

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 08<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Planning: Applications and Enforcements.**

During the twelve months to end March 2020, the Parish Council was consulted and has commented on 41 Planning Applications, this number being a reduction of some 20% from the year 2018/19. There have also been **7** appeals, **3** Enforcement Actions, **1** Temporary application and **2** Licensing applications throughout the three Parishes.

**Highway works**

We are advised that improvement work to the A38/Copcut Lane/Pulley Lane junction will be completed by the end of August 2020. This is to include the installation of traffic signals and the re-instatement of bus stops to both north and southbound directional routes. Upgrade works to Junction 6 of the M5 is practically complete except for some re-surfacing.

**VE 75 Celebration**

Like many similar events throughout the UK, our Parish VE 75 Day commemorative celebrations were cancelled due to Covid-19. Cllr Barbara Meddings had put a lot of work into forward planning and organising the event and I would like to express my sincere thanks to her for her efforts. Knowing what had been planned and the fact that the occasion can sadly never be replicated, this would have been a memorable and fitting tribute.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

The Parish Lengthsman scheme has again been successfully operated throughout the past 12 months and although there have been very few bad weather or surface water issues to deal with, my thanks go to Daniel Lovatt and his team at Top Cut Services for their diligence and hard work.

**Community Event**

The Parish Council again supported the annual Salwarpe Fete which was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Although the weather was very mixed, the sum of £6,115.00 was raised, £3,258.00 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.

### **Yew Tree Hill and Copcut Rise**

The construction of houses at both these sites continues to progress with many properties now completed and occupied.

### **County & District Councillors**

The Parish Council's appreciation is expressed to Councillors Tony Miller and Nicolas Wright for their ongoing support and assistance regarding matters including contentious planning applications, Highway issues and other issues taken up on our behalf.

### **Tree Warden**

We have a new tree warden, Julia Letts but Covid – 19 restrictions intervened with her training and initiation; we await hearing when this can be carried out.

### **Parish Path Wardens**

Martin Hussingtree public rights of way have been checked by Alison Phillips but a new warden, Malcolm Griffiths, has been appointed. We also have a new warden for Hindlip, Desmond Lawrence, but again due to Covid, the training for both new wardens have been postponed. Salwarpe public rights of way continue 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 as Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, my gratitude 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

08<sup>th</sup> July 2020