



## *Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council*



### Annual Report 2009/10



Chaddesley Corbett Health Centre, Hemmingway.

### **The Parish of Chaddesley Corbett includes:**

The Village, Bellington, Bluntington, Brockencote, Cakebole, Hill Pool, Drayton, Harvington, Lower Chaddesley, Mustow Green (East), Tanwood, Winterfold, Woodrow

## Chairman's Annual Report

It is appropriate to acknowledge and publicly thank Dr Michael Bird for his many years service to the community and to the Parish Council on which he served as a member and Chairman of the Planning Committee. His knowledge and his work have been greatly valued.

I also acknowledge and thank Stephen Williams for his sustained service on the Parish Council which ended in May after many years. Stephen still attends our meetings as an observer and we all know he is never far away. I'm sure we are all grateful for his continuing role as a District Councillor.

I welcome the new members Will Mack and Bob Green to the Council; they have already started their induction training and are no doubt feeling the new weight of responsibility.

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council is formally recognised and qualified as a Quality Parish Council and it is implicit that we shall use all the communication means at our disposal.

The prospect of rural regeneration is provocative, Chaddesley Corbett Parish is still essentially an agricultural area and any intimation of it becoming attractive to other commercial users is likely to distress many residents as most consider the Parish a highly comfortable rural residential area. There are excellent local schools, businesses, the surgery, as well as many social and recreational community organisations catering for a high proportion of the population. There is good evidential support of a positive image and through the Parish Council, the Friends of the Village and other articulate organisations in the Community exercises opinions and make a clear contribution to the District and County Councils as well as other local and regional organisations.

Many familiar subjects continue to feature at our meetings and our brief reports will give you some of the high and some of the low points.

Neighbourhood Watch  
Community Orchard  
Precept  
Lengthsman Scheme  
Affordable Housing  
Emergency Procedure  
Village School

Environment Group  
Allotments  
Burial Ground  
Litter picking  
Bus Service  
Planning  
Parking and car park

The Council on behalf of the community is making an active contribution to the sustainability of Chaddesley Corbett Parish. The Council benefits from the Parish Plan and Design Statement, and will continue to participate in the widest range of consultation.



### **Parish Council Elections**

The General Election on 6 May resulted in a Coalition Government, but the Parish elections were more clear cut. The election resulted in 11 nominated candidates, so all were duly elected. We now welcome Will Mack and Bob Green to the Council and hope they enjoy their new duties. Will lives in Bluntington and Bob in Drayton, so we now have representatives in all areas of the Parish.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 and attended by Parish Councillors and residents. A range of speakers addressed the meeting and a full report on matters raised at the meeting is included in this Report.

### **Residents Handbook**

Extending the Annual Parish Council report this year it has been agreed to publish and distribute to every household a copy of the Residents' Handbook which will serve as a useful reference source to the many services and contacts, most importantly the Emergency Planning arrangements.

### **Emergency Planning**

There is an issue which needs residents attention and participation. You will recall the Council is required to make special efforts to ensure the safety and well being of vulnerable residents. The PC will therefore establish an opt-in list of vulnerable people and if you wish to be included, or you feel it would be neighbourly to recommend a name to be added, please inform the Clerk who will make discrete enquiries and only then and with permission relevant names will be added to the list.

### **Affordable Housing**

During the past year the Working Group have met on several occasions and reports to the Parish Council indicated that we needed to be certain that the survey of housing needs represented NEEDS and not WANTS or preferences. Despite a spell of absence and ill health the County Housing Enabler established at the beginning of this month that a level of evidential needs, based on local applicants, or those with appropriate connections, did still exist.

For reasons of privacy, the detail, which is easily identifiable, is regarded as sensitive and confidential, i.e. first home, retirees, down sizing, number and age range of occupants, mobility etc. The Working Group has also examined matters concerned with the range of legal and financial implications regarding purchase and letting arrangements and the subsequent sale or re-let terms. We have considered many location suggestions and the Parish Council have determined in principle that a number of small sites would be preferred to a single multi-unit development.

In consultation with Wyre Forest District Council Planning Department the Working Group identified six possible sites, three of which were immediately dismissed. Three sites which have been referred to the next meeting of the Working Group are;

- the garage block on the Green
- in-filling sites in Morton Road
- extension to Sam Spencer Court.

The Working Group will make a recommendation for consideration at the Parish Council meeting in August.

