

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK
THURSDAY 12th APRIL 2018, 7.30PM
CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL, GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL

- Chairman's welcome** The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Owen Sweeting, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for making the time to come. There had been a number of apologies this year compared to last years high attendance which may be down to the date of the event falling in the school holidays. Cllr Sweeting hoped that there would still be some useful information shared.
- Present** Parish Councillors: Cllr P Masters, Cllr M Knight, Cllr J Bate, Cllr M Shephard, Cllr O Sweeting, Cllr B McEldowney, Cllr M Ball, Cllr V Harman, Cllr N Ward, Cllr C Stark, District Councillor S Webb, Mrs C Wing (Catshill Village Hall), Mr C Fabray (Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group), Ms N Hitchcock (Catshill Library), Pastor J Brooks (Welome Hall)
- In attendance** Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Parish Council, Ms C Webster (Senior Technician Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service), Members of the public
- Apologies** Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors P Baker and T Gillespie, District Councillor B Cooper, Mr I Prust (NWWA), Ms D Rattley (Chadsgrove School), Revd A Smith (Catshill Methodist Church), Mrs M Davies (Womens Institute), Mr A Kelly (M&C Friendship Group), Mr P Fisher and Revd S Gudger (Catshill Baptist Church)

Minutes of previous Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 20th April 2017 were approved and signed.

Chairman's Annual Report

- Cllr Sweeting gave his report which included reference to the formalities that the Council continued to engage in such as GDPR and budget setting; the fact that the Council now has 13 very committed Councillors; reference to the Parish Council's new website which contains links to all meeting minutes and further additional information; the fact that the Council still has 3 Committee meetings, two Steering Groups and some working parties associated with it; further information about the professionalism of the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan group and their achievements to date; contact being received from residents dealt with by the Clerk; information about the events the Parish Council are involved in and Environmental issues dealt with by the Parish Council including establishment of the Baptist Church garden and installation of more dog bag dispensers.

Reports from elected community representatives

- **County Councillor (Woodvale division) / District Councillor Shirley Webb**
Cllr Webb apologised that she did not have chance to email her report, but had provided hard copies (see below)
In addition, Cllr Webb reported that it had been a good and busy year in Catshill South. There had been a Dementia Friends pop up café which was interesting and would hopefully be repeated in a couple of months; Two defibrillators had been installed; the Catshill Growing Initiative had been introduced in the schools which would then lead into Catshill In Bloom the

following year; the Christmas Light Switch on had been a success and there would hopefully be more lights this year.

- **District Councillor Brian Jones had sent his apologies**

Presentation from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Progress to date

- Dr Chris Fabray, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group provided a presentation on the progress being made (available on request) with emphasis on the next phase of the consultation and a request for residents to take the time to complete the questionnaire that would be distributed in May 2018.

Talk from Caroline Webster (Senior Technician, Community Risk, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service) covering details of services on offer to support people to reduce the risk from fire, including those available to vulnerable households

- Ms Webster thanked the meeting for allowing her to attend and outlined her role as a volunteer fire fighter and the role of talking to people to raise awareness of how to support people to prevent fire risk in their own home. Ms Webster gave a lively presentation that introduced the home fire safety service, went into detail of items and actions within the home that can cause fire, outlined ways fire can be prevented and raised awareness of the services and contact details of those who could assist.

Reports from Community Groups

- **Catshill Village Hall (Ms C Wing)** – Ms Wing reported that it had been a busy year. The hall had the same trustees as the previous year and nine people on the management committee, all from the local community. They had been working on raising the profile of the hall and had carried out two successful events, which achieved the purpose of bringing the community together. The new website was near completion and would include a blog facility, gallery and links to community groups. The Village Hall and Parish Council had worked together to facilitate computer and internet literacy classes which would start in early May as a trial initiative offered by a gentleman who had trained with WCC. The Village Hall had a lot of building and maintenance work being completed including new LED lighting, security cameras, tidying outdoor area, new signage, upgrade of gents toilets and moving sandbag store. There would be a purpose built storage unit situated in the car park to allow the Parish Council to remove their items from Village Hall storage, thus freeing space. Ms Wing ended by reminding those present that the village Hall was 99% funded by volunteers and that she wanted to recognise the time and effort they provided to it.
- **Welcome Hall Evangelical Church (Pastor J Brooks)** – Pastor J Brooks read a report to those present (see below).
- **Catshill Library (Ms N Hitchcock)** – Ms Hitchcock reported that the library continued to be well used by the community. The staff team work across three locations (Bromsgrove, Catshill and Redditch) and the statistical year at the end of March showed that issue figures and visitor figures were up, which is positive. The library now work closely with the school which was going well. A volunteer recruitment scheme had seen four new volunteers start and the volunteer retention was good with some of the original volunteers still present. The library had been earning an income over the last 12 months as the footballers on a Saturday would come in and purchase coffee and hot chocolate. The regular Saturday morning story time was also going well.
- **Womens Institute (Mrs M Davies)** – Mrs Davies had provided a written report which was read by the Clerk (see below)

- **Catshill Baptist Church (Mr P Fisher)** – The Clerk read a report from Mr Fisher that the building project was almost complete following a significant over run and they hoped to be back and fully functioning very soon. The foodbank at the Church was to be relaunched but would be opened up to benefit the whole community. There was a new team working together and the church wished people to know about the food bank, particularly during the school holiday when those who have school meals may not get the food needed.

