

## SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held at the Village Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present Cllr's Mrs M Pratt (Chairman), Mr R Hunt (Parish), Mr J De Paris (Parish), Mr C Devereaux-Little (Parish), Ms J Shields (Clerk), Mr M Parker, Mrs E Eyre (County), P Barnsley, G Mead, S Tebbutt, B Collins, Brian Palne, J Williamson, A Dawson, S Norris, C Beaver, R McLellan, G Poyner, R Harwell, C Marshall, and D and J Smith.

### **1. Welcome.**

The chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr M Pratt, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2015, were agreed as a true record and signed.

### **3. Chairman's Annual Report.**

The Chairman gave her annual report. Enc.

### **4. County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr E Eyre gave a report. Enc.

### **5. District Councillor's Report.**

Cllr G Mackison sent his report. Enc.

### **6. Police Report.**

No report received.

### **7. SeSaME Report.**

Mike Parker. SeSaME 3/3/2016.

Mrs S Morris on behalf of the village and herself thanked Mike for the parish magazine and the oil buying group.

### **8. Any other matters raised by Electors, preferably reported to the Chairman prior to the Meeting.**

River Isbourne.

Q. Could the straightening of the Isbourne have contributed to the problems?

A. Jem

This could be issue along with the 17 mills no longer working and the removal of Toddington Reservoir, its all part of the study.

Archology Study and Culvert Survey

Q. Have any results been received.

A. Mr H Hunt Flood Warden.

Not to date.

Action. Cllr Eyre will look into it.

Weight Restriction and Speeding in Winchcombe Road.

Q. Concerns were raised about the above, vehicle having to mount the pavement when to HGV meet and the sheer speed of vehicle.

A. Cllr Eyre's

Speed has been reported by the parish council and Cllr Eyre.

There is a legal process which includes consultation process, but the start is confirming that there is a problem. Various investigations have taken place over the years, and the data show there is not a problem.

Action Cllr Eyre to provide speed data for Mrs Morris.

Cllr Eyre is pursuing the Weight restriction, the first stage as above is to prove the problem with data and accepted a six month challenge to reach stage one.

Building in the Parish.

Q. As there are currently two large plots of land for sale in the village, should the parish consider a neighbourhood plan.

A. Cllr Pratt.

Action. The parish council will look into it.

Cllr Eyre suggested the Chadesley Corbet model and other parish plans are read.

Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

Q. Would the parish council fund a road closure for a street party to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

A. Cllr Pratt.

Cost of the closure need to be obtained and a celebration is taking place in the village Hall which the parish council is funding the fire of the hall.

After consideration the consensus was to use the Glebe Meadow.

The bin in the layby of the A46 is missing.

A Cllr Pratt.

Wychavon had removed it as it encourages flytipping.

Action Clerk to contact Hinton on the green as it lies within their parish.

Community Bus.

SeSeMe is looking into a n electric community bus,.

Cllr Eyre suggested Mike contact Mark Pickinger and Broadway.

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Elections for Parish Councillors were held on 7th May 2015 when 5 Councillors were elected for Sedgeberrow, leaving 2 seats to be filled by co-option. Andy Thomas joined the Council in November and Sue Morris will join the Council at the next meeting.

The Parish Council has held 6 meetings during the year, with a public session of 15 minutes at each meeting, when village residents have had the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues for future consideration.

The Crucifix War Memorial and the Wall Plaque have been professionally cleaned and the lettering repainted, and grants towards the cost were obtained from the War Memorials Trust. Historic England is now considering listing the Memorial as being of special architectural or historic interest.

The Parish Council organised a free Essential First Aid training course given by St John Ambulance on 27th May, when 6 people took part and completed the course and were awarded Certificates.

