

Chairman's Report - May 2021 (Covid year 1).

Councillors: During the year the Council maintained a full quota of 7 Parish Councillors. All Council meetings were successfully held via Zoom.

District/County

Councillors: Tom Wells, recently re-elected, and Bronwen Behan are the County and District Councillors, respectively, their efforts on our behalf are appreciated.

Officers: The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (since July 2013) has been Vicky Fowkes. The Chairman is grateful to Vicky for her hard work in dealing with the administration and finance of the Parish Council, and guiding the Councillors through the ever evolving and increasing statutory requirements, especially during the covid emergency. The new (WCC appointment) voluntary Parish Footpaths Officer is Gary Duxbury. The voluntary Parish Tree Warden is Penny Tubbs. Ben Perry continues as the Parish Lengthsman (appointed in November 2016). Their efforts are much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Outstanding

Issues: In order to monitor progress of remedial actions by the appropriate authorities, the council maintains a schedule of current 'incidents' which have been reported to them. Ongoing issues include:
i) Speeding along the village roads. ii) Damage to verges and footways (by farming contractors). iii) Litter, especially on and adjacent to the Ledbury Road.

Planning: The Parish is subject to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) in force until 2030, (covering Malvern Hills and Wychavon DCs and Worcester City) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The SWDP is currently under review. Currently, the status of Bushley and Bushley Green within the SWDP is that of a Category Four village (basically no new development).

Drainage: Flooding of farmland in the Parish is a constant threat, but only one house (Bonnetts End) is subject to regular flooding. There are still ongoing issues with surface water run off from fields flooding roads at 'Mernian' and Hither Ham. At present, the authorities deem these problems to be private landowner issues. There are outstanding works to be implemented on the road drainage between Broxford Farm and Stokes Lane. There are also issues with a number septic tanks in Church End, which require remediation.

Village

Activities

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns and restrictions virtually all village social activities since March 2020 have ceased.

Some cricket matches were played in August 2020. Social activities have been minimal. The PC is grateful to Tim Perry and Dan Townsend (President and Chairman) and their committee for maintaining such a valuable village asset. There are plans afoot for a replacement pavilion, fundraising is well advanced and construction planned for 2022.

The Village Hall Committee (Chairman: Sam McDonagh) continues to maintain the Village Hall, although it has been closed for activities during Covid. Jason Kinghorn is the Hall manager. Thanks are due to them all for their hard work.

Church services have been regularly held until severely disrupted by the Covid lockdown requirements since the beginning of 2021. There are remedial works to the Church that are required by the last Quinquennial inspection and in September 2019 the lead roof to the Vestry was removed by thieves.

The Bushley News continues to be published monthly and is delivered to all residents as well as published on the Parish Council website. The PC is grateful to the Editor, Phil Hopgood, and his contributors.

PC

Activities:

Since March 2020 the Parish Council Clerk has been keeping all residents up to date with the Covid-19 situation and resulting restrictions. Vulnerable residents have been monitored as necessary.

A data base (in accordance with The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) of all residents and their e-mail addresses (when agreed) is maintained by the Clerk.

The Youth Fund (only £200 currently remaining) is still in place to deliver funding to village secondary school students to help with educational trips.

The Parish Council continues to organise and fund the mowing and upkeep of the Churchyard. Thanks are due Kevin Blundell who still volunteers to mow the 'new' Churchyard.

Litter picking along the Ledbury Road (A438) was carried out by residents in the Spring. Another litter pick is planned for the autumn.

The VAS (vehicle activated speed sign) (shared with Longdon PC) is located in various positions in the village for during the Bredon School term times. The old VAS (which has been refurbished) is also utilised in the village. White verge barriers were installed at the entry and exit points to Bushley and Bushley Green, to slow the traffic speeds through the village.

The 'Bushley Information Sheet' is made available to new residents and issued once a year after the AGM.

The Bushley Parish website, showing PC and village information, is maintained on the WCC 'My Parish' site.

The Bushley History website is up and running (bushleyparisharchive.co.uk) and additional items will be uploaded to it when available. The PC would be grateful to receive any appropriate information that could be uploaded to the site.

The installation of Ultrafast Broadband within the Parish was completed in September 2020.

Future

Projects:

When possible, the PC is keen to pursue environmental projects within the Parish, related to ecology, carbon reduction and foul drainage pollution.

A mural is planned for the rear of the bus shelter, hopefully to involve local younger residents.