

Mrs Alison Cartwright  
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11<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Dear Alison,

**Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors.

**Churchill and Blakedown Issues**

I met with Paul Green in person in the parish on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> April, together with the clerk and Cllr. Roger Shade to look at appropriate locations for Parish Gateways at Ismere on the A451. We have agreed that when you enter Ismere from the Kidderminster direction approximately 200 yards past the Waggon Lane and Axborough Lane crossroads and approximately 150 yards from Ismere House on the left hand side adjacent to the public right of way sign into the field there will be a 1.5m gateway with a Welcome to Ismere sign, saying 'please drive carefully' similar to that on the junction of Sugar Loaf Lane. There will be a 1.5m gateway on the right and side of the road. If the PC wanted a planter here on the left hand side that would be fine too.

We then assessed the opposite end of Ismere on the A451 and decided that at the Staffordshire boundary this would be too far away and agreed that again a 1.5m gateway be installed either side of the road by the large highway 5 ways sign. This is just before Rocky Lane on the left and Beech Tree Lane on the right. Again it can have a 'please drive carefully sign' and a planter here.

The clerk will now action this with the £1,360 I have previously allocate.

I am chasing the following still:-

- 1 The trees on Churchill Lane at the A456 and the Churchill end for inspection.
- 2 The constant water on the highway along Churchill Lane before Wannerton Road. This is to be reinspected.
- 3 The railings by the stream in Churchill for a full and proper repair. I have had it confirmed and seen the road closure and told this is 5 days worth of work and is scheduled for May.

- 4 The concrete post and fence under the viaduct at Churchill Lane is scheduled for 1 days work and despite being told this would be done last month, it still hasn't been.
- 5 The hedge overhanging the pavement with the A456 has finally been cut back and WCC highways are now satisfied with this. I have inspected this with Paul Green last Thursday.
- 6 The flooding issue at a property at the top end of the Belbroughton Road with rainwater coming off the highway and flooding the driveway. I am still awaiting a date.
- 7 The flooding issue at a property along Mill Lane as a result of the road level being affected due to the road resurfacing work I am told this work is scheduled for June but there is some negotiation on exactly what work will be done.

Regarding The Avenue, as I have said previously I would be happy to make some of my devolved funding available to assist with issues such as bollards and maintenance by chippings and shrub clearance and tree maintenance if the Parish Council and the local community were to work collectively as a joint project.

The tree stump sticking out on Churchill Lane opposite number 10 has been removed by WCC. I inspected with Paul last Thursday and in terms of any landslip, Paul says there is nothing for WCC to do at present but just keep this issue on the radar and if there are concerns they can be addressed when they happen.

I met with PC Matt Ling our SNT PC on 31<sup>st</sup> March to discuss the criteria for community speed watch and areas of concern for speeding in the Parish. The issue with the community speed watch appears to be on the interpretation of the word location and how broadly this is to mean. I cannot see how it can be right that you can't have a scheme in the same Parish on different roads to the A456, just because the A456 has an official enforcement site by the Road Safety Team. I have agreed to arrange a meeting with your clerk and clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council who have the same issue and a representative from the PCC's office and the Road Safety Team and PC Matt Ling. I raised concerns regarding Churchill Lane and Stakenbridge Lane in particular.

I have also inspected Deansford Lane with Paul Green last Thursday in response to an email from a local resident regarding damage to the grass verge and speeding issues. Paul is going to look into the land ownerships in this area and the extent of the highway verge as it is clear there are issues, not least there are traffic cones, wooden stakes and a barbed wire fence that appear to be on either the highway or the highway verge, all without consent and he is looking into the 3 bollards that he don't believe have been officially installed and there is also a Hawthorn hedge which has been planted. Until the highway limits are clarified it is difficult to comment further.

Regarding the Station Yard car park proposal further to me reporting in my March report I have been recently advised that the application has very recently been submitted to the WCC planning team. They have to 'validate' the application, which is the usual process and then there will be the usual full statutory consultation. Indeed, WFDC's Local Plan also needs to be finalised, albeit WFDC are due to consider the Local Plan at a special meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April, which will be dealt with in

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the District Council report. The application is likely to be considered at the July or September meeting of the WCC planning committee.

I will keep everyone updated when I know more.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

The planning application for the proposed Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, has still not been determined yet and the timeline has slipped again as there is some further consultation on a matter to take place go to either the May or July planning committee at WCC.

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

The County Council has been heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.) Here 2 Help is now dealing with the Ukrainian resettlement scheme, working with residents who have offered their home and liaising with the District Councils and ensuring the DBS checks are carried out.

WCC has launched a £100,000 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. Details are still being clarified.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr. Marcus J. Hart**  
**County Councillor – Chaddesley Division**

Copy to: District Cllr Ian Hardiman, Wyre Forest District Council  
District Cllr Lisa Jones, Wyre Forest District Council

**Marcus Hart**  
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