A defibrillator and a steel cabinet have been purchased from the Community Heartbeat Trust and funds towards the cost were given by Wychavon District Council from the New Homes Bonus allocation. Donations were also received from the School and several village residents. The cabinet has been fixed to the wall outside the entrance to the Betteridge Room. Also a sensor light has been fitted to allow access to the defibrillator in darkness. The cabinet is opened using a code that will be given out by the Ambulance Service when 999 is called. The defibrillator is fully automatic and has voice and text instructions to guide through the entire process. Several people have offered to be trained to access and use the defibrillator and a training session is being arranged.

The Jubilee Play Area was inspected on 18th May by the Children's Play Advisory Service and the Report noted that the swings are quite old and may within a few years become unacceptable. The Parish Council is obtaining quotes for new swings and it is hoped that these can be provided from the New Homes Bonus allocation.

A litter pick was organised around the village on 26th September and the bursary of £200 awarded by the Parish Council has been shared between SeSaME and the Flood Group. Thanks to everyone who took part for a job well done.

The Parish Council accounts for 2014/15 were audited by Grant Thornton on behalf of the Audit Commission, and were given an unqualified audit opinion. The Parish Council has raised a precept for 2016/17 of £10,000, which includes a Government Council Tax Support Grant of £547. As a result, there will be a slight increase of 41p for a Band D property in the Parish Council portion of the Council Tax charge for 2016/17.

The Parish Council has made financial contributions towards Rate Relief for the Queen's Head and the village shop. A donation was made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and a poppy wreath was laid at the village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the residents. The Parish Council has also agreed to make a donation to the Isbourne Catchment Group towards a study being undertaken by the University of Gloucestershire.

The Parish Council has again given grants to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee towards the upkeep of the Churchyard and Glebe Meadow.

An annual review has been carried out of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments and Insurance Requirements and also a review of the village Tree Preservation Orders.

The Parish Council has dealt with many highway matters during the year, including HGVS, speeding, parking, school traffic, cycle path, access to the A46, overhanging trees and overgrown hedges, also potholes and blocked highway drains.

The Parish Council has continued to participate in the County Council Lentsman Scheme and Martin Woodhouse has been contracted as the village Lentsman to keep a check on highway and footway problems. Grass cutting at the Jubilee Play Area and around the War Memorial has been carried out by Neil Waters of New Look Solutions. Martin and Neil are thanked for their work in the village during the year. Thanks also go to all village residents who keep the verges and areas in front of their properties in an attractive and tidy condition.

The Parish Council is anxious to appoint someone to take over operating the portable pole mounted Vehicle Activated Speed Sign around the village. Also a volunteer Parish Paths Warden is required to keep a check on the parish rights of way.

During the year the Parish Council has dealt with a variety of correspondence and has responded to several consultations and reviews. The Parish Council has also been consulted on the following Planning Applications:  
(List attached)

The Parish Council has also responded to 2 Planning Applications at Ashton-under-Hill and Hinton-on-the-Green that were likely to affect Sedgeberrow.

In the 2015 Wychavon Parish Games the village entered 3 events, namely- Crib, Dominoes and Ladies Darts. Sedgeberrow finished in 19th place out of 26 parishes. Unfortunately, there were no winning trophies this year, but thanks go to everyone who took part and supported the village.

During the year Parish Councillors have attended various events and meetings and training sessions. These include County Association of Local Council Meetings, Wychavon Sport Meetings, Worcestershire Parish Conference, Police Meetings, SWDP Briefings, Strong Communities Event, Planning Enforcement Briefing, Standards Training, and New Councillor Training.

I would like to finish by thanking the various representatives appointed by the Parish Council for all they have done for the village during the year and to thank our County Councillor, Liz Eyre, and our District Councillor, George Mackison, for attending the Parish Council meetings and providing reports, and for the help and support that they have given to the Parish Council during the year.

Finally, I thank my fellow Parish Councillors and our Clerk, for their support and friendship during the year.

