



## *Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council*

### Annual Report 2022/2023

#### **Chairman's Annual Report**

I would like to thank all those who have supported the various working groups that have helped shape the new Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted by Wyre Forest District Council in March 2023 following a Referendum.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the community, our contractors, and in particular the continual work of the litter pickers who ensure our parish looks its best.

Most of all I would like to thank my fellow councillors for the service they have put in to support the parish over the last 4 years, and in particular Steve Williams and Raj Rana who decided not to stand for re-election.

I must not forget the loyal service of Yvonne Scriven our clerk over the last 24 years, who has taken a much deserved retirement, and to welcome our new clerk, Rachel Hooper.

It has been a busy year in which we added new climbing equipment to the play area in the Orchard, continued the project of wild flower and tree planting around the parish, and started a campaign to consider purchasing the allotment and orchard site from the Diocese of Worcester.

Whilst we are not a Planning Authority, we commented on numerous planning applications during the year and instigated enforcement action for illegal development in the area. I would also like to thank our three District Councillors who have given us dedicated support during the year liaising with both District and County Councils on our behalf.

We have three new Parish Councillors who join us today – Jim Wright, Steve Walker and Debbie Newbold. I welcome them and hope they enjoy their new role.

Best Wishes.

**Mark Page**  
**Chairman**

## **CORONATION EVENT 6 MAY 2023**

A live showing of the Coronation was held at the village hall shown on the large film screen, and 35 people attended. Thanks are extended to Cllr M Page for arranging the upgraded broadband, Steve Searley of MAC (Movies at Chaddesley) for live screening the Coronation, the Village Hall Committee for the use of the room, and the volunteers who made the day so successful. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

## **WILDFLOWER AND TREE PLANTING**

The wildflower and tree planting project continued, with a tree to commemorate the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II planted in the Orchard, a new boundary fence in the burial ground and, new trees have been planted in Hemming Way to replace those lost, funded by residents and Cllr Ian Hardiman. More wildflower planting is planned for the grass verge on the A448 this year.

## **REVIEW OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The new NDP was adopted following a Referendum on 8 February 2023 when 78% of those who voted approved the draft plan. Wyre Forest District Council approved the NDP in March and it is now part of planning law for our parish. The cost of preparing the plan was met by Central Government. A summary of the main points and policies was posted to all households; the Plan supplements Wyre Forest's Local Plan, and will be used to help determine future planning applications. The policies also provide a guide to the type of development that is in keeping with our Parish, and where any development should be located.

What will that mean in practice?

A major change from our first Neighbourhood Plan is the allocation of three sites for development. Two affordable housing sites Mustow Green Quarry and just outside the Village, on the Bromsgrove Road, Lower Chaddesley and one mixed development site – when it's eventually vacated – Hewitts site at Harvington. We'll shortly start looking into how best to bring forward the actual development of the affordable housing sites.

Another first for the Plan is a policy aimed at protecting the local group of shops and public houses. I'm sure we're all keen to ensure that the Village keeps a thriving group of businesses and facilities. In conjunction with this aim, there's a policy to prevent any further loss of accessible off-street parking for residents, visitors and customers of the businesses.

Where any development does happen, the Plan prioritises smaller properties suitable for first time buyers, young families and older residents, and includes measures to ensure developments do not adversely affect the scale and character of our villages and settlements, or extend existing ribbon development. Learning from Covid, we've included a policy that covers small scale developments aimed at enabling working from home. There's also an extensive set of design codes, setting out preferred elements for the design and layout of any new development, and the types of materials to be used.

Large parts of the Plan focus on maintaining the rural character of the Parish, including an updated set of protected views, and the designation of a small number of Local Green Spaces. There's also a policy that describes and aims to protect the Parish's green infrastructure, wildlife corridors and biodiversity.

The main challenge now is to keep all of this in our minds when we review and comment on any future planning applications. That's something that our residents can do as well if they're affected by any proposals and want to comment on them. It's our Neighbourhood Plan; Wyre Forest Planners should apply it in their reports, but we should make sure that that's what is happening.

We would like to thank all of the residents that responded to our various consultation exercises and voted to support the Plan in the Referendum.

**Cllr Dave Thomas**  
**Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan**

## **PURCHASE OF ALLOTMENT/COMMUNITY ORCHARD SITE**

The Diocese of Worcester have approached the Parish Council asking if they would like to buy the site. Councillors have obtained an independent valuation of the land and consider the current asking price is too high. We recently applied for a Lottery Grant but this was refused because we could not demonstrate sufficient local support for the scheme. A survey is currently being carried out to see if we can get a better idea of public support so that we could re-apply for a grant. Everyone is invited to do the survey which is available on our website, or you can apply for a paper copy from the parish clerk.

## **PLAY AREA**

After obtaining a grant from the National Lottery, we were able to provide additional play equipment for the 9-13 year old children of the parish. This seems to be widely used and enjoyed. Chaddesley School held their Coronation Picnic on the Orchard.



