

Chairman's Report - May 2022

Councillors: During the year the Council has maintained a full quota of 7 Parish Councillors. Sean Ceres stood down following his moving from the village and Kim Fikry was co-opted to the Council in March 2022. PC meetings have been held in the Village Hall, during the Covid restrictions all regular meetings were held via Zoom.

District/County

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

Officers: Vicky Fowkes retired as Parish Clerk in November 2021 following her move from the village. The Council is very grateful to Vicky for her 8 years of sterling service to the residents and Parish Council. The new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (since Nov 2021) is Dave Kent, who unfortunately is also moving on in May 2022. The PC is currently recruiting for his replacement. The (WCC appointment) voluntary Parish Footpaths Officer is Gary Duxbury, the voluntary Parish Tree Warden is Penny Tubbs and Ben Perry continues as the Parish Lengthsman (appointed in November 2016 and funded by WCC). Their efforts are much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Outstanding

Issues: Ongoing issues include: i) School traffic through the village in term times. ii) Traffic speeds along the village roads. iii) Damage to verges and footways (by farming contractors). iv) Litter, especially on and adjacent to the Ledbury Road. The issues with mains electricity supplies seems to have been resolved following works carried out by Western Power during the year.

Planning/

Development: The status of Bushley and Bushley Green within the SWDP remains that of a Category Four village (basically no new development). Approvals during the last year have included the conversion of Wood Street Barn to a residential bungalow, extension to 'Tulsa' at Bushley Green, the redevelopment of Ledbury Road Motors as a Farm Shop and Petrol Station and the refurbishment of the Barn at Hill House for shooting parties. Various projects at Bredon School have also received approval. Tewkesbury Fields residential home at the Oxhey has been fully refurbished and reopened in April 2022.

Drainage: Flooding of farmland in the Parish is a constant threat, but no residential properties have been flooded in the last year. There are still potential issues with surface water run off from fields flooding roads at 'Mernian' and Broxford Farm. At present, the authorities deem these problems to be private landowner issues. During heavy rain, there are outstanding issues with the road drainage between Broxford Farm and Stokes Lane. There is also an issue with a septic tank in Stokes Lane, which requires remediation as directed by WCC.

Village

Activities

Covid restrictions have impacted on village social activities during the year but activities are now returning. Some cricket matches were played in 2021 and social activities at the Club have resumed. The PC is grateful to Tim Perry and Stuart McGee (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 2023.

The Village Hall Committee (Chairman: Sam McDonagh) continues to maintain the Village Hall. Jason Kinghorn is the Hall manager. Activities have returned to the Village Hall. Thanks are due to them all for their hard work. Adjacent to the Village Hall, a Community Garden is under construction, thanks are due to Annie Duxbury, Rose Willis and all of their helpers, this should be a real asset to the village.

The Church has been closed throughout Covid and subsequent building works. It is now open, but there are further building works are to be carried out.

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, Meredith and his contributors.

Bushley Support Whatsapp group moderated by Julie Jarman.

Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations (2-5 June) in the Parish are currently being prepared by Leslie Hirons and BCC.

PC

Activities:

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. There is also the Ripple Trust funding available for students equipment. 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) has been carried out by residents and friends, Further litter picks will be implemented this year

Two VAS' (vehicle activated speed signs) are located in various positions in the village.

White verge barriers were finally 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.

Bus Shelter Mural directed by Elaine Guilding, with input from 60 residents and friends.

Windmill Tump tree planting supervised by Martin Roberts, 10no. Oaks and Horse Chestnut planted to replace expired Dowdeswell trees. Thanks to all contributors to these projects.

Future

Projects:

The PC is keen to sponsor further environmental projects within the Parish, related to biodiversity and climate change.