Maureen Pratt  
3rd March 2016

**SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PLANNING APPLICATIONS 2015-2016**

<b>CASE NUMBER</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
W/15/00451/PP	56 Main Street	Demolish rear single storey building & erect enlarged single storey building	Approved 20/03/2015
W/15/00491/PP	Woodcote 7 Winchcombe Road	Erection of a single storey extension	Approved 20/04/2015
W/15/00889/OU	Land adjacent Forge Cottage 58 Winchcombe Road	Outline application for 4 dwellings, 2 detached and a pair of semi-detached, as approved by W/13/00751/OU but without compliance with condition 5	Approved 16/06/2015
W/15/00895/NM	Mill House Winchcombe Road	Non-material amendment to W/14/02326/PP (changes to north facing doors/windows)	Approved 24/04/2015
W/15/01275/PN	Hill View Nurseries Sandfield Lane	Proposed glass housing	Approved 29/07/2015
W/15/01888/PN APPEAL	West End House Barn Lane	Erection of bungalow	Refused 24/09/2015
W/15/01822/PP	Grange Cottage 76 Main Street	Installation of external wall insulation to all elevations in a neutral colour	Approved 08/09/2015
W/15/01831/PP	32 Cheltenham Road	Installation of external wall insulation to all elevations in a neutral colour	Approved 21/09/2015
W/15/02106/LB	The Mill Winchcombe Road	Installation of 2 x conservation type roof skylights	Approved 02/10/2015
W/15/02350/NM	Mill House Winchcombe Road	Non-material amendment to W/14/02326/PP to replace lean-to conservatory roof with flat roof with lantern window, and to create a covered entrance to the entrance lobby	Refused 30/09/2015
W/15/01575/PP	7 Cheltenham Road	Proposed rear extensions and minor alterations to existing vehicle access	Approved 22/10/2015
W/15/02188/PN	Hill View Nurseries Sandfield Lane	Erection of replacement poly tunnels, lean-to extension to potting shed and concrete hardstanding	Approved 12/11/2015
W/15/02528/PP	The Coach House Winchcombe Road	Erection of a detached oak framed garage	Approved 19/11/2015
W/15/02814/NM	Mill House Winchcombe Road	Non-material amendment to W/14/02326/PP to use a flat roof and lantern window on south elevation rather than pitched roof and roof lights	Approved 15/12/2015
W/15/02836/CU	Sandfield Farm Sandfield Lane	Temporary change of use of yard from agriculture to mixed agriculture	Yet to be determined

		B1 and B8 (retrospective)	
W/51/02838/PN	Hill View Nurseries Sandfield Lane	Erection of proposed multi span poly tunnels, single poly tunnels and glass housing	Yet to be determined
W/15/02155/RM	Land off Winchcombe Road	Application for reserved matters in relation to the access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping of the 8 properties agreed in W/13/02000/OU	Approved 24/12/2015
W/15/03077/PP	The Paddocks 24 Cheltenham Road	Demolition of existing conservatory, replaced by new extension and minor internal alterations	Approved 19/01/2016
W/15/03108/PP	Thisledo 4 Cheltenham Road	Alterations to existing dwelling and erection of garage	Approved 12/02/2016

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## County Councillor report - 2015/2016.

### Our Priorities for the Health & Wellbeing Board for 2016-21

- Good mental health and well-being throughout life – areas of focus, under 5s and their parents, young people, older people, populations with poorer health outcomes,
- Being active at every age – areas of focus, under 5s and their parents, older people, populations with poorer health outcomes
- Reducing harm from alcohol at all ages – areas of focus, middle aged, older people, populations with poorer health outcomes

### One You

Public Health England (PHE) is creating a new marketing-led behaviour change programme to help adults live healthier lives called **One You**. Many adults can expect to live into their mid-80s, but far too many people believe that a gradual deterioration in physical and mental health is an inevitable part of aging. How we age is down to lifestyle that could, in the main, be prevented.