## **BURIAL GROUND**



We are now able to offer cremation plots in the Parish Council burial ground and these are available to pre-purchase on a 100 year lease. Applications should be made to clerk.

Burial plots are also available to pre-purchase.

## **QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE**

To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Parish Council and the Swan joined together to provide a day of entertainment and food for all ages. The event was well attended despite

the weather's attempt to spoil it. We were entertained by Punch and Judy, Morris Dancers, Vestas Band and D Day Darlings.

## **HIGHWAYS REPORT – COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARCUS HART**

The last 12 months between May 2022 and May 2023 have been very busy yet again.

I have dealt with literally dozens and dozens of local highways issues on behalf of local residents. I continue to report gullies and drains for unblocking. Minor highways defects have been dealt with throughout the Parish. Residents regularly report speeding issues to me and I report them to the Police.

I have worked with the Parish Council to part fund an additional flashing speeding sign to provide a second for the Parish and this can be regularly seen being rotated in the Parish. I have ensured that a new post has been installed for the flashing sign to be placed in the 30 mph zone at Brockencote on the A448 and a new post will be installed along Woodrow just past Dorhall.

The Briar Hill pavement on the one side has been resurfaced and dropped kerbs installed to allow for disabled access. I am continuing to lobby for a pavement extension from Lower Chaddesley to Chaddesley Primary School.

I have been liaising with officers at WFDC on a number of planning enforcement issues, including three down Curslow Lane and one along Cakebole Lane. I continue to report litter for clearing on the main A roads and incidents of fly tipping.

I am pleased to work closely with the Parish Council and the clerk and attend their meetings regularly together with my two District Council colleagues, Cllr. Robin Drew and Cllr. Ian Hardiman.

**Cllr. Marcus Hart**

**District and County Councillor for Chaddesley**

## **Financial Report - Annual Audit**

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2023 is given below and a copy of the Financial Statement is available on the Parish Council website. The budget for 2023/24 has been sent and there was no increase in the Parish Council element of residents Council Tax this year.

### **Receipts**

Annual Precept	£34,738
Burial Ground	£ 4,977
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 527
Lengthsman Scheme and Drainage Work	£ 3,929
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,770
Allotment Fees	£ 1,068
VAT Reclaimed	£13,208
Waste Bins	£ 1,611
Grants - NP	£ 5,485
Grants – Jubilee	£ 1,266
Grants – White Gates	£ 540
Grants – Wildflowers/Trees	£ 1,114
Grants – New VAS	£ 2,000

## Expenditure

Staff Costs	£14,537
Mileage and Benefits	£ 666
VAT	£ 9,239
Grass cutting	£ 1,890
Stationery, postage, IT, training, Zoom	£ 788
Burial Ground	£ 3,853
Allotments	£ 795
Insurances and Subscriptions	£ 1,688
Community Orchard maintenance	£ 475
Newsletters, advertising etc	£ 1,168
Lengthsman	£ 4,160
Audit Fees and general maintenance	£ 1,138
Waste Bins	£ 1,692
Defibrillator maintenance	£ 173
Play Equipment	£ 574
NP Review	£ 5,614
Wildflower Planting and Trees	£ 1,080
Website notice boards	£ 1,030
Grit Bins	£ 112
Queen's Jubilee	£ 7,155
First Aid Course	£ 650
Meeting Rooms, Sundries	£ 624

## Police officer numbers hit historic high in West Mercia

A record number of police officers, 2494 in total, are now serving in West Mercia, as officer numbers hit new highs. Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has supported West Mercia Police's Chief Constable to not only meet the Government's uplift target for West Mercia, but exceed it. The police force now has a headcount of 2494 officers, with officer numbers increasing by 508 since the PCC was first elected in 2016. A further boost to officer numbers will happen in this financial year, with an additional 40 officers recruited to create new community crime fighting teams. The PCC is committed to ensuring police officers are accessible and visible in your community, tackling the issues that matter to you.

## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council has a very informative website – please take a look at:- <http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/> You can view Agenda for meetings and Minutes and find out about upcoming events, road closures, etc.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman Village Hall Committee Lengthsman Scheme	Mark Page	01562 777814
Vice Chairman Finance Committee	Dave Thomas	01562 777315
Village Hall Committee	Phyllis Pardoe	01562 777969

Trustee Educational Trust Finance Committee		
Emergency Planning	Sue Smith	01562 700057
Trustee Chaddesley Community Care	William Mack	01562 777789
	Geoff Vernon	01562 777365
Finance Committee Wyre Forest Area CALC	Gary Hogan	01562 777030
Trustee Educational Trust	Christine Finnegan	01562 777875
Allotments and Burial Ground	Steve Walker	01562 777556
	Debbie Newbold	01562 915252
	Jim Wright	01672 777398
Parish Clerk	Rachel Hooper	01562 915252

**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