

WROXETER AND UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

2020/21 was an unusual and challenging year for the Parish Council, as it has been for everybody during the Coronavirus pandemic and ongoing restrictions. We adapted to working remotely, holding our meetings on Zoom, and were pleased that some residents joined these meetings during the year.

At the end of March, the Parish Council balances were £5,574. We have set a precept for 2021/22 of £4,785. We have ring-fenced reserves of around £2,500 for various areas of spending including asset repairs, as well as some Neighbourhood Fund which we have allocated to spending on the play area. Our general reserve of just over £3,000 is within the recommended parameters for Parish Councils of our size. Our accounts have been audited, with no concerns arising, and the accounts will be available for public inspection during June/July.

Smart Water/We Don't Buy Crime

As a high percentage of residents signed up for their Smart Water packs, we qualified for free signage throughout the parish to advertise that our area is covered by the We Don't Buy Crime scheme.

Verge cutting

We were again successful in our bid for an Environmental Maintenance Grant towards cutting back on the verges at the two main crossroads in Wroxeter. The Grant matches the Parish Council spending on this work, which significantly improves safety for all road users by increasing the visibility at these junctions.

Uppington Playground

We have carried out a number of repairs to the play equipment during the year, and arranged the annual safety inspection. A resident also arranged and paid for the repair to one item of equipment and we are very grateful for this support. We have some funding set aside to contribute to a new item of play equipment during this financial year and we will liaise with residents during the year to determine what this will be.

Parish matters

We have continued to report to the Council any parish matters of local concern. In the last year these have included fly tipping, an abandoned vehicle, missing or damaged road signs, and replacement of road markings.

B4380 repairs

We were pleased to see the B4380 road surface repaired during 2020. We have been lobbying for this for some time, and are pleased that the work was finished to a high standard. We do have some concerns about the potential for increased traffic along this road from the proposed development on the power station site in Buildwas and have submitted responses to the planning application to outline our concerns.