#### ONE YOU WILL HELP EVERYONE...

- **Move more.** Active people live longer and get ill less frequently. But it's not about turning people into Olympic athletes. We want to get people moving, whether it's walking or running.
- **Be smokefree.** Quitting smoking is still the single most important change a person can make to improve their health.
- **Drink less.** Drinking a little less can make a real difference. Cutting back on alcohol can reduce health risk and boost general wellbeing.
- **Eat well.** Losing weight, getting in shape, feeling energised – eating well has lots of health benefits.
- **Check yourself.** Many people sleepwalk gradually into ill health, so taking a little time to monitor our health is essential.
- **Stress less.** Life is hectic and we all need to take time to better deal with the pressures of the day to day.

### Public Health England is targeting all adults ?

It could make a massive difference to people aged 40 to 60. How you live your life after 40 has a huge impact on how you live after 60. People in this age group tend to put others first – focusing on the needs of their children, their grandchildren and their own elderly parents. Public Health England want to change this behaviour. A little more 'me time' is good for you.

### Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Local authorities and local health services are required to undertake Joint Strategic Needs Assessments of health and wellbeing to inform decisions made locally about which services are commissioned for the future.

### Recent JSNA publications:

#### Sexual Health Needs Assessment

Since 1st April 2013, local authorities have had the responsibility to improve the health of the population through the provision and commissioning of effective and efficient sexual health services. Through a review of current sexual health outcomes, service delivery data, views of users and stakeholders and evidence and best practice, this sexual health needs assessment has

been conducted to offer a strategic review of the sexual health needs of Worcestershire and to offer recommendations for improving sexual health and reducing sexual health inequalities.

### **Sexual Health Profile**

The purpose of this profile is to provide in depth information on sexual health trends and outcomes in Worcestershire to be used for needs assessment, planning and future monitoring purposes. It complements the Sexual Health Needs Assessment by providing an epidemiological analysis of sexual health outcomes.

Documents published on the JSNA website since the last newsletter include :

Wyre Forest CCG Profile

South Worcestershire CCG Profile

Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG Profile

Viewpoint Survey

Malvern District Health and Wellbeing Profile

Worcester Health and Wellbeing Profile

Briefing on Early Help

Briefing on Rural Health

Briefing on Road Safety and Older People

Briefing on Childhood Obesity

Briefing on Physical Activity

Briefing on Mental Health

Mental Health Needs Assessment

Early Help Needs Assessment

JSNA Annual Summary

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20122/joint\\_strategic\\_needs\\_assessment](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20122/joint_strategic_needs_assessment)

### **South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)**

The official examination conducted by a Government-appointed independent Inspector concluded that the Plan is sound. It has now been adopted by the three councils that prepared it: its emphasis is on boosting the local economy and delivering sustainable housing development, up to the year 2030 including plans for 28,400 new homes as well as land for retail and employment.

### **Rail Consultation**

Reminder again the 14-week rail consultation, for the next franchise closes on 22 March 2016, which asks for comments on a number of areas, including

- how the region's rail services and stations can be improved, including any current barriers to using the railways,
- how to create space for more passengers and tackle overcrowding,
- how services can be changed to best meet customer demand,
- how ticketing, customer satisfaction, performance and security can be improved

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/west-midlands-rail-franchise>

### **Superfast Broadband - The Broadband Team**

Worcestershire County Council's Superfast Worcestershire partnership with BT will bring fibre to around 95% of residential and business premises in the County. The programme will also ensure that all residents and businesses can access the minimum universal service commitment of 2mbps download speeds.



This '2mbps' commitment will be delivered by a satellite solution. During March, all eligible residents and businesses will be receiving a flyer direct from DCMS' Broadband Delivery UK Arm, promoting this option for our hard to reach communities.

More information about the scheme and how to apply can be found on our website: [www.superfastworcestershireshire.com/other-projects](http://www.superfastworcestershireshire.com/other-projects). A very useful Frequently Asked Questions guide is also available at [www.superfastworcestershireshire.com/USC-FAQS](http://www.superfastworcestershireshire.com/USC-FAQS).

