as to what will be done and when are still ongoing.)
5. Steps outside Dame Mary Yate Alms Houses are going to be done, a date for the work is being chased.
6. Egg Lane, Drayton flooding issues are progressing as there is a blocked drain and this will be jetted. I am still chasing a more permanent solution.
7. The road surface, Drayton, is ongoing and I have updated the local resident to say this work will be done but I am still chasing a date.
8. Road surface issues on A448 at Brockencote have been inspected and defects will be repaired.
9. The London Plane tree on the A448 has had an initial inspection now and there is some deadwood distributed throughout the crown, not excessive and completely normal for a tree of this age and size. A climbing inspection is to be carried out and the deadwood removal.

10. Regarding the highway bollards at Cakebole Lane, Lower Chaddesley, this work will be done.
11. I have asked for a speed survey along Woodrow to be done but there is a waiting list.
12. Regarding double yellow lines by the triangle on the bend as you turn into the village from the A448 the TRO is being progressed.
13. Drain outside Charity Cottage has been reported for jetting.
14. I am still looking into the request for a yellow grit bin in the Hillpool area at the request of a resident as WCC highways have said it has failed its initial assessment
15. I am being consulted on a minor diversion of footpath CC659 at Lower House Farm, Fox Lane and given there do not appear to be any objections I am minded to support.

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%.

You will of course be aware that schools will return for all pupils from 8th March.

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 has now set its budget on 18th February. Council tax has been approved 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 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.

The Government have confirmed that the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for 6th May are to go ahead as planned.

There is a big campaign to encourage electors to have a postal vote this time and you may wish to do so.

To date, 37% of the Wyre Forest adult population have had their first Covid – 19 injection.

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
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