

Chairman's Report 2021/22

After a couple of quiet years due to covid, this year has been a more active one for your Parish Council.

One of the main areas of activity has been the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Thanks to a group of dedicated and hard-working residents, who have formed a Working Group together with some of the Parish Councillors and supported by the Clerk, great progress has been made this year.

The Plan is now reaching the consultation phase before the final version is written. Once the final version has been approved by the Local Authority there will be a Referendum in the village and the plan, if passed, will be a statutory document and will influence planning decisions in the future.

The response from residents to the two consultation documents has been excellent. The overwhelming feeling has been that residents value our village as a beautiful, friendly place to live, surrounded by countryside and with amazing views. The principal objective of the NP is to keep it that way.

An ongoing problem which we are trying to alleviate at the moment is that of parking at school start and end times. To that end we are having regular meetings with Longdon Parish Council, the School, the Church, and the Village Hall, all of whom are impacted by the problem. We have agreed on the erection of speed signs which may help and are looking at further measures for the future.

The PC has supported several local organisations with grants this year. In addition to the Village Hall and the Playing Field which are the principal assets of the village, we have supported Beaudessert Toddle and Tumble Group, the Cannock Chase Shed, Burntwood First Responders and Katherine House Hospice.

We have unfortunately had to say goodbye to one of our Councillors, Kevin Salter, who has left the area. Another of our Councillors, Ian Bamford, is resigning due to work pressure. Ian has been a Councillor for 17 years and worked tirelessly. We will miss them both, especially as they had made the putting up of the Christmas Tree each year their own special thing. We will be looking for volunteers!

We are very pleased to welcome to the Council Steve Wroe who has been co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Kevin. We will be calling for applications to fill Ian's place.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the Councillors and members of the Working Group for their hard work and commitment. My special thanks also to our Clerk, Chris Gracey, for her support and hard work. Thank you all.

Sue Janes, Chair, Cannock Wood Parish Council.