

## **Diddlebury Parish Council (DPC) . Chairman's Report May 2022-April 2023**

D. Hedgley Chairman 2022-23

Following his resignation and sad death Cllr Neden was replaced in an unopposed election by Cllr Clive Martyn. We also sadly lost Peter Drakes a regular attendee at council meetings.

### **Main Issues**

#### **Place Plan Critical**

**1.DVH Car park** At long last DVH car park /school playground have been resurfaced and line marked. Donations from Corvedale School and the DVH Committee along with our own use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds enabled us to go ahead with the work in August. At the last minute Shropshire Council (SC) confirmed that they would pay us the CIL money owing to us from them. In agreement with DVH Committee and the Corvedale School a fund of £150 from each per year has been agreed upon to go towards a fund for future sustainable work. The car park will now cease to be a Place Plan objective.

**2.Broadband Provision.** We continue to press for acceptable broadband reception throughout the parish liaising with and investigating Government funding as it is promoted. Our influence on this is limited with the providers and SC calling the shots.

#### **Place Plan Priority.**

**3.Flood control measures.** We manage and financially support these through the work of the Flood Action Group led by Cllr Martyn.

#### **Place Plan Key**

#### **4. Measures to control the speed limit through Diddlebury and other road safety measures.**

DPC is working with other Corvedale Parish Councils to influence SC Highways and police on measures to make the B4368 in particular safer to both pedestrians and motorists. This included a Highways Study of the B4368 by SC.

DPC has to assist this purchased a second Speed Indicator Device. In addition we purchased signs asking people to slow down to go on the side of wheelie bins and erected pedestrian walking signs and horses warning signs in lanes. We also continue to raise pothole concerns with highways.

#### **5. Parish Plan-fresh review.**

We will shortly be asked to review our above place Plan objectives as part of the Craven Arms Place Plan in order to bid for future CIL funding. As opposed to our original 2012 Parish Plan which sought parishioners views across a variety of future aspirations we will this time be asking parishioners views on possible future infrastructure needs via the Google group and Corvedale News in early July. We are time critical on this due to SC imposing a 12 week window for consultation from the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Most local parishes are challenging this ridiculously short consultation period.

A complete Parish Plan review similar to the original one is under consideration.

#### **Non place plan Issues**

**6.Crime.** We are aware of concern over crime in the parish and are working closely with the police to combat this. We complete and update a Community Police Charter every 3 months with community theft, speeding and scams being our 3 priority areas at present.

**7.Environmental Maintenances Officer (EMO)** . Yet again we have had to consider recruiting another EMO and review the funding and operations of their role. A decision was taken not to employ an EMO but to tender for individual jobs as they arose. This year has again seen an increase in voluntary work being undertaken by Councillor's and members of the public which has saved the parish a lot of money and we would like to encourage the expansion of this.

### **Diddlebury Parish Council Precept 2022-23**

Following the council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January the precept for the next financial year was set at £6,660. This is an actual decrease of £1,195 on last years. .

The council made a conscious decision to try and keep the precept low. By accessing our Neighbour Fund during the last financial year to pay for infrastructure work we have been able to reduce the amount used to top this up. We have also reduced costs here by work on the local infrastructure again being under taken by councillors and local people volunteering their help. We are always happy to accept such volunteering with painting , light repairs and cleaning of assets.

We will however have further increase to the clerks salary in line with recommendations . We continue to financially support our village halls, local charities and work such as the Flood Action Group. A full copy of the precept can be found on DPC web site.

### **Responses to Consultations.**

Empty Homes -Connexion  
Police Community Charter  
Community Governance review  
SC Highways Study B4368

### **Public Meetings/ External Meetings attended.**

South Shropshire Planning Committee x 2  
Shropshire Council CIL briefing on how CIL is now applied.  
Shropshire Council Place Plan Briefing

### **Planning applications.**

17 planning applications have been received this year as opposed to 21 last year.  
All bar 2 which included a reapplications were supported as compared to 3 not supported last year.  
Within the 17 applications 1 was related to tree work against 4 last year.  
There were no enforcement enquiries from DPC again this year but the council was notified of a number received from the public within the parish.  
A number of site visits were undertaken by councillors.

### **Sample of other topics arising and activities undertaken.**

Lobbying for better traffic diversion measures  
Provision of dog litter bins signage .  
Collapsed river wall in Bouldon  
Attendance at Remembrance Day ceremony. Queens Platinum Jubilee/Coronation Signage

Over the last year the parish council has yet again continued to work closely with the Flood Action Group, the village hall committees of Diddlebury and Westhope and the Parish Plan Steering Group. As Chair I would like to thank my colleagues for the work they put in within a voluntary role, the hard work of our Parish Clerk Jean, Sara Thompson for her excellent web site work as well as Councillor Motley for her continued unstinting support.