

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

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Rachel,

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

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. I am still chasing this!
3. I have received a complaint from a resident in Curslow 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. I can update on the gateways and WCC say that they cannot install any as this is a national speed limit area and they only install in 30 and 40 mph areas. I am challenging this as I have had them installed in Rushock and elsewhere in Chaddesley. I have as a result of this today received a further email to say that the road safety team have now agreed to gateways and Dean is going to go out and measure for a safe location! I now have the speed data too and can attach this.
4. 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.

5. I reported in my February report on 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 took place on 29th January on site. I reported on this briefly in February but had only just had the feedback.

Feedback as follows:-

Working our way from upstream (A448), we looked at where water is known to pool in the field belonging to Rowberrys, which then overflows onto the road and down towards the Fox Lane junction. This mirrors what the surface water flood mapping indicates will happen (see: [Technical map - Check your long term flood risk - GOV.UK](#)). Wade has suggested that, if the landowner is willing to cooperate, an option here would be to formalise the area which already holds water to make it deeper. This can be re-seeded to minimise any impact upon the land being grazed and should remove a significant amount of water which finds its way down to the junction.

Officers will arrange a survey of the highway drains on the A448 to work out if everything does reach the Fox Lane junction or if there are any other routes which water should take. Until we know this information we can't do much more here.

Notwithstanding the above, the local resident has expressed an interest in taking water from the highway via his land which will have the benefit of reducing flood risk but also provide a source of water for irrigation. There is already a ditch line which predominantly remains dry along the hedge line (following the surface water flood path). Highways are to consider if they are able to divert water from the A448 into this ditch. Alongside this, there is the option to create a trunk from the Rowberry's side which could act to provide an overflow.

Within the racecourse, there is the opportunity to utilise NFM to hold more water and slow the flow – Wade has shared some ideas below.

Looking at Fox Lane, the ditches generally are in good condition but the section on the left after the junction with the A448 is silted in places; this is due to the drains being overwhelmed. Highways are to take levels here to see if they can add an overflow from the ditch here into the stream which heads past the sewage works as there is more capacity here than via the current route. If feasible, this will hopefully be looked at in Summer 2026. I will contact the landowner opposite Lower House Farm to ask for further maintenance of the ditch to be carried out to enable remainder of the highway drains to function properly.

As a result of this officers have now met with Mr. Chris Rowberry who was obliging and they report as follows:-

Officers met with Mr Rowberry on the 17th February and had a helpful historical run down of the site and further afield in relation to water routes. We then had a good walk around the fields with Mr Rowberry, inspecting both Mr Rowberry's lane and the school grounds where possible.

Key points:-

The field is not suitable for further deeper excavation - it is clay based. The field has already been landscaped to quite an extent to assist with the water flow. There is a land drain in situ already.

1. The location used to be known as Lodge Ford Hill, so guessing that water at this location has always been there.
 2. Water tends to flow down from hills and trees across the fields a mile or two away at Chaddesley Woods which may explain why water continues to build at the location after it stops raining.
 3. Mr Rowberry suggests that the schools run off and drainage pipes take up all of the available pipe space and there is not enough room in the pipes for the highway water and the runoff from his field. He suggests that the school initial building plans had a larger pipe but this was deemed not necessary after review - possibly to save money.
 4. Our water management officer suggests that next steps is to await the drainage plan for the highway to fully understand the situation and opportunities that may exist.
 6. Speeding in various locations continues to be reported to me throughout the parish and I raise this with the police.
 7. As previously reported, 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."
 8. I have received complaints regarding the number of HGV's using the A450 and A448. I have now raised this with WCC highways. I am meeting with WCC officers and residents about this issue and other highway issues on 3rd March so will update in my April report.
 9. Regarding parking on Briar Hill and the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for double yellow lines this is going through the process.
 10. 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 and now received this and attach it to this report. I also attach the speed data to this report. As I have previously reported I am having this area assessed for further VAS locations.
 11. I have previously reported on 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 have an update as follows:-
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“Unfortunately, our Drainage Team have been unable to get the necessary road space to carry out these works in April due to prolonged substantial works nearby by Severn Trent Water.