It was suggested that an advert be put in the Parish Council magazine regarding the food bank

Open Session

- Those present were encouraged to ask questions and circulate for discussion

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting. The meeting closed at 20:47hrs.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman, Parish Meeting
Catshill and North Marlbrook

Woodvale Division – 2017 / 2018 Annual Report

Local Issues

Catshill

Christmas light switch on was a great event, attended by over 200 people. Lots of residents commented on the lovely lights on the village hall along with the additional street lights. This year there will be more street lights.

Dementia Friends – held a Pop up café in the village hall, very informative afternoon. We intend on getting together again in the next couple of months.

Defibs are now up and running in the Baptist Church as well as the Meadows.

Catshill Growing – I am working with the schools to get Catshill Growing, I have donated some divisional funding to help get the children involved in planting flowers, bulbs and herbs. Catshill First School will be planting outside the gates. Catshill Middle school will be planting pots for along the railings and outside the library. Chads Grove School are building a bug hotel and pots for outside the school as well as working on the area outside the spar. The school will also maintain the area. We will clear the greenery and the children will then plant bulbs. All the school's efforts can then be incorporated into Catshill In Bloom next year. I am also working with the town centres manager to get a Seed and Produce swop organised in the village, again this can then be part of the Catshill in Bloom project. If anyone knows any keen gardeners who would like to be involved please get in touch.

Fairfield

Dropped kerbs are now on the list, we are waiting for BT to complete their work before we can proceed.

School Crossing – area to be assessed for a crossing patrol. The more people crossing the road the better! The school and I tried to set up a walking bus, using The Swan car park and the layby on Stourbridge Road, unfortunately not enough people were available to make a commitment.

School expansion – A proposal has been put forward to increase the school from Pan 23 to Pan 30 to address provision demand in the Bromsgrove area, particularly Year 1. This will mean a construction of a new additional classroom and replacing two aging mobile classrooms. 12 months notice has been served on the tenant to quit by March 2019.

318 Bus – to be continued with Diamond until September until the tender process has been completed.

Wildmore

Mortar batching plant – WCC has requested more information with a deadline of 1st May 2018. Failing this the application will be determined on the information submitted. Next planning committee will be 3rd July 2018.

Bournheath

Seven Trent works now started. Road closures in place.

Dodford

Proposed speed reduction around the school, Fockbury and Priory Road. Also yellow lines to be increased for safety.

Bromsgrove District Council

New Sport and Leisure Centre is now open and has been well received by residents. Residents can enjoy the use of two pools with award winning swimming lessons, state of the art gym, a huge range of group exercise classes plus a clip n climb wall for climbers of all ages and abilities. Luxurious spa facilities are also available.

It has been a tough year for local government. Under increasing financial pressure, local councils across the UK faced tough decisions about whether to cut services or raise council tax dramatically. Despite this your district council has balanced the books and will maintain all frontline services with a minimal council tax increase of just 12p per week for the average household.

Worcestershire County Council

Grit bins – Following our recent bad weather, I have had a meeting with highways and drove round my division to see where we need additional bins. These will now be assessed.

Speeding is still a main concern around all the villages. I am proposing a meeting with the Safety Road Partnership, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Highways and the Police Crime Commissioner or his deputy to discuss how we can tackle this problem. I will

be inviting a member from each Parish Council to come to the meeting for their input. First, I will be arranging some speed monitoring (local police have already started in some areas) strips in some areas, so we have the data to discuss.

Worcestershire County Council has agreed to invest more than £18 million extra into supporting the county's most vulnerable people.

County Council members approved the budget for 2018/19. The budget includes the investment of £10.5million into children's social care and a further £7.8m into adult's social care.

These are two of the areas that residents living in Worcestershire consistently tell the County Council are most important to them.

Councillor Andy Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, said: "We are committed to improving the lives of Worcestershire's children and young people. Children deserve the very best start in life that we can give them. There is a lot more that we have to do to support the ongoing work to improve Children's social care in Worcestershire. These additional funds will make a difference to children's lives and help us to deliver the improvements that we need to deliver."

Councillor Adrian Hardman, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care, said: "Along with the rest of the country we are facing difficult challenges to fund adult social care in Worcestershire.

"People are living longer and often with more complex needs. We need to support the county's most vulnerable adults and we want to enable people to live independently for as long as possible.

"The additional funds raised by ring fencing 3 per cent of this year's Council Tax increase for Adult Social Care will help us to help those adults who need our support."

There will be capital investment of £37.5 million on the county's roads and infrastructure to ensure Worcestershire's roads and pavements continue to be amongst the best in the country.

Council Tax in Worcestershire will be increased by 4.94% (3% for Adult Social Care and 1.94% to provide investments into the services that are prioritised in the plan for Worcestershire, Shaping Worcestershire's Future).