**Ken Bartlett**

### **Parking in the Village**

The Parish Council has been pursuing a range of measures aimed at improving parking and reducing congestion in the Village, including:

- Creating a permanent car park
- Improving traffic flow
- Reducing congestion at peak times

The need for a car park in the village had been agreed several years ago and is featured in the Parish Plan. Five potential sites were identified and discussed with District and County Council officers:

- Land off Fold Lane
- Land adjacent Doctors' Surgery
- Land at entrance to village from A448
- Land off A448 adjacent to track to Rowberry's Nursery
- Land at rear of the Swan

After a review, the land at the rear of the Swan was considered the most suitable and negotiations took place with representatives of the Henry VIII Trust in Warwick and Bathams with a view to gaining access to land at the rear across the Swan car park. Unfortunately, these negotiations broke down at the end of last year. In addition, the estimated cost was likely to be in excess of £100,000. The Parish Council decided not to progress this option at this time, but to await developments when the school moves to its new site.

In order to improve traffic flow, Councillors consulted residents of the village and double yellow lines were introduced in three areas:

- Outside Beams End – to provide a passing point
- On the bend at the entrance to the village from the A448 – safety
- At the bottom of Hemmingway – to improve visibility

White lines at the entrance to Fold Lane and Fishers Lane were renewed and extended to improve visibility and create further passing points. All of these measures have been relatively successful and there is an added benefit that disabled are now able to park close to the shops for short periods.

The closure of the Swan car parks to non-patrons created major problems. After negotiations with the tenant of the Swan, they agreed to allow limited parking for short periods on their small car park. The landlord at the Fox has also agreed to allow teachers and teaching assistants to park there. The Parish Council improved the amenity area on the allotment site off Fishers Lane to help businesses that had parking space to make it available to their customers.

The school is also investigating ways to reduce the number of cars visiting the village, or to speed up their visit by operating a drop off point and a walking bus. Free public transport could be made available to children living within the catchment area, where safe walking routes do not exist, and this could be extended to include children from Spennells, although they may have to pay for the service.

There is no single solution to this problem, but hopefully a series of small measures will, collectively, help to reduce the impact of congestion on residents.

**Cllr Dave Thomas**

## **Lengthsman Scheme**

During the last 12 months routine maintenance and good housekeeping have paid off and the results are there for all to see. Full details on the work of the Lengthsman are featured in the Parish Magazine. There have been some frustrations; 12 months ago concern was expressed that County Council Highways were paying little more than lip service to our many drainage problems. After much pressure and persistence by the Parish Clerk, a face to face meeting with the Clerk, Bill Waldron, myself and Stephen Clee was arranged and as a result marginal extra funding was identified, and it is noticeable over the last 6 months that more co-operation and progress has been made. Our 11 drainage problems are now down to 5 and this at a time when the Highways budget has been reduced, so our thanks are extended to the efforts of Stephen Clee on our behalf.

In March additional funding of £800 was made available by the District Council to enable extra ditching work at Cakebole, Tanwood and Hill Pool. Another example of partial co-operation over the last seven days is that some dangerous trees have been removed and others pruned at a cost of £1,500, and although trees on the grass verges are not a Parish Council responsibility the works has been paid for equally by the Parish and County Councils.

Given the particularly harsh winter there have been a large number of potholes in the roads, but it is evident that patch repairs are slowly being carried out. Reports of potholes are made direct to the Worcestershire Hub either by the Clerk or Bill Waldron and the response time seems to be good.

We were promised the use of Vehicle Activated Slow Signs, on a rotating basis with other Parishes, but we are still awaiting our turn – expected to be in the Autumn of this year.

The budget for the Lengthsman Scheme year ended March 2010 was £3,400 and we managed to complete the year £34 below budget. Funding for this scheme is partly from the County Council and the rest is provided by the Parish Council, and this year the formula has changed which means we are have been allocated extra money.

Some time ago we nominated our Lengthsman, Bill Waldron, for an award from the National Association of Local Councils – Council Worker of the Year, and we are proud to announce that Bill came Runner-Up, out of more than 100 applicants, in this National competition and Bill was invited to London to receive his prize. This was a wonderful accolade for the Parish and very well deserved. We all congratulate Bill and thank him for his hard work and dedication to the Parish.

