

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 18th MARCH 2019

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The majority of issues which our three Parishes have been involved with during the past 12 months have been either Planning or Highways related.

Yew Tree Hill and Copcut Rise

House construction at both Copcut and Yew Tree Hill sites are progressing well with many properties now completed and occupied. The developers involved, William Davis, Persimmon and Redrow Homes have submitted reserved matters applications to cover changes in design detail and other minor matters following outline consent being originally determined at appeal for their respective sites.

Applications have been submitted to increase the numbers of house completions above the level which triggers the obligation for Highway works; that is the numbers which were stipulated by the Secretary of State as part of the appeal decision and were clearly defined by Condition.

The Parish Council has continued to object robustly to these proposals until the developer's responsibilities have been complied with and the specified Highway works completed.

The traffic signals at the A38/A4538 junction have been upgraded to a MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) system which is intended to overcome some of the problems of the previous installation. The system is more responsive to traffic conditions and should hopefully lead to a significant increase in capacity at this junction. Some modifications have subsequently been carried out and it now appears to be operating satisfactorily.

We are advised that improvement work to Pulley Lane and also to signalise the Copcut Lane/Pulley Lane/A38 junction can only commence once the M5 Junction 6 work is completed. The work has been extensively well publicised but the proposed timescale, 7 months, is being severely criticised and questioned by many local residents. The Parish Council has contacted Interserve, the Junction 6 contractor to establish a completion date, and have now been informed that this has 'slipped' from Spring to Autumn.

Planning: Applications and Enforcements.

During the past twelve months, the Parish Council was consulted and commented on **52** Planning Applications, this number being very similar to the previous year 2017/18. There have also been **3** appeals, **1** Enforcement Action, **1** Temporary application and **1** Licensing application throughout the three Parishes.

New Homes Bonus

I am pleased to report that the application for NHB funding to purchase two new bus shelters at Martin Hussingtree was approved by Wychavon District Council. My thanks go to Councillor Tony Miller and former Councillor Lynn Duffy for supporting this proposal and to Cllr Alison Phillips and clerk Liz Gallagher for their diligence and attention to detail in completing and presenting the application proposal. A big thank you to Alison for also overseeing the installation work which was completed in November 2018. The shelters have been very well received by users of the bus service; both school pupils and adults have expressed their appreciation.

Nations Tribute

On 11th November 2018 an event was held in Salwarpe to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. A beacon was lit at the Village Hall with a display in the hall and refreshments. The whole event was organised and managed by Cllr Barbara Meddings to whom our sincere gratitude is expressed. The evening event was blessed with good weather, attended by almost 200 local people and was a total success with many visitors expressing their appreciation.

Salwarpe War Memorial

I can report that the war memorial in Salwarpe village has been awarded Grade 2 listed status. My thanks and appreciation go to Cllr Barbara Meddings for her efforts in gaining the listing, which will protect the structure going forward.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The Parish Lengthsman scheme has again been successfully operated throughout the past year and although there have been very few weather or surface water issues to deal with, thanks go to Daniel Lovatt of TopCut Services for his diligence and hard work including the removal of fallen branches, clearing out ditches, drains and gullies.

Community Events

The Parish Council again supported the annual Salwarpe Fete which was held on 18th August. The weather was excellent and the sum of £8,087.00 was raised, 75% of which helps the upkeep and maintenance of the two historic Parish churches at Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe, the remainder of the proceeds going to support Droitwich churches.

An additional Community Event took place in 2018 in the shape of a Jazz concert held on 2nd June music courtesy of George Huxley and his band. This was very kindly hosted by John and Carol Hughes, attended by around 140 people and raised £779.00 after deduction of expenses, to help the Parish Churches.

County & District Councillors

The Parish Council's appreciation is expressed to Councillor Tony Miller for his ongoing support and assistance regarding contentious planning applications, Highway issues and other matters taken up on our behalf. Our appreciation is also expressed to former Councillor Lynn Duffy for her support in previous years.

Parish Tree Warden

Richard Meredith continued the voluntary work of protection of trees throughout the three Parishes but has recently stepped down from this role; our thanks are expressed for his work this year and in previous years. His role also included checking that TPO's are upheld and the inspection of damaged or overhanging branches which could create potential hazards for pedestrians and road users and so a new tree warden is being sought.

Parish Path Wardens

Martin Hussingtree public rights of way have been checked by Alison Phillips and Salwarpe public rights of way by David and Pauline Adams.

Our thanks and appreciation go to these volunteer wardens for their invaluable service to the community and other users of the footpaths.

Parish Councillors

My thanks go to each of those Councillors who have contributed in various ways to the numerous issues we have been tasked with and by representing the Council on matters arising over the past year. These include planning consultations; a special thanks for this activity to Cllr Meddings, carrying out risk assessments, reporting enforcement issues and fly tipping.

For performing her duties here as Parish Clerk/RFO, my thanks also to Elizabeth Gallagher.

Finally my thanks to Deputy Chair Alan Thawley for his hard work on Parish matters and for his support to me throughout the year which has been invaluable.

Philip Oakley
Chairman

18th March 2019