

BERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 30th April 2019

Whilst you will have seen an increase in your Council Tax bills, there has been no increase in the Parish Precept for this year.

436 BUS CONSULTATION

The Parish Council are very concerned about the proposed reduction in service of the 436 bus route (Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury). The proposal is to cut the frequency of service from hourly to 2 hourly. The Parish have responded to the consultation stating that they are totally against any reduction in service. Many residents have responded individually to the consultation which closes on 6th May.

YOUTH MATTERS

The Youth Club goes from strength to strength. It now has 33 members and a waiting list. A big thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to ensure the success of the club. Several of the volunteers are undertaking training so that the Youth Club is not reliant on Shropshire Youth Association.

The Halloween event and Christmas party were very successful with well over 100 people attending.

BROMPTON PLAYING FIELDS

We now have new gates and improved drainage by the entrance. Thanks goes to the National Trust for their help in this. We continue to have a dog fouling issue on the Playing Field, more of this later.

PLANNING MATTERS

Berrington Meadows

The Parish Council were very disappointed with Shropshire Council Planning Committee's decision to approve the retrospective increase in height on Plots 17 - 21 on Berrington Meadows. The Parish Council tried very hard to prevent this change to the agreed plans by utilising Planning Enforcement and speaking at Committee and we were very sad that we and the residents were not listened too.

Local Plan Review

The Parish Council were informed, albeit late, that Cross Houses was to be designated as a Hub. A public meeting was held in July 2018 where almost everyone who attended stated their preference was to remain as Open Countryside.

A further public meeting was held in December 2018 to discuss Shropshire Council's Preferred site for development. Following this special meeting and the Parish Council meeting in January the Parish Council agreed to challenge the points allocated to Cross Houses which currently gives it Hub status (53 points). These points are not likely to reduce to less than 48 points so it is probable that Cross Houses will have to accept some further development. Whilst this is disappointing, the Parish Council agreed with Shropshire Council's choice of site, the Old Station (Station Cattery), as this gave us the least development by some margin. We will have an opportunity for further consultation later in the year.

CHAPEL COMMUNITY CENTRE

As always, we need to say a big thank you to those on the Chapel Management Committee for the time and energy, they dedicate to the Community Centre. I am also pleased to report that we have some new blood on the committee who are looking at Social Media and Marketing.

The flat roof that has been leaking for the last few years has now been completely replaced and whilst this work was taking place, we took the opportunity to fully insulate the roof.

NOEL HILL ROAD

The parking situation on Noel Hill Road remains an issue. The Parish Council have entered a joint bid with Severnside Housing to Shropshire Council's Community Infrastructure Levy to improve the car parking and hopefully prevent the problems that emergency vehicles have had navigating this narrow road.

COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Following the decision to undertake a Community Led Plan the committee taking this forward is now up and running. The group is supported by the Parish Council but not run by it. If you would like further information please contact the Chair, Henry Carpenter. Email: henry@henrycarpenterpr.co.uk

HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING TRAFFIC

The Parish Council are working with Shropshire Council to put in an expression of interest for Vehicle Activated Signs, better road markings to help reduce the speed of traffic on the A458 and on the Cross Houses to Atcham Road. We have also asked for road markings in Cantlop and Betton to be repainted.

Thank you to the volunteers from Speedwatch who continue to make a difference to our village, and I know they are always looking for new volunteers.

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. I will stress again that most dog owners are responsible owners and pick up after their dogs, it is just a few that create this awful problem. The amount of dog fouling seemed to increase earlier this year, especially on Brompton Playing Fields which has led to the Youth Club not being able to use the field. Following several meetings between the Parish Council and the Environmental Enforcement Team at Shropshire Council the Dog Warden is now undertaking regular patrols.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their hard work throughout the year. We have a full complement of Councillors, this is not the norm across the County, and I thank you for your enthusiasm for and commitment to your local community.

Claire Wild

Chairman, Berrington Parish Council