



### Report from the Chair for 2016-17 (by Cllr Mrs. L. Green)

In May 2016 I was both daunted and nervous at the prospect of taking my turn as Chairman. The support and empathy of my fellow councillors and Elsie Whitehouse, our clerk, helped me to adjust and enjoy the role as the 12 months progressed.

Once again planning applications have occupied a good proportion of our time. Disappointment over the development of the solar panel array at Trimpley Reservoir was further compounded when due to the topography of the site a lesser number of the proposed panels were installed resulting in far less electricity than originally specified being actually generated.

In early May we were shocked and dismayed when a number of large trees were felled on the Park Attwood clinic site. At our June meeting when a planning application to convert the clinic into apartments, extend the existing staff house and build 4 further houses and a garage block appeared it became clear why the tree felling had taken place. There followed several months of listening to local residents' concerns and dialogue between the Parish council and WFDC planning department. On February 21<sup>st</sup> I was an observer at the Planning Committee meeting where it took less than a minute to finally approve the plans. The development will also fall 25sq.m below the threshold for affordable housing contributions, another blow to the Parish.

Other planning issues which continue to be of particular concern revolve around General Permitted Development Orders (GPDO) and Certificates of Lawfulness. I must thank in particular councillor Carole Gammond for her detailed knowledge of the Parish and extensive archive collection, and Elsie Whitehouse for her efficient support in all planning related matters. Together they have enabled us to provide detailed factual responses to WFDC when commenting on several applications. At our May 2017 meeting, John Baggott WFDC Development Control Manager gave a presentation about GPDO.

Our March 2017 meeting saw 12 members of the public attend the meeting following the publication of an agenda item generated by notification from the County Council of an Application for the de-registration of part of Trimpley Green Common. A discussion took place and inaccuracies in the plans were highlighted. Everyone present unanimously requested that the Parish Council oppose this application. A comment was duly formulated to that effect and submitted to the County Council. We are still awaiting a decision. I must once again thank Carole and our dedicated clerk Elsie Whitehouse for their tireless work in preparing the submission.

There have also been a number of positive developments in the Parish during the last 12 months. In partnership with our very supportive Bewdley and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team we were able to provide 364 properties in the Parish with Smartwater kits. The police not only funded half the cost they also delivered the kits, explained how to use them and filled out the registration forms. They continue to be a tremendous support to the Parish by frequently attending our monthly meetings and following up reported incidents. By January 2017 the "roll-out" of Smartwater was complete and all the signage was in place. In the same month the police reported that "during the past 6 weeks, there had been no shed or garage break ins". Let us hope this trend continues.

Our lengthsman, Sam and Tom Archer have worked hard to keep our Parish litter free as well as tackling many other countryside maintenance and enhancement jobs. The VA signs which they also move around the Parish have not been without their challenges this year! I would also like to thank councillor Ben Phillips for his patience and persistence in resolving the many issues the VA equipment presented and getting them up and running once more, and for his continued weekly co-ordination of the lengthsman's work schedule.

During April we witnessed the preparation and resurfacing of the highway from Habberley Road, through Low Habberley and up to Trimpley. This was just one of the many projects that our dedicated and tireless County and District council colleague Gordon Yarranton helped to bring to fruition. He has also been responsible for the clearing of monthly fly tipping incidents, organising road sweeping, weed spraying, Japanese Knotweed control, and tree felling, not to mention reporting drainage issues, village sign replacement, and much, much more. We are indebted to Gordon for all his hard work and the financial assistance he generously contributes via his locally determined funding pot to the Parish.

Our thanks also go to Becky Vale our new District Councillor for her support and attendance at several meetings since being elected to WFDC in May. The visit she organised to the new Envirosort recycling facility in Worcester was interesting and informative.

Despite a busy year there remain many issues still to resolve. In January Ian Binks the B.T. Regional Partnership Director gave a presentation about the provision of Superfast Broadband. Many of the households and businesses in our Parish still have woefully slow broadband speed. Thank you to councillor James Gammond who continues to pursue this issue on our behalf.

Flytipping across the Parish and more recently wanton vandalism at Mary Moors layby are also a serious concern. WFDC do now have CCTV equipment which we continue to ask them to deploy in our Parish as a matter of urgency so that we have some chance of catching and prosecuting the perpetrators.

Despite all our chasing and numerous visits and remedial measures from a variety of organisations, the condition of Hoarstone Lane, in particular the road surface, is still a source of frustration. Our latest strategy in April was to direct the new County Highways Engineer, Alex Ellson, to look at the problem following a meeting in the Parish.

Thank you to each and every member of the Kidderminster Foreign Team for their dedication, hard work and support throughout the year.

### County Councillor

The Parish Council welcomes Cllr. I. Hardiman as the new County Councillor for the ward from May 2017, and look forward to a close working relationship with him.

Our grateful thanks go to outgoing County Councillor Gordon Yarranton for his hard work and dedication to helping the parish in so many ways in this role over many years.

