

Chairs Report 2021 – 22

The May AGM 2021 was the first meeting that the PC had been able to meet face to face at since February 2020. It was wonderful to meet 'in person' again and welcome members of the public, all in line with the government guidelines in place at that time.

At our May meeting we also welcomed two new councillors to the PC. Along with a third new member co-opted at the June meeting, this represented a healthy 'changing of the guard' potentially bringing new and fresh perspectives and views to the work of the PC. I understand that it was the first time in living memory that there was more applicants than vacancies and an element of competition for places on your PC!

A huge thanks to the departing councillors Barry Davies, Arthur Amos and Jim Slater for all their hard work and contributions over a number of years.

The three new councillors Sarah Jane Parker, Andrew Marson and Harmesh Jassel have all made an impact during the year, bringing their individual skills and experience to both the full PC and its various subcommittees and leading on some of the projects listed below.

Your PC have worked tirelessly to achieve several significant projects throughout the year.

Most notably years of campaigning for a change to the crossing in the village from the Zebra crossing installed in 2015 to a Puffin type crossing came to fruition in February 2022. I would like to extend the thanks of the Parish to SC Cllr Simon Jones and to Parish councillors past and present who have all helped to realise this ambition and bring this substantial investment to the village.

September 2021 saw the completion of phase 2 of the pathways project that linked up the paths already laid as part of Phase 1 on the moat area during 2019. The Phase 2 project also extended the network of paths to include the area around the playground and along the Shropshire way to the North of the village. There is a surprisingly large amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to deliver projects like this. Not least the bureaucracy involved in chasing and securing funding, but also the obtaining of formal planning permissions, liaison with landowners, Historic England, Archaeologists, local authority rights of way officers and the contractors themselves. A big thanks to Barry Bell for all his hard work delivering this project.

In May 2021 we took delivery of three sturdy benches that have been located on the moat area. All were paid for by local families and dedicated to some very influential and special people from our village who are sadly no longer with us.

A lot of work goes on in the background unnoticed by the vast majority of us. Ever wondered who cut the grass and hedges and kept our village looking so neat and tidy throughout the growing season? For over 20 years the village maintenance has been carried out by one of our own residents Martyn Price. Martin announced his retirement from the role in the Autumn of 2021 which set us off in pursuit of a replacement that could match his fine work and dedication. Having sought out a number of potential contractors and a competitive tendering process, we were pleased to offer the contract to a local company from the Market Drayton area. They started work for the village in March 2022 so if you see little or no difference than it's been a success. Thank you to Cllr Andrew Marston for all his efforts in seeking out contractors and running that tendering process. Its all a very

time consuming process. In addition, a big thanks to Martyn Price for his 20 years of service to the village. We wish him a long healthy and happy retirement.

Your council asked for a working group to be set up to explore the provision of facilities for older children within the village, to confirm and support one of the last recommendations to be addressed from the 2017 Community Led Plan. They worked throughout periods of lockdown during 2020/21 and reported into the PC at the November meeting. Whilst 'what is wanted' by our young people is clear, 'where to put it' remains limited and needs further investigation and subsequently wider consultation. This group now led by Cllr Harmesh Jassel will continue to progress the options available and consult on any firm proposals. A significant sum of money to the tune of £40k remains ringfenced to help deliver this project.

December 2021 saw some curious developments in regard to the understanding of the setup, status, and constitution of our Village Hall which have been in place for over 57 years. Vitally the village hall committee, who make up the management trustees and take on responsibilities for the maintenance and day to day running of the building, have managed to attract new members to its ranks. This is great news and those new members have set about making changes and improvements with great vigour on behalf of us all, to ensure the long-term viability of this important village asset. In a commitment to helping this community asset to thrive your PC, at its March meeting, were pleased to allocate a grant of £5k to the village hall committee to assist with their excellent on-going work.

Looking ahead to the next year there are two important developments.

Internally 2022 should see us develop and publish a longer-term plan/ vision for our village which subsequently will replace our Community Led Plan published in September 2017.

Externally we should expect to see Shropshire Councils Local Plan published in the Autumn of 2022. This has been a longstanding planning process with a number of consultations over the past 6 years. The Local Plan "identifies SC's vision and framework for the future development of Shropshire up to 2038; addresses needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the local economy, community facilities and infrastructure; and seeks to safeguard the environment, enable adaptation to climate change and helps to secure high-quality and accessible design'. What the plan means for Hadnall is a change from countryside to Hub status. Your PC have campaigned throughout the process for Hadnall to remain as countryside, but should the plan be adopted we should all expect to see the building of approx. 52 houses in the village, 40 on SC's preferred site to the South of Wedgefields and another 12 built within a tightly defined village development boundary.

I would like to place on record my thanks for the support and sound advice provided by our Clerk Alison Utting over this last year. Her knowledge and advice continues to ensure that all matters dealt with are compliant within the legal framework that any council would be expected to operate. Lastly, I must thank all those councillors who have been supportive during this period and given much of their time and energies to deliver on the various projects we undertake and the needs of our community.

My best wishes to one and all for this forthcoming Jubilee year!

John Harrison Chair Hadnall Parish Council