

## LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – Annual Report April 2016 – March 2017

The Parish Council continue to hold its meetings including the AGM bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

### **1. Highways**

The Parish Council maintains an agreement with the Highway Authority for grass cutting on unclassified roadside verges in the Parish.

Shropshire Council carried out major repair work on the B4397 particularly around the culverted section which required reinforcing. Further carriageway resurfacing work is programmed to take place in July and August of this year.

Following the permission for the chicken farm Shropshire Council has decided that, in addition to the passing places on Brandwood Road, they are going to resurface it and have set aside additional funding for that purpose. The carriageway re-surfacing is programmed to start on the 18th April.

### **2. Planning**

Shropshire Council is obliged to consult the Parish Council regarding planning applications in Loppington. The Parish Council responded to 14 applications during 2016. Shropshire Council recently amended its policy and now consults using electronic methods only. No paper copies of applications are sent out to the parishes unless requested and a charge will be levied accordingly.

Shropshire Council are currently reviewing the Local Plan. They are currently consulting on the methodology for identifying hubs and clusters, and moving away from site specific policies and defined development boundaries. The consultation includes a call for suitable development sites. Consultation responses should be sent to Shropshire Council by 20<sup>th</sup> March.

### **3. Community Benefit Fund**

The solar farm is completed and connected to the grid and the Parish Council are now in receipt of annual payments which will continue we understand for a period of 20 years. The Community Benefit Fund is to be used towards projects that will benefit the communities of the Parish Council and which have been approved by a meeting of the Parish Councillors prior to the allocation of any Payment. Loppington Parish Council are currently reviewing their financial regulations and policies in the light of the requirements of the Community Fund.

### **4. Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Parish Council received £1,111.00 from the neighbourhood fund during the last financial year 2014/15. The Neighbourhood Fund monies must be used on *“The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else which is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.”*

After consultation with Shropshire Council it was considered that the roof repairs to the Village Hall would constitute an item of infrastructure and would therefore be acceptable in terms of application of the Neighbourhood Funds, therefore the Parish Council granted £1,000.00 for the benefit of the Village Hall roof repairs in accordance with place plan priorities which includes "*provision and maintenance of facilities and equipment for sport, recreation and leisure....*"

#### **5. Parish Amenities**

The Council wishes to express its appreciation and thanks all those volunteers and organisations who have helped maintain Council property including the War Memorial, Pump, Tan Pit, Burlton Bus Shelter and Notice boards, and kept public areas clean and tidy by repainting, planting, grass cutting, weeding and general maintenance.

The Council continues to contribute towards the upkeep of St. Michael's Churchyard and support AED volunteers. Work to the Tan Pit continues albeit slowly!

#### **6. Public Relations**

The Council continues to publish council matters and issues in the Village News and holds public participation sessions during its Parish Council meetings. The Clerk continues to add to the website. Agendas and Minutes can be viewed online.

#### **7. Financial**

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2015/2016. The results of the audit can be viewed online. Documents for 2016/17 will be posted on the noticeboards and website and available to view once the audit has been completed.

#### **8. Meetings and Consultations**

Members of the Parish Council have continued to represent the Parish on Shropshire Association of Local Councils and Shropshire Area Committee of the Association. Members represent the Parish on Shropshire Council Wem and Shawbury Local Area Committee. The Parish Council thanks Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams for his continued help and support as our elected representative on Shropshire Council.

#### **9. Crime and Safety**

The Council thanks David Edge who has continued the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the Parish. Reported crime in the area is low. Crime map and reported crime can be viewed on the West Mercia police website.

## **10. The Future**

With the continued financial pressures placed on Shropshire Council the towns and parishes have been attending regular forum meetings with a view to transfer of non-statutory services and facilities. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the financial position of those councils who do take a transfer from Shropshire Council, particularly where they are required to take on additional staff to run those facilities. This is unlikely to impact directly on Loppington Parish but in the future there may well be an indirect consequence as larger town council's look to surrounding parishes for support.

## **11. And Finally**

4<sup>th</sup> May is the date for local elections to both towns and parishes and Shropshire Council. Applications for nominations are now open and anyone wishing to put themselves forward as a councillor on Loppington Parish Council should contact the clerk for a nomination pack or any general advice.

L.J. McCormack

March 2017