Eligible for satellite broadband ? How to apply? see attached to these notes

### **Sell off of Council Buildings**

The sale of council buildings in Worcestershire is being extended in a move to bring £10 million into the coffers. Worcestershire County Council's new four-year plan is to make better use of its property by selling, merging or renting out more of it.

### **Sale of Farmland - not necessarily.**

Worcestershire County Council says there'll be no systematic sale of farmland in the county despite plans to raise £5 million that way between now and 2020. The authority currently has 93 tenants and farming families on its estates. In the past, council farms have offered the opportunity for young people to get a foothold in the industry. WCC will only sell where and when appropriate.

### **Flooding**

Worcestershire's administration is calling for more "natural solutions" to flooding. The County cannot keep on erecting barriers and bunds everywhere. People stricken by rising waters is a real worry and the administration wants renewed efforts to tackle the "human misery"

### **Broadway overflow culvert High Street**

20/2/16 for est 30 days max . From o/s 155 Court Farm for 170 m east. Worcestershire Highways. Temporary Traffic Lights 7/3/16 , 22/4/16 drainage and kerbing works/ flood alleviation

### **Badsey Brook**

The EA will be sending a newsletter out shortly to residents. It is attending the next parish council meeting in Broadway on 17th to outline the current situation. Childswickham Parish Council are invited. I have helped in prompting a meeting with senior management at Worcestershire County Council to help with the archaeological challenges.

The positive messages are :

- the EA has purchased 18 acres of land where they want to construct the flood storage area in Broadway.
- They have planning permission for the scheme
- They have the necessary reservoir safety design approvals.
- £2.6 million of funding is secured.

The challenges are:

- the archaeological trial trenches have highlighted a requirement for more extensive works before construction - to comply with the planning condition.

- The ground investigation has highlighted a larger layer of gravel across the site which will mean more double handling of material during construction. This, with a number of other design safety requirements, has meant that construction costs have increased from estimates.
- Discussions continue re land issues.
- a funding shortfall is now slightly greater than we had envisaged.

The EA

- are meeting with other partners to see where they can reduce costs, and whether further contributions can be made,
- have visited the benefits for the Defra partnership funding, and are confident about some more money out of the national six year national programme.

**Farm and forestry businesses are being invited to submit an application for the next round of funding in the LEADER programme.**

Projects which support farming and forestry productivity in rural areas, support new innovative and efficiency saving practices are invited to submit an application for the LEADing Rural Business small capital grant funding programme.

The call for bids opened on Monday 15 February. Businesses must apply before the Friday 1 April 2016 deadline.

The key objectives of the programme include the growth in the rural economy and the creation of additional rural employment in rural Worcestershire.

Bidding applications are welcomed to provide:-

- Support for Farming Productivity – examples could include small scale water management investments and innovative farming practices
- Support for Forestry Productivity – examples could include investments in non-timber forest products and using new forestry technologies

The range of potential capital grants will be between £2,500 and £35,000.

The Worcestershire 'LEADing Rural Business' programme is funded through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2014-2020 under the LEADER approach, utilising money from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

### **Sedgeberrow**

**Footway:** continue the footway from Churchill Road to the bus stop in the Cheltenham Road, so that school children do not have to walk in the road. Looking for funding. The parish council would be prepared to make a contribution. Work in Progress

### **7.5 weight restriction Winchcombe Road – looking at several angles**

- Measurements of road usage by all types
- Better signage for lorries leaving saw mill and orchard industrial estate
- Crossing from the playground
- Sat nav correction re Winchcombe Road
- 60 to 50mph one location
- Other works

### **Surface dressing**

Cheltenham Road – highway section to be closed from junction with B4078 and its junction with A46 Cheltenham Road