### **Geoff Vernon**



Bill Waldron receives his prize in London as Runner-up in the NALC National Awards for Council Worker of the Year

### **Parish Games**

We came second overall in the Wyre Forest Parish Games Competition. A very good result, especially since we did not win any event outright – almost a case of slow and steady wins the race. Yet again all teams returning from events enjoyed the experience, the challenge, the competition. All events were played in good spirit and were successful. Entrants were unwilling to put themselves forward, but all participants would be able to assure anyone who may be reluctant to offer themselves, that it is an enjoyable experience and well worth it. Slowly word is getting around about how much fun it can be and participants are encouraging others to take part.

The team competed against teams in the Dominoes and Crib sections of the Games and some teams play in weekly leagues. Our teams are cobbled together for the Games and so only play once a year. One member of the dominoes team this year was signed up when caught reading a Parish Games Poster a few days before the event. We attained remarkable success with so little preparation. There must be more people within the Parish who play these games and we would urge them to come forward. We could then even manage to get together and practice.

The Bridge Team did well and we thank them for their enthusiasm. The Archery Team were disappointed with their result – having won last year – but took it very seriously, are very keen and practiced for weeks before the event. The Short Mat Bowlers remain middle of the table but are always ready to represent the Parish. There are lots of golfers within the Parish

but the dates always coincide with competitions on better courses. However our team performed well – despite the added hazards of picnickers and dogs. The Quiz Team came second again but was therefore present on the Presentation Night and realised that their points raised our overall position from joint 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>. They were ecstatic. Well done Chaddesley Corbett. First next year?

**Mrs Hilary Boden**

### **The Environment Group**

Martin Kenrick said that articles have continued to appear each month in the Parish Magazine and some additional authors would be welcome as it is always good to have some alternative views. The village shop continues to receive stamps and small batteries. The main interest this year has been the new school and its potential to incorporate lots of devices to make its footprint at least carbon neutral, if not actually negative, and to cut dramatically its future running costs. We would like to see the building still in use in 50/100 years time without having to have major rebuilding or alteration.

**Martin Kenrick**

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

The Parish Council has operated within this worthy scheme over the past two years. To ensure that relevant available information is passed quickly to all residents it is necessary to circulate warnings and alerts to every address. These bulletins can appear frequently and need prompt attention if they are to be effective. The Parish Notice Boards and shop windows will provide a solution for many; however an opt-in solution is also available. If you wish to receive these alerts by e-mail directly to your computer, or via a neighbour, please register with the Clerk to the Parish Council and have your name added to the circulation list.

### **Parish Footpaths**

We would like to pay tribute to Sandi and Geoff Holding who have done such a marvellous job over the past years, and hope they both soon return to good health.

There have been a number of changes to the Countryside Service Access Team since April 2010; the post of Countryside Area Access Officer has been merged with that of the Response Officer to provide a single point of contact and allow officers to respond to higher priority reports more quickly, provide support to the Enforcement Officer and allow Area officers to manage their own vegetation clearance programme. We now have an embryonic team of three with Claire Short from Batch Cottages (mainly covering Chaddesley Woods area) Janet Heaps from Kidderminster (dealing with the area bordering Stone), and Helen Jarrett covering the middle of the Parish, and acting as Parish Footpaths Warden. The team is familiarising itself with the difficult areas and will meet fortnightly to carry out joint inspections and working parties.

After 2 years in the making, the County Council have now issued a booklet featuring Chaddesley Corbett's Local Paths, and a copy will be sent to each household with their copy of the Annual Report. The booklet contains lots of useful information and we hope it will encourage everyone to enjoy our lovely local walks.

**Helen Jarrett**

### **Allotments**

The allotment is running well and all plots are rented. The hedge at the top of the allotment was replanted this year because the old elm hedge was in a very sorry state. It will take a couple of years for the income of the allotments to cover this, but maintenance of the hedging is a condition of the lease. We are sure anyone will agree it is a big improvement.

### **Community Orchard**

We have raised £549.50 in the last 12 months for the community orchard. We held another fund raising talk given by Gordon Forest. At present we have £1061.68 in the bank for future planting and maintenance of the site.

A further 54 fruit trees were planted this spring and there was a very good turnout for the planting and plenty of water afterwards. We now have 35 varieties of fruit trees. All the trees are looking well and as of yet we have not lost any. We are looking at an Espalier ring in the centre of the orchard over the next few years and placing some benches in this area so people can sit and enjoy the plantation. A number of requests for benches have already been made, and should be installed this year.

**Leo Stockford**

## **Burial Ground**

There were only two burials during the financial year ended March 2010 and one internment of cremated ashes, with three new memorials. There are still a few plots available to local people and the burial ground will be open for many years for second burials. It is hoped that when the school moves there may be an opportunity to acquire extra adjacent land to extend the burial ground. The site is maintained by Don Robbins our contractor and last year made a profit of £676, after taking into account a contribution from Wyre Forest District Council.