The increase is the equivalent to just over £1 per week extra on a Band D property.

The budget has been developed following discussions with local businesses, parish and town councils, schools and voluntary and community organisations in a series of consultation briefings that have been held across Worcestershire.

Worcestershire is one of the top places in the UK for the number of new business start-ups.

The County has been ranked 18th in the whole of the country for the number of new firms starting out in 2017.

In total, there were 7,804 new businesses formed in Worcestershire, which brings the total number of businesses registered in the county up to 38,764, according to new figures released by the Inform Direct UK Review of Company Formations.

The 2017 figure is up by 15.9 per cent, or 1,200 businesses, compared to 2016.

The latest stats reinforce the fact that Worcestershire has one of the fastest growing economies in the entire country and it remains Worcestershire County Council's aim to ensure the county remains 'Open for Business'.

Councillor Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member responsible for Economy and Infrastructure, said: "We strive towards becoming an entrepreneurial county.

"An increase in new companies across the county proves that Worcestershire is still Open for Business and hence a great place to invest.

"It's imperative that new businesses have the support they need to survive and grow. A growing local economy will enable us to invest more in those areas that our residents and businesses tell us are most important to them."

Of the 7,804 new businesses registered in the county, Bromsgrove saw the biggest increase, followed by Wychavon, Worcester, Redditch, Wyre Forest and Malvern Hills.

The County Council has a number of support programmes for new businesses. For example, the Enterprising Worcestershire programme offers support to enable start-up and early stage enterprises to develop and prosper.

Enterprising Worcestershire, which is managed by the County Council and part-funded by the European Regional Development

Fund, offers ongoing support to new businesses. The programme has a range of workshops to provide new businesses with the knowledge to help business thrive. Grants are also available and a number have already been awarded to early stage enterprises in the county.

Based in Bromsgrove, creative services agency Studio B61 signed up for the Enterprising Worcestershire programme in August 2017.

Sian Conway, Studio B61 joint business owner said: "Thanks to Enterprising Worcestershire we have expanded our service offering and can compete against some of the larger marketing agencies who have state of the art equipment.

"We also have ongoing mentoring so we know that support is there when we need it."

For help and advice setting up a new business in Worcestershire, visit the Enterprising Worcestershire pages on Worcestershire County Council's website: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20431/enterprising_worcestershire.

Finally, I would like to thank all residents and Parish Councils for their patience with me during my first year in office. I have really enjoyed it and will continue to work hard on your behalf. I do have monthly meetings with our Highways Liaison Officer to discuss issues around the division.

Shirley Webb

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Please remember you can report problems (potholes, drains, trees etc) at

www.worcestershire.gov.uk reporting page.

**CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
12TH APRIL 2018**

**Report from
Welcome Hall Evangelical Church
Woodrow Lane, Catshill**

The members and friends of Welcome Hall Evangelical Church give thanks to God for another year of His goodness. Sunday Services have continued both morning and evening, with regular attendances of approximately 100 people at both ends of the day, with significantly more coming along to special services, such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, etc. A full range of community activities are run for people of all ages, including:

- Our weekly Babies & Toddlers on Wednesday afternoons for pre-school children and their parents or carers;
- Our weekly Sunday School and Teens Bible Class on Sunday afternoons for children and young people aged 3-19 (with attendances sometimes being over 100, the overwhelming majority of whom have no family connection with any church);
- Our weekly Monday Club after school (for children aged 3-6 who on Sunday afternoons), and weekly Games Night on Wednesday evenings (for Sunday afternoon attendees aged 7-19);
- Our weekly Coffee Morning on Tuesday mornings, open to all, but largely frequented by older folks;
- Our monthly Engage group on a Monday evening for adults with learning disabilities;
- And new for 2018, our monthly Men's Football (for those aged 16 and above) on a Monday evening.

The biggest development over the last 12 months has been the appointment of a second minister for the first time in the church's almost 80-year history. Pete Sherwood has moved from Birmingham City Mission to serve as our full-time Evangelist, alongside the Pastor, Jeremy Brooks. Pete's work both in Catshill and Bromsgrove has already resulted in significant numbers of new faces attending church services.

It's our privilege as a church to serve the local community in practical ways, as well as to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of all who trust in Him. Our message is that of our Lord Himself, as we have it in John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'

Pastor Jeremy Brooks

CATSHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Annual Report for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council – April 2018,

For over 100 years there have been Women's Institutes in the Bromsgrove area and we still stand for truth, justice, tolerance and fellowship. The key message is all about inspiring women, and is a rich source of experiences, knowledge and skills passed down through generations and updated every day.

Here in Catshill we are celebrating our half century this year.

Since my last report we have maintained a programme of interesting speakers as diverse as Mountain Rescue, Overseas Travel, Sugarcraft and a TV warm-up comedian. Last year we hosted a Group meeting for the Bromsgrove area at which over 100 ladies took part in our own Antiques Roadshow.

This year we have another full year and will be sending a delegate to the W.Is. Annual |General Meeting in Cardiff representing 4 Bromsgrove W.Is.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.45 pm and a warm welcome is extended to any ladies who would care to join us.



President.