Sedgeberrow Flood Group and the Sedgeberrow Parish Council awaiting the English Heritage NHPP 'Resilience and Disaster Planning' Project (the "Flooding" project). The group facilitated the collection of the responses to the survey spring 2015 and also arranged and accompanied two of their staff on a walk along the River Isbourne and local area to look at the landscape and features. Adam/ Emma are more closely involved with the production of the reports. It is understood that the final reports are awaiting approval by Historic England (the body who commissioned and funded the project) and that there will be a number of reports aimed at different audiences, including a guidance document for land and property owners. - the expectation is that the documents will be ready for release in the next few months. Awaiting clearer timescales from

Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology 01905 844825, [archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas)

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## **District Councillor Report**

Well it has happened at last – the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has been found to be fit for purpose by the Inspector, and all three councils – Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon have voted to accept the plan at Council Meetings last week. In Wychavon's case, the Council voted the plan through on Wednesday 24th February by ALL the Councillors with no absentees. I have never seen the Council Chamber so full. What now happens is that the SWDP is turned into three separate District Local Plans – obviously there are many similar planning policies but the allocated sites will be different for each authority. This was the culmination of 9 years work by both Officers and Members with a major cost implication. What should now happen is that we will all be able to resist unwelcome planning applications outside village boundaries – even if they go to appeal. So that was a weight off everybody's mind.

In parallel with the SWDP, the members of the Executive Board thanked all the members of the Parish Councils for all the effort and support they had given to enable the SWDP to be passed. It was also pointed out that parishes should be encouraged to create a neighbourhood plan pointing out that there is funding and help available us to do this. This will make the parishes more secure from unwelcome housing. There is advice and guidance on the Wychavon website. An added incentive is that the Parishes which adopt this approach will get an additional 25% New Homes Bonus. I attach a copy for the Parish Council or you can read it at :- <http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

At the same meeting we passed the 2016/17 budget ready for the Council Tax demands to be sent out. Wychavon have precepted for an increase of £4.99 per annum for a band 'D' house. Wychavon's share of the total Council Tax Bill is still the lowest of the 6 Districts in the County. The Economic Summary claimant count is up in Wychavon for the 18-64 age group by 55 to 665. Again we have the lowest claimant count in Worcestershire. For the 18-24 age group the count has increased by 5 to 130.

This month, the Boundary Commission for England started its review of parliamentary constituencies in England. This you will remember follows from the decision to reduce the total number of constituencies and therefore the number of MP's in the UK from 650 to 600. For England this will mean a total of 501 constituencies which is 32 less than the current number and the number of electors can vary between 71,031 and 78,507 in each constituency. The 32 reduction will be spread among the regions in England.

There has been a meeting recently in Witney, Oxfordshire, where the planned investment in rail systems to London of £275M was revealed by GWR. The plan calls for 2 trains per hour linking Worcester with London.

Wychavon has produced a helpful leaflet called Flooding – Information and advice which the clerk should have had.

Last but not least, the Sandfield Lane planning application has still not come before the planning committee, still no report from the planners. I have just checked the planning website. I will let everyone know as soon as I hear anything.

## Mike Parker SeSaME

SeSaME has since 2010 continued the production of the Village Newsletter, and maintained the village's and its own website, prompted by the earlier Village Plan and actively supported by a core of villagers. This enabled villagers, with the help of Wychavon Housing and Act on Energy, to survey and produce a document, entitled the "Sedgeberrow Energy Scene", our own home energy survey.

The year 2015 has seen the fruits of much of that effort rewarded, though not all.

Both the Village Hall and the School are generating electricity with their solar panels. A Panasonic air source heating system, with new radiators and hot water system has been installed in the Betteridge Room, funded by a grant of about 70% of the cost by "Welcome To Our Future".

The Village Hall has had its insulation upgraded where needed, with monies accruing from our work to facilitate external wall insulation in the village under the Green Deal Communities scheme. This joint work with the County Council, Wychavon District Council and Act on Energy has led to 11 houses accepting grants for attaching external wall insulation to their properties. A report from the County Community Energy and Resilience Project Manager reveals that a total of £58,977.15 (ECO and GDC funding) has benefitted Sedgeberrow village through this project. That works out to a carbon saving of over 400 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of the products involved.