Fees are reviewed each year and it is anticipated that increases in August 2010 will bring our charges more or less in line with Wyre Forest District Council and St Cassians.

**Ken Bartlett**

## **Queen's Diamond Jubilee - Monday 4 June, 2012.**

An exploratory meeting of the Steering Committee was held to discuss arrangements for the celebrations. The focus will be on getting residents, families and friends together and encouraging community spirit and participation, and events will not be extended outside the Parish and will not conflict with the Annual Fete. A street party and pig roast are being considered, venue still to be decided, and would be low cost or free. It is intended to involve all clubs and societies in the parish – 18 in all – and a further meeting would take place shortly to evaluate a programme.

If local clubs and societies would like to arrange an event around the Diamond Jubilee, we should like to hear about it, but would not become involved in their organisation.

These are outline thoughts, open for discussion with other organisations and people and to test the popular reaction. For example the Steering Committee would like to hear from: Churches, CATS, Chaddesley Voices, sports clubs, the pubs, and parish businesses.

**Jonathan Swift**

## **New School**

The Chairman of the Governors of the School reported that the Trustees had now handed over the project to the Governors, who would now take it forward to planning stage. Outline designs had been prepared and the architect was heavily involved in designing a building which would be as near as carbon neutral as possible. Children from the school had been consulted and had made a significant contribution through the Eco Group. When the final design is complete it will go to the District Council for planning approval and then out to tender. A fixed price tender would be sought.

Andrew Page said that the County Council had found a further half a million pounds for the project and had carried out a feasibility study to satisfy themselves that the land adjacent Rowberry's Nursery was the best option, and this had now been agreed.

There were cost limitations and there was a need to remove VAT from the project to make it viable. The Trust was underwriting the project through the Governors, because as a Charity they were unable to finance the local authority.

It is hoped that work on the new school would start at the end of 2010, early 2011, and there will be an exhibition when the design was complete to allow local people to become involved.

**Colin Emeny**  
**Andrew Page**

## **Village Fete**

St Cassians Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 21 August 2010 and once again Parish Councillors will hold a surgery if anyone would like to consult them. Please come along and bring your family for a really fun day out.

## **Report from Police**

Inspector Paul Crowley said that West Mercia Police force was one of the top performing police forces in the country. Due to financial restraints they are currently carrying out a review of the structure of departments, and although they are 'lean' some efficiency savings could possibly be made. This report will go to the Policy Authority who make decisions on how they should deliver the services the community deserves. Inspector Crowley

covers the Wyre Forest area, which is part of North Worcestershire which includes Bromsgrove and Redditch. The new Chief Inspector for the division is Andrew Barnett. There are twelve local policing teams, and in Wyre Forest division there is a local police officer (PC Jayne Willetts), a Community Support Officer (Kate Easthope), a sergeant who covers a number of divisions and a low response officer. Obviously tasks have to be prioritized, but Inspector Crowley said they would respond to all emergencies. It is hoped that the current staff would stay in the division for a longer period so that residents could get to know them.

Engaging with children is a current initiative and involves Junior PACT, Tag Rugby, Wyre Forest Challenge, and included talks about drugs, behaviour, safety and the environment.

PC Jayne Willetts introduced herself and said she had 18 years experience in local policing, formerly in Bromsgrove. There had been an increase in reported crimes in the Blakedown and Chaddesley Corbett Ward with 35 from 1 April 2010, these were mainly burglaries, theft of cars and thefts from cars. One car stolen in Chaddesley Corbett had been recovered in London. There had been a number of Horse tack thefts and discussions with currently taking place with Trading Standards about scrap-men operating in the area.

Members of the public were invited to complete a PACT postcard identifying matters of concern which would then be dealt with by the team, and these cards could be obtained from the village surgery. In addition a mobile PACT meeting could be arranged locally if required. They were aware of recent unruly behaviour in the village following point to point meetings and would ensure that in future the area was policed at this time. The speed of traffic and in particular motor cycles was also highlighted as a problem, and cyclists speeding through the village.

**Inspector Paul Crowley**

**P.C. Jayne Willetts**

### **District Councillor – Steve Williams**

Cllr Stephen Williams reported that last year and this year he was Chairman of the District Council Planning Committee, and had held this position 6 times in 11 years. He is also a member of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee which includes parking, cemeteries, parks, open spaces, climate change, health improvement, housing strategy, local development framework, tourism, older people, etc.

