**Trysull and Seisdon Parish Council**

**Fly Tipping**

You will all have seen how this very serious problem continues to blight our local landscape and it is little comfort to know we are not alone in having to endure the effects of this extremely selfish and often dangerous environmental crime. A recent 'Staffordshire live' article reported that the average clean-up costs last year were approaching a staggering one quarter of one million pounds per council on average. It is clearly not a victimless crime, particularly when you consider each pound spent on necessary clean-up operations is a pound taken away from the community purse. As taxpayers we are all victims. Private landowners and farmers alike finding their open spaces used as illegal dumping grounds are, most unfairly, directly and immediately affected by the cost of removal at their own expense.

The Parish Council recently welcomed members of District's Enforcement Team so they could explain first hand their current strategies and powers being used to address these criminal and seemingly chronic activities. It was most reassuring to hear reports about increased investment in surveillance operations and equipment and indeed the obtaining of many successful prosecutions. This a clear message that our District Council continues to take this costly environmental crime most seriously and will prosecute all offenders where evidence allows.

Given that this is a particular crime difficult to prevent, often carried out under cover of darkness and it believed to be committed almost exclusively by non-locals, how may we help the campaign to stop it? As individuals we can indeed be of great assistance. One primary action is to report every incident we see. Such reporting is imperative. It assists the Enforcement Team to build up a map of 'Hot Spots'. This, in turn, is used as essential information that then allows for the permission of targeted covert surveillance and the opportunity to 'catch culprits in the act'.

Reporting is relatively straight forward and the Parish Council web-site provides a link to the District Council via the 'Environmental Crime' button on our Welcome Page. You can also report incidents directly on 01902 696200 (day or night) or by e-mail environmentalcrimesr@sstaffs.gov.uk

A secondary line of defence is to ensure anyone offering their services to take waste away holds a valid Waste Carriers Licence. As the adage goes; 'if it's too good to be true it probably is' should be kept in mind, particularly, given individuals now also have a legal obligation to ensure anyone engaged to carrier waste for them is correctly registered. The Waste Carriers Licence Public Register may also be accessed by our web-site link described above and will list all those properly accredited. The Parish Council web-site may be found at: https://www.trysullandseisdonparishcouncil.org

The Parish Council will also be assisting with the possibility of covert camera operations with the placement of 'Fly Tipping' warning signage at strategic locations throughout the Parish.

**Latest Parish Meeting – Parish Projects for 2023**

You may recall a previous article explaining the difference between a Parish Council Meeting and a Parish Meeting. The latest Parish Meeting was held in the last week of September. A big thank you to all those who attended and provided invaluable feedback on the Jubilee Celebrations together with suggestions and planning ideas for our intended participation in next year's **Best Kept Village 2023**, **Village Summer Fete** and with the proposed development of a **'Sensory Garden'** adjacent to the Village Hall. We now have a major event in our new Carolean era with the **Coronation of King**

**Charles III** being announced to take place on 6th May next year, so suitable celebrations will have to be considered for this occasion too.

We are hoping to set up working committees to develop and deliver these **four significant projects** so if anyone is interested in helping out, we would be delighted to hear from you. If you would like to participate, please contact any Parish Councillor or our Clerk. Contact details may, again, be