We have yet to assess the values accrued by the other projects.

The SeSaME Oil Buying Club has expanded to 12 villages with a membership of 190. The reduced carbon footprint and reduced heavy traffic that this brings can be estimated from the most recent order, which was for the delivery of 43,850 litres to 62 customers. Of course, as well as the environmental benefits the Club brings there are not insignificant financial savings for villagers. Since re-launching the SeSaME Oil Buying Club we have run 16 orders. The total ordered volume being 304,000 ltrs. The saving to members on purchases costing £95,650 was £9,648, so fractionally over 10%.

But, inexplicably to me it's clear that the potential for sustainable development has significantly decreased as we enter 2016.

In 2015 a major development internationally was the Climate Deal arising from the Paris talks. Up to 200 countries met for several weeks, finally agreeing ways to meet the urgency of moving from our currently high carbon economy to a low carbon one.

There is much more that could be done. The reality though is that SeSaME appears to be facing, significant barriers to any new sustainable projects we might wish to pursue, all in direct contrast to the Paris findings. Why this slow down has happened is hard to understand, except perhaps I can explain it with a local analogy that illustrates the difficulty of responding logically to difficult challenges. Let's call it the Port Street Syndrome.

### Port Street Syndrome

Imagine a grandparent taking the healthy option and walking their 6 year old Grandchild to and from School, from the centre of Evesham to the end of urford road, at peak traffic times. Not everyone knows this, but Port Street is one of the few areas in the Wychavon district that is an existing AQMA (Air Quality Management Area), where monitoring takes place for nitrogen dioxide through strategically placed NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes. This is because the street continues to have exceedences of the annual acceptable mean target for NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrous Oxide) of 40 (micrograms / cubic meter).

If they regularly walk the street at those times, when the median target is most likely to be exceeded, the grandparent will be at increased risk of a heart attack, and the child of future respiratory complications, especially if they are already asthmatic.

What is the logical answer to this very real threat?

What's needed is the economic, political and moral authority to restrict vehicular access of diesel vehicles to Port Street, especially at peak times, and particularly the deceiving VW family?

This isn't going to happen, because the prospect of taking such a difficult and unpopular action, without a multi-party political consensus is too daunting, both economically and politically. Ironically it will be the grandchild in adulthood, if they live long enough, who will face the future consequences of the UK's currently retrograde response to the Paris Climate Change findings. What's next for the Village? Future possibilities.

Village Minibus. SeSaME has just started to explore the feasibility of providing a village 7 seater, electric minibus to cover the already existing informal arrangement that provides occasional transport within the village and surrounding villages/towns. Community Planning. I consider that the Village could at least take the opportunity that neighbourhood planning offers, and now often requires before any action, to look at the resilience of our community and produce an own official local plan to meet the inevitable challenges the slow down will throw at us. Such things as:

- a). Applying for Heritage Lottery Funding to help conserve any historic buildings.
  - b). Developing a community owned renewable energy project as a sustainable income source.
  - c). Retaining and supporting the existing shop, the Pub and other community facilities. Supporting the school.
  - d). Include policies to identify and protect green infrastructure links and combat flooding.
  - e). Include policies supporting renewable energy generation and identify potential resources such as suitable land for solar and onshore wind development.
  - f). Use Right to Build ([www.bit.ly/1U7isDy](http://www.bit.ly/1U7isDy) Localism Act 2011) to bring forward additional development to support community resilience, without the need for planning permission.
  - g). Explore the practical feasibility of providing competitive pricing for bulk LPG gas.
  - h). Continue pursuing any further initiatives to assist householders upgrading their insulation
- There will be others and those could be added as people propose them.

- Mike Parker. SeSaME 3/3/2016.