During the year he had lobbied the Council to retain Section 136 payments to Parish Councils and was successful in obtaining 85% of previous payments.

During the year the District Council entered into partnership with seven other Councils to reduce costs with the Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier agreement, which saves £250,000 per year by providing centralised services for licensing, health and safety, air quality, dog warden services, food safety, taxi and private hire licensing, pest control, etc.

There will shortly be a review of the decision making process at Wyre Forest District Council and residents will have a chance to have their say. There will be a 3 month public consultation on options to directly elect a Mayor (this would have to be the result of a Referendum of local voters) or a Strong Leader. This Leader will be elected by the Council, but then allocates responsibility, i.e. Cabinet Members, etc. It is also possible to change arrangements for elections; at present the Council is elected by thirds, but could move to all out elections in 2011, and every 4 years after that. The decision on this will be made before the end of 2010.

Work has started on a new Wyre Forest Cemetery and Crematorium, with completion in 2011, and a site has been acquired for new head quarters for the District Council at Finepoint Business Park off the A451 Minster Road. Detailed planning is expected to be submitted this summer with work starting early 2011.

### **County Councillor Stephen Clee**

This is my seventh year of writing an annual report for the Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council, an organisation that has been doing a great deal of work for the good of all parishioners over the past year and I would like to pay tribute on your behalf to the Parish Councillors who have worked closely with me over the past year for the betterment of all residents in Chaddesley. I would also like to say a big thank you to Bill Waldron for his diligence as the parish lengthsman, a job he does so well on our behalf.

We have worked very well over the past 11 years and I look forward to working with the council over the next 4 years following the uncontested parish elections in May this year. The council is ably clerked by Mrs Yvonne Scriven and I would like to pay tribute to the strong representations

that the Parish Council makes to the County and District Councils on behalf of Chaddesley residents. We value greatly Chaddesley Corbett's contribution and long may that relationship continue.

I hold the post of Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services at County Hall and my fellow Councillors and I continue to ensure that everything we do is to give value for money to all the taxpayers in Worcestershire.

Following the change in National Government the new Government have announced a major reversal in spending and projects approved by the last Government. In Worcestershire we await announcements on many major bids including our Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Bid for Wyre Forest High Schools. The BSF Bid is worth £160million and will see 4 new high schools built. The County Council have worked hard on the project for 2 years now and we await the minister's decision. Should the Bid be rejected then we will progress with our planned £18million rebuild of a new Special School in Wyre Forest.

Quangos are being scrapped by the incoming Government and their first decision was to abolish the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This means the West Midlands will not be imposing 480,000 houses on us in this region. At County we opposed the plans simply because no thought had gone into the infrastructure needs for Roads, Highways, Schools and Medical provisions.

### **Financial Report - Annual Audit**

This will take place on 30 June 2010 and records may be inspected by contacting the Clerk. There has been no increase in the Precept for the third consecutive year..

A summary of the accounts for the year ended March 2010 is given below:

#### **Receipts**

Annual Precept	£21,783
Section 136 Funding	£ 3,267
Donations (Community Orchard)	£ 531
Burial Ground	£ 1,835
Interest on Deposit Account	£ 27
Parish Footpaths	£ 605

Lengthsman Scheme	£ 2,555
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,182
Allotment Fees (2 years)	£ 1,250
Other Receipts	£ 147
Emergency Plan	£ 600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£33,782</b>

#### **Expenditure**

Clerk's salary	£ 6,395
Expenses, mileage, etc.	£ 498
Communication, postage, printing, web-site, Newsletter and reports, telephone, Broadband, etc	£ 2,653
Meeting Costs	£ 598
Audit	£ 428
Sundries	£ 215
Donations – Chaddesley Voices	£ 500
Insurance	£ 607
Lengthsman Scheme	£ 3,267
Allotments	£ 1,537
Resurface community area Allotments	£ 1,982
Burial Ground	£ 1,159
Parish Paths	£ 1,065
Notice Boards and General Maintenance	£ 465
Training Costs	£ 400
Urban Grass Cutting	£ 1,536
Trees for Community Orchard	£ 531
Professional Fees	£ 345
Subscriptions	£ 664
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£24,845</b>

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Parish Council Web-Site: [www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Worcestershire Hub: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) and enter your postcode.

Village Web-Site: [www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk](http://www.chaddesley-corbett.co.uk)