

## **HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 21st MAY 2019**

**The Chairman will welcome any members of the public who may be attending and advise that immediately following the Chairman's Annual Statement, members of the public may raise any queries or comments either in relation the Annual Statement or any other matter.**

### **Annual Statement**

The Parish Year just ended was another very busy year for the Parish Council.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Wybunbury Parishes Neighbourhood plan has taken shape with your Chairman and Cllr Boyes largely responsible for its countryside, planning and business policies. Working groups were commissioned, policies teased out and received favourable feedback from the public consultation in March this year. This has been an important time, shaping the way the future of our parish will look. The plan will hopefully be completed later this year.

### **Planning**

This year your Parish Council has spent considerable time and effort considering marathon of planning applications, more than ever. It is heartening to see that Cheshire East have sometimes taken cognisance of our recommendations. Our considered recommendations should have greater weight in planning matters. This was emphasised when your Chairmen met up with the Mayor of Cheshire East last year.

### **Highways**

Its good to report that Hatherton Bends road improvements seemed to have reduced the frequency of accidents at this blackspot. However the same cannot be said for the A51 at Walgherton Xroads where more serious accidents continue to happen. The Parish Council will continue to push for improvements. We are working to suggest improvements elsewhere in the parish, particularly along Park Lane and Bridgemere Lane. Temporary pothole fixes cause frustration, where a high volume of heavy vehicles soon destroys the surface.

Flooding at several locations has been addressed with some ongoing work still being pursued.

### **HS2**

Your chairman and ward councillor have represented the parish at local and national HS2 meetings in order to lessen the impact of HS2 construction on the parish.

### **Finance**

The accounts and internal controls of the Parish Council have been examined by the Auditors and found to be satisfactory. Over recent years the Council has reported its intention to build up a modest reserve and in this it has been successful. The Council's Balance sheet and Receipts and Payments report are available for inspection upon request.

Your Parish Council has this year given donations to

- Audlem Community Responders, a service which provides urgent medical response in the area
- Wybunbury Parochial Church Council in support of the upkeep of the graveyard.
- North West Air Ambulance, a further service which provides urgent medical response.
- ADCA where Cheshire East withdrew their funding.

### Health

Local health initiatives continue to be advertised via our noticeboards. Regarding the support for older people in the community local charity ADCA has just been successful in obtaining some funds from the Cheshire East New Homes Bonus Scheme and their old people and community work schemes will soon be back to full time when the money is released. It is pleasing to note that the Wednesday lunch club at Hankelow Community Hall attracts residents from our parish. This should be more widely advertised for their drop in for lunch and to enjoy chat and activities.

ADCA is always looking for more volunteers, including drivers, to work alongside ADCA staff in running community health groups. It is noted that the Audlem Wheelie bus is now operational, having formed a new charity. This has been in service ferrying Hatherton residents to and from ADCA events.

### Communications

The Parish Council has two websites, one which provides information about Parish matters and the other is a reporting and update mechanism for local road problems. Thanks are given to the two Webmasters Cllr Tindall and Cllr Dibben.

### The Parish Council

The Annual General meeting gives me the opportunity to publicly thank all the Parish Council members for their time and contributions during the last twelve months, in particular those members who have attended meetings across Cheshire to represent the parish. We welcomed a new clerk in November and we look forward to stability and a long term relationship here.

### Litter Picking Event

We missed out on this year's event but individual councillors and residents keep large areas of our byways litter free throughout the year. We still have the litter picking equipment ready for next years pick.

### Local Policing and Homewatch

Our Clerk currently circulates local policing and Homewatch alerts as they arise to those residents in email contact.