

Mrs Rachel Hooper
Clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council
clerk@chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

4th November 2024

Dear Rachel,

Re: Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting, 4th November 2024

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

Chaddesley Issues

Ongoing Issues

1. Work on the new pavement for the A448 is progressing well. Unfortunately I was hoping for a full briefing from the engineer prior to your meeting in order that I can fully update but our diaries didn't align and it is tomorrow! I will do full briefing for the December meeting but in short, we re changing the design slightly to push the pavement close to Chris Rowberry's fence at his entrance to avoid crossing at the bell mouth of the junction. We are also looking at moving the scheme to commence in February to avoid the worst winter weather and make use of the February half term for any work that may need to be done in the day time and require a road closure.
2. As per my previous few reports, I am still dealing with two flooding issues in Drayton. I have been sent photos by a number of local residents, one is at Egg Lane as a result of significant discharge of rain water from fields belonging to a third party landowner. I have been involved with WCC in this issue previously and met with residents and extra capacity was installed. There is an update on this where WCC are in touch with the landowner at Otter Bank to use some of their land as a potential solution. These discussions are still ongoing. There is a similar issue with the discharge of rainwater from field off Barrow Hill Lane. WCC are going to keep this under observation for now and ask the resident to do.
3. In respect of the flooding on the A448 at Fox Lane on the bend, I have asked WCC to look at this with a view to a permanent solution given that this is a major link from Kidderminster through to Bromsgrove and the M5. No issues have been found with the gullies following Ringway attendance earlier this year. Indeed, by way of update, when we had the heavy rain a couple of weeks ago they were all inspected and working fine. I am still pushing for extra capacity here. WCC's full survey is still awaited. I have walked this location with our new highways engineer last Thursday and discussed my concerns.

4. The overgrown pavement on the A448 from Mustow Green in the Harvington direction has been inspected and some siding out has now been done. The leak appears to have been fixed and a pavement repair undertaken. Barry Barnes our highways engineer is happy for the lengths man to work on the pavement here even though in the 40mph limit and is happy for the clerk to liaise with him to discuss.
5. There is some minor highways work planned for Tandy's Lane in late November.
6. There is some drainage and flood alleviation work planned for Dobes Lane in late October. Again, I showed Barry Barnes all of this location and he is going to do his best to try and remedy these issues.
7. I have confirmed that I do not want any TRO progressed outside St. Cassian's Church following feedback from the PC at the last meeting.
8. I have reported the brick wall over the bridge by the brook near Chaddesley Sports Club on Fox Lane as there is a crack in it. This has been inspected and is still safe but work is scheduled for 14th/15th January.
9. I am dealing with a highways issue just up from Tandy's Lane opposite Bellington Farm for a local resident and this was resolved last week as there were traffic lights on the A450 whilst this work was done.
10. The manhole cover on the A448 at Mustow Green has been reported for repair.
11. Numerous bollards/verge markers on the A448 at Winterfold have been repaired and more further down by Brockencote have also been reported for repair.

New Issues

1. I have reported hedges along the lanes in the Drayton area for cutting back following complaints from a local resident that they were overhanging the lanes.

Wyre Forest Issues

Bewdley Bridge continues to operate one way over the bridge into the town for approximately 18 months whilst the Environment Agency (EA) undertake the work for the construction of the flood defences. This is now circa a £9.3m scheme, of which £500k is from WCC and the rest from the EA. The Government increased the capital funding by an additional £1.5m from the original funding grant for additional work.

WCC has undertaken weed spraying around the ring road network in Kidderminster recently and is working with WFDC on this issue and WCC will be replacing the damaged highway barriers on the island at the bottom of Comberton Hill in mid-October.

Hayley Steele our highways liaison engineer has left and Barry Barnes is looking after me as an interim.

Strategic Issues County Wide

County Hall is still closed whilst contractors assess the scale of the RAAC issue. At its July cabinet meeting, Cabinet approved a budget for this work to be undertaken. We should know more as to the scale of the problem and potential cost over the next month or so.

WCC is now at the end of an employment process which has had some local media interest over the last few weeks. In 2011 we employed all new employees in non-protected posts on 35 hours as opposed to 37 hours. This was to reduce salary costs as we had circa 3,500 FTE's back then and we obviously were in times of austerity. It was done as a way of safeguarding jobs. We have 143 employees still left on 37 hour contracts in comparison to 880 posts who are employed on 35 hour contracts. Circa 10 people decided to leave for other jobs/retire/have and internal change in post/ and the overwhelming majority have been e-engaged on 35 hours.

Protected posts still on 37 hour contracts are predominantly children's and adults social workers.

We are currently working through the implications of the budget on ourselves and await the details of how we will be funded for the employer's NI rise. We are also awaiting further details on council tax thresholds.

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. Robin Drew, Wyre Forest District Council
District Cllr. Marcus Hart, Wyre Forest District Council

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