We are unable to do this work in the summer periods due to interference with hedges and subsequent bird nesting season, as well as the ditches being full of vegetation.

Therefore, these works have been scheduled in for between the 12th and 16th October. (Please note that dates are subject to change.)”

I have challenged this as whilst I totally understand regarding bird nesting I am not persuaded that digging a ditch on the highway affects nesting birds in a hedge per se and I am simply not happy on the timeframe.

12. 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 attended as one of our district councillors and to represent me. I will report back and keep residents updated through my regular Facebook posts. I met with Severn Trent with Dean from WCC highways to discuss these issues on 25th February and can report as follows:-

The work on Tandy’s Lane has now started as of 26th February and will take approximately 15 weeks. The work on Curslow Lane will start around the 27th April and will take approximately 4 weeks. They say it is an old watermain and the pipes keep bursting so they need to lay a completely new water main. They are need to do Mustow Green and the plan would be to do this under traffic light control as opposed to a full closure. They plan to submit their proposals to WCC for assessment over the next 2 weeks and then WCC will assess the plans and work out when they can grant a permit for the work. They say they will keep me and residents updated and do a further engagement session if needs be. I have the contact details now for the correct relevant people at Severn Trent.

I have made the point about doing the work when it causes the least disruption and not having traffic lights on when work has been completed or people are not working.

13. 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.” I have just received an update on this which now says:-

"A topographical survey of the site to support the constraints study has been undertaken this week (23rd and 24th February). If a foundation option can be identified which avoids the need for utility diversions, it is hoped to be on site once the Severn Trent works are completed in June/July of this year." So watch this space and I will update further when I can.

14. I am told that work at Egg Lane, Drayton which I have previously reported in terms of the road condition is scheduled for 1 day between 12th-26th May.

New Issues

1. Hedges on Dobes Lane obstructing the highway have been reported following this being raised by the chairman to me at the last meeting. They have now been inspected and I am advised that hedges at Picklewell House are an issue and the landowner has been written to.
2. I have been contacted by a resident in Deansford Lane (in the Chaddesley Corbett parish) complaining that the edge of carriage way repair done last year has worn away in large parts, plus there are speeding issues and the speed limit should be changed from national speed limit. This lane straddles, Churhill and Blakedown, Stone and Chaddesley Corbett parishes.

Wyre Forest Issues

Nothing of note save for the general state of the roads now with considerable of potholes even on main roads as a result of the amount of rain we had in January and February. I continue to report these.

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 final cabinet proposals on their budget and proposed council tax, them having met on 24th February.

As previously reported, 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 9% without the

need for a referendum. This has been granted and Cabinet have agreed to recommend a council tax increase of 8.98%.

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 met on 26th February to set the budget, having moved from 19th February. Full Council did indeed meet and set a budget and council tax levy. We met at 10am and those of us who stayed to the end, we finished at 6:40pm.

24/25 of the Reform group councillors voted for the budget. The 12 Conservative group members all voted against as did 6 of the Green group councillors and 1 Independent councillor (who has recently left the Reform group). 2 Independent councillors, 1 Green councillor and 1 Reform councillor abstained so the budget passed with 24 for, 19 against and 4 abstentions. The 2 Labour councillors left the meeting before the vote and the 7 Liberal Democrat councillors seemingly deliberately left the meeting before the vote too.

The budget therefore passed. Our £4k devolved highways fund and £10k divisional fund has been cut to £12k as a result of an amendment passed by Reform and the Liberal Democrats. Whilst only a small amount, this is issued to support local schemes like dropped kerbs and community groups within my local area.

In 20 years on WCC I have never quite seen a budget council like it.

Marcus Hart

With my best wishes.

Electoral Division
Chaddesley

Yours sincerely,



County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

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

Tel: 07537169169

Email

mhart@worcestershire.gov.uk