

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

8th May, 2025

Dear Rachel,

Re: Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting, 12th May, 2025

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

Chaddesley Issues

Ongoing Issues

1. As you are aware work on the new pavement for the A448 is virtually completed. At the time of writing WCC were just awaiting BT Openreach to do undertake their work before the scheme could be completed.

In respect of issues **2-9** these are a hang over from the last meeting. Please accept my apologies, given the last month there has been a hiatus due to the election campaign and also to compound matters a new highways liaison officer for our area too which has meant these issues have not been progressed as I would have liked. I have a meeting with our new highways officer Dean Caswell scheduled for Wednesday 14th May and so I hope to be able to provide more meaningful updates for your June meeting.

2. As per my previous few reports, I am still dealing with 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 have led the drainage team at WCC indicating they do not now feel this is appropriate and I have therefore pushed back to ask what their proposed solution is and the highways officer is investigating. I was looking at these issues on 19th February with my highways officer and he has undertaken to speak again with the landowner further up where the problem is coming from. He is due to meet the owners of Drayton Villa Farm imminently. I am still to be updated. I have spoken with Bill Waldron about the other flooding issue in Drayton and have asked our highways engineer to make contact with him. With the hiatus

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. I have received an update on this last week and WCC are looking at installing additional gullies here to increase capacity so I am very pleased that my persistence will hopefully pay off.
4. Flooding Drayton Road. When the we had heavy rain about 3 weeks ago and the A448 was flooded on the bend at Fox Lane and the road closed whilst the gullies were jetted I drove through the village and out on the Drayton Road and as soon as I drove past the last house on the right at the cross roads the whole road was flooded for a couple of hundred yards and about 12 inches deep. I reported this and am having this looked at to see if extra capacity is required. Again I raised this with my highways officer on 19th February. The update is they feel there is enough capacity but all gullies have been reported for jetting.
5. A local resident has contacted me regarding speeding on Tanwood Lane and requesting a reduction in the national speed limit to 30mph. I have the speed data by The Old Chapel in the 30mph limit and in both directions it is well below 30mph. I did meet with the local resident and other residents on 15th March and have agreed to put some further counters down in the national speed limit area and also requested some junction warning signage and slow markings together with verge markers at the junction with the lane to Bournes Green. Speeds below:-

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|
| Site No. | 25000025 | | |
| Site Location (Click for Map): | U13605 The Old Chapel, Tanwood Lane | | |
| Survey Period: | From 05/03/2025 To 12/03/2025 | | |
| | Daily Volume | Mean Av. Speed | 85th %ile Speed |
| Westbound | 125 | 20 | 25 |
| Eastbound | 233 | 18 | 23 |
| Combined | 358 | <i>Figures above shown in miles per hour</i> | |

6. Flooding is still persisting on Cakebole Lane and when highways inspected recently it was rising up through the gullies. This whole area is being investigated and we are expecting a camera to survey all of the pipes soon.
7. Hedges obstructing visibility in Drayton near Drayton Grove have been inspected and landowners will be written to. I was out with the highways officer in Drayton inspecting these.
8. The pavement right from Winterfold on the A448 has been reported for siding out in places where there is debris and is too narrow. I am chasing this to be done right from Mustow Green to Chaddesley Village.
9. I have raised the flooding on the A448 at Redcross that Mr. Peirson raised in public question time and WCC are investigating. The did ensure all of the gullies were jetted.

New Issues

1. I have been asked to look at the road that links Harkaway House to Hemming Way. I believe this road is owned by CHG but I am investigating.

Wyre Forest Issues

Bewdley Bridge is back to operating 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.

Strategic Issues County Wide

Cabinet considered a report at 6th February cabinet and agreed to deem the building surplus to requirements and to bring a report back asap in the first quarter of 2025-2026 to consider options for disposal.

By way of a brief devolution and unitary update, the Government has now formally written to the County Council and the six district Councils with an 'invitation to reorganise'. However, only six councils are being taken through in the first tranche. We are in the second tranche and so elections to WCC of course took place as normal on 1st May 2025. We believe there would be 'shadow' elections for the new authority on the first Thursday in May 2027 and so no District Council elections that year, their four-year term would be extended until 1st April 2028 when WCC would cease too and the new unitary authority would come into being.

WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21st March and final proposals by 28th November.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet met on 20th March to agree to support a Worcestershire Unitary Council and agree the interim plan. We now await to hear from Government on the next steps which is expected in the next few weeks.

Finally, a word on the elections that took place for all 57 seats on the new boundaries last week on 1st May. I am delighted to say I was re-elected for a 3rd term to represent Chaddesley. My majority was just 76 votes over Reform but given what was a very difficult day for my party both locally and nationally I was very pleased to get over the line.

In May 2021, in Wyre Forest, all 10 seats were won by the Conservatives, last Thursday 8 were won by Reform and just Chaddesley and Bewdley won by the Conservatives.

In May 2021 there were 45 Conservatives and 12 others, the make up as of last Thursday is as follows:-

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 27 | Reform |
| 12 | Conservatives |
| 8 | Greens |
| 6 | Lid Dems |
| 2 | Labour |
| 2 | Independent , |

Full Council meets on 22nd May to appoint a new leader, Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Council and the various committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Watch this space over the next couple of weeks.

I look forward to continue to keep working with you over the next 3 years.

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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