### Parish Council Meetings

Don't forget, the public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, all held in Trimpley Village Hall @ 7.30p.m. - 17th July, 7th August, 18th September —check the website or noticeboards for agenda.

#### Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr. J. Gammond (Chair) : Tel 01299 400750  
Mr. C. Grainger : 01299 403231  
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel 01299 861419  
Mr. R. Jennings : Tel 01562 751956  
Mrs. C. Gammond : 01299 402929  
Mr. G. Yarranton : 01299 403835  
Mrs. L. Green : Tel 01562 747180

Please feel free to contact them (or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum**

## “..ere the winter storms begin”

We have said this before but make no apologies for asking again of those with a road frontage to check trees along the roadside before autumn storms. Even in June, there can be large branches falling in the increasingly windy weather we seem to experience now, which, at ‘best’ causes road blockages, but at worst could prove fatal.



This is also a reminder for all road users to drive slowly around our country lanes, as you may never know what there may be around the next corner. Huge thanks to Police and the local

Council for prompt action in clearing the blockage above. We would also ask those with **hedges and shrubs which border pavements** to keep them well cut back to allow pedestrians easy passage. **Please check your roadside boundaries for potentially dangerous and obstructive trees and branches—“ere the winter storms begin”.**

## What’s on in the Parish?

**30th July**—Trimpley Heavy Horse Show, Holbeache Farm

**5th August**—Trimpley Vintage Rally Auction Day, Bite Farm

**6th August**—Trimpley Vintage Rally Show Day, Bite Farm

**16th August**—WI Local Walk

**20th September**—WI visit to Bewdley Brewery—hot supper & beer

**18th October**—WI—the Glory of Colour

**Also—keep an eye on the Parish Noticeboards for news of a “Grand Opening Event” for the new clubroom at Trimpley**

## Volunteers required—Wassell Wood

The Woodland Trust is requiring volunteers to assist with some managed clearance in Wassell Wood. If you could help with a few hours to suit you, please contact 01299 488083.

## Annual report of Parish Paths Warden and Recreational Route Warden for the Parish

Our Parish rights of way are again in generally good condition following a quiet year.

We received a P3 Grant of £500 again and our Contractors have carried out summer vegetation clearance wherever needed.

The footpaths and bridleways are generally clear and accessible and your PPW has kept stiles and gates free of overgrowth.

Over 30 inspections covering more than 60 paths have been carried out, with a number of waymarks being replaced during the year, hopefully keeping walkers and/or riders on the correct route.

The footpath on the stream bank below Easthams Farm is regularly checked for any further slippage following flood damage a few years ago. Further down Honeybrook, the stream has flooded the ditch crossing. Remedial work will be required here.

We thank our landowners for clearing fallen trees from across several footpaths during the past year.

Following thefts from properties in Hollies Lane over recent years, a locked gate has been installed (by the landowner) at the top of the Restricted Byway (KF596) to prevent unauthorised vehicles using this as a through route. Access remains available for walkers and horse riders.

The P3 grant which we receive can now only be used for seasonal vegetation clearance. The repair of stiles is the responsibility of the relevant landowner, but other matters now have to be reported to the C/C who will hopefully arrange for the necessary work to be carried out.

We are currently waiting for three signposts to be reinstated, a ditch crossing to be improved and rails to be replaced round the information board on the Habberley Valley Circular Walk at Trimpley Farm.

Our application for a P3 Grant for 2017/18 has been successful, and this year’s seasonal vegetation clearance is underway. (Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond)

## Do you enjoy a game of Bridge?

Then why not come along to  
**TRIMPLEY BRIDGE CLUB at the Village Hall**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (August to April)**  
**commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

New members (with some bridge knowledge) always welcome – no partner required.

Rubber Bridge played

Contact Janette Burgess 01562 227449



## Audit for the Parish Council

Below is a summary of the accounts for 2016-17. Full details of the accounts and audit can be found on our webpage <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

Payments	Amount £
Grants to Church and Arley School	1240
Lengthsman’s Work & Litter Collection	4807
Clearance work on Footpaths	421
General Admin Costs & CALC Subs.	1595
Clerk’s Salary Gross	3760
Chairman’s Allowance	100
Plants, Bulbs and VA Sign repairs & Batteries	741
Training	10
	12674
Receipts	
Brought Forward Balance	28774
Precept and Shortfall Grant	8935
VAT Reimbursement	214
Lengthsman’s Work & Litter Collection contracts	5187
Clearance work on Footpaths (Contract)	421
Bank Interest	11
Grants Received	1184
Book Sales and other items	70
	44796
Less payments made this year	12674
<b>Carry forward 2017-18</b>	<b>32122</b>



## Fly Tipping

Once again, we would urge everyone to be vigilant and report any flytipping taking place. We try hard to keep the parish free from unsightly tipping, including green waste, and garden clippings, which should not be dumped on land no matter how convenient. Keeping the parish tidy starts at home, and we would ask everyone to help in this regard.

Report **any** flytipping seen to a parish councillor, or directly to Wyre Forest on <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/streets-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning/flytipping.aspx>