

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

Wednesday 28th January 2026

Dear Rachel,

Re: Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2nd February 2026

This is my first report after Christmas break so a very belated Happy New Year.

Chaddesley Issues

Ongoing Issues

1. I gave extensive updates on Barrow Hill flooding and Egg Lane flooding in my previous reports and so they are therefore not repeated here.
2. 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. WCC highways are still dealing with this but have been now sent a 'second stage hedge' letter since your December meeting. This appears not to have been done. I discussed this on 23rd January with Dean our highways officer and he is escalating.
3. The reinstatement of the kerbing at Lower Chaddesley from the village is now completed.
4. Following last September's meeting I have still not observed any parking issues at the St Cassian's Way junction in the village. I have visited the village a number of times since my December report.
5. I have received a complaint from a resident in Cursley Lane regarding the speeding and in particular the delivery drivers doing this. I have said I will pass to the police but they have asked if there could be village gateways installed so I have now visited with our highways officer on 23rd January and are looking at having them from when you come from the A442 just approximately 50metres down from the properties called The Willows. I wonder if this is something the Parish Council support? As stated in my December report I have requested WCC to undertake a speed survey and will report back when this has been done and I have the reports.
6. I have yet again reported damaged bollards on the A448 and these will be repaired. They have now been added to the work program I am advised by Dean.

7. The continued flooding of Fox Lane reported by your chairman to me several meetings ago is now being investigated. WCC are going to conduct a full camera survey from the A448 right along Fox Lane. This will inform decisions as there is a new land owner who is keen to assist in this location and so myself, WCC highways and NWWM are in touch with him but we are going to await to see what is going on underground before decisions are made. However, I am pleased to report a meeting with the resident, NWWM and WCC highways is scheduled for 29th January on site. I will report back on progress as soon as I know anything.
8. Speeding in various locations continues to be reported to me throughout the parish and I raise this with the police.
9. Due to recent heavy rain and storms over the last month a resident in Cakebole Lane has contacted me regarding flooding issues. WCC are looking at this and linking it with the Fox Lane work, however they have been out and dealt with blocked gullies to ensure water is going down the ditches and stream as opposed to backing up. They will camera this area as well to ensure there is no broken connection.
10. I have received a complaint regarding damage crash barriers on the A450 at Barnetbrook not being replaced following an accident over 12 months ago. I have chased this now and specialists are working on the design and preparing a scheme. Reply from WCC highways, "I have spoken with the Team in relation to the length of time taken to repair the damage caused at this location. The Team have advised that specialists have been working on the scheme and preparing a design. The scheme is very complex and has been difficult to design due to a number of factors including a significant number of services in the affected verge as well as insufficient existing verge width on the departure end of the barrier, which has unfortunately had an impact on the length of time taken to resolve this particular issue."
11. I have received complaints regarding the number of HGV's using the A450 and A448. I have now raised this with WCC highways for a formal response and await this.
12. Regarding parking on Briar Hill following a message from your clerk as you are aware I have asked about some double yellow lines on the grounds of highway safety to protect the junction with The Green. The first stage of the process has been undertaken and this is now at advert stage and then after 21 days from 19th January they will go into the public domain for consultation.

New Issues

1. I have been made aware by your clerk and a local resident regarding several RTC's at Mustow Green over recent months. I have requested the accident data from WCC highways but these latest accidents won't be in the data as there is a 3 month lag. Myself and Dean visited the location on 23rd January and are going to await the accident data first and make a decision on locations for VAS posts in due course which can face both ways, most likely on the bend before Winterfold and or after coming from the Chaddesley direction.
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2. I have been made aware by your clerk following a resident contacting her about flooding on the Drayton Road between Bluntington Crossroads and Drayton. I have now reported this for inspection and following this NWWM have been contacted to liaise with landowners as the ditches were full. A meeting is awaited but most likely they will request that landowners dig out the ditches. I can attest to the flooding as when I drove through at 7:30am on 21st January the road was completely flooded for about 100metres.
3. There has been yet more misery at Mustow Green with numerous works by Severn Trent since your December meeting. There is a meeting with Severn Trent on 29th January to discuss their scheme of works for the area as there is in essence major works planned around Chaddesley and Stone over the next two years, starting with Tandy's Lane 25th February to 14th June! I can't make the meeting but Ian and Robin will be attending as our district councillors and to represent me. I will report back and keep residents updated through my regular Facebook posts. I plan to meet with Severn Trent too to discuss these issues.

Wyre Forest Issues

Obviously, we encountered quite extreme weather just a couple of weeks ago. All of the primary routes and secondary routes and bus routes were gritted and the main roads around Wyre Forest were pretty good from experience, far better than the roads in Dudley MBC and Birmingham City Council.

Strategic Issues County Wide

In respect of local government reorganisation WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21st March and final proposals have now been submitted by the 28th November deadline. It will be at least next Summer before the Government make a decision on the submission.

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.

Regarding county hall, they have now deemed this surplus and will market the building for sale. They plan to demolish it within 12 months. They have ruled out building a new secondary school on the site or indeed one at all now and have scrapped the proposals. They will bus school pupils from Worcester to Malvern!

Car parks have been rented out for use by the neighbouring hospital.

The Reform administration published their cabinet report ahead of the meeting on 13th January. Of most significance, the administration have requested Government for a higher than a 5% council tax increase, which ordinarily would require a referendum and have asked consent to increase to up to 10% without the need for a referendum. They are also consulting on a 10% council tax rise for 26-27. The County Council's part of the bill for a Band D property in 2025-2026 was £1,615.71 and therefore residents face a circa £162 per annum increase in their bill which is £13.50 pcm.

They are proposing a whole host of amendments to the capital programme and ultimately this will mean cuts to front line services that residents value most such as infrastructure projects and highways. They have decided not go ahead of car parking charges at country parks following the cabinet meeting on 13th January. Full

Council met on 15th January and the Reform administration have agreed to a whole host of cuts to the capital programme.

The proposal is to set a net revenue budget of some £618,670 million, the highest I can remember in 20 years.

Full Council will now meet on 26th February to set the budget, having moved from 19th February. The 'reserve' council date is 6th March. Prior to this, Full Council meets this Thursday, 15th January, to consider a whole sweet of proposals affecting the capital programme. We await the decision of Council later this week.

The cabinet did consist of 9, the Leader having removed Cllr. David Taylor, from his post as Cabinet Member for One Worcestershire, with Council Leader, Cllr. Jo Monk taking on this role, however it is back up to 10 with the recent appointment of Cllr. Nik Price as Cabinet Member for Delivery, Operations, Governance and Efficiency.

I am pleased we were able to persuade the administration regarding the additional pavement funding that allows me a £22,000 pa discretionary spend in my division that they should continue this.

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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