

## **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016/17**

- The Bus Shelter refurbishment has now been completed and the paintings by the Charlton Art Group installed. There have been lots of positive comments on the excellence of the work and paintings.
- Highway issues.

Repairs to footways in the Dovecote have been completed.

Recent village speed check revealed that 1 in 5 cars coming into village down Canada Bank were doing 35 or more during a half hr period.

CC Liz Eyre has provided funds so that we can install village gateways at both ends of the village. We have also agreed to purchase a speed warning sign.

We are also talking to WCC about reinstating the road markings, probably with dragons teeth.

We have asked WCC to sort overgrown hedges on Canada Bank and also the road from Cemetery Bridge to Jubilee bridge as it is particularly dangerous with cars not being able to drive down the side of the roads – there is also no refuge for pedestrians to get out of the road.

- PACT. There have been 4 meetings during the year with neighbouring parish councils, discussing issues such as speeding and rural crime.
- Telephone Kiosk – It took us far longer than we thought to obtain funding for the repair from our New Homes Bonus monies from WDC. This has now come through and as you will see the box has now been sandblasted and painted. Julian Hawley is running the project for us and Keith Halliday is undertaking the work on the ground. Our thanks to both of them.
- Defibrillator – Following the unfortunate death of one of our villagers his wife and family decided that they would really like to see a defibrillator installed in the village with this being in the telephone kiosk once the refurbishment is completed. They therefore very kindly donated funds collected in memory of Steve for this purpose. Around the same time Sue Bentley also put in a request to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator for the village. This request was approved and this has subsequently been installed at the Old School room. It will be brilliant to have two in the village so that if one has to be used we also have another available as it will inevitably take a little while to get the one that has been used operational again.

- The Green. As part of their centenary the WI, with help from Steve Gwilliam, planted daffodils 18 months ago. Last Autumn Steve extended the planting for us. Willow tree – after part of a bough fell out we had the tree looked at and were advised that it should be pollarded as there was far too much weight in it.
- Flooding.
 

During the year Derek Arnold and I have continued to work with the EA who have classified the Merry Brook as one of 3 identified catchments in Worcestershire as a “Very High risk flood catchment” due to the speed which the brook rises after rainfall. They are worried that life is at risk during flood events. Last autumn with no other authorities prepared to clear the brook Ted Grazier kindly arranged for Terry Alford to get in and clear this so that the water drains from the village as quickly as possible. We are looking to review the need to do this on an annual basis.

The EA have installed a flood gauge on the B4084 and they are very pleased with the number of people that have signed up to receive the alerts which they have today told us are live. We will probably receive these too early at the moment but over time they can be adjusted to get them more accurate.

They are looking for safe places in the village for people at risk to go to in flood events. We have the Old schoolroom this side of the village but there is no obvious place for those on the other side.

At some stage the EA will probably hold a practice flood event to see how we will cope.

In the longer term we would like to see what they call a Natural Flood management scheme put in place. This is basically using the natural elements to slow the water flow in the catchment.
- New Homes bonus - Wychavon is holding some funds for the Parish Council. In the last year we have received funds for the refurbishment of the bus shelter and the telephone kiosk. Looking forwards we are looking for suggestions. These include the provision of the speed warning sign which will avoid passing this cost on as part of the precept, maintenance for the flood gauge which we will probably have to take on in a years’ time as WDC have declined to cover this. We have agreed to make £2,000 to the Workman Trust and again it may be prudent to use the New Homes bonus money for this rather than raising the precept.

We rely on many volunteers to keep our Parish going as well as making improvements. My thanks go to all who have helped the Parish during the last year including Liz Eyre our County Councillor, Michelle English our District Councillor, all my fellow Parish councillors; Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council; Charles Tooby, the Internal Auditor; Brenda Bowley and assistants Derek Arnold and Bill Swift for the flowers on The Green; Julian Hawley - Notice Board and tel kiosk project that has also extended to the defibrillators; Steve Gwilliam, the Parish Lengthsman; Clive Bostle (Parish Footpaths Warden); Emily Hall-Roberts (Workman Trust): there are many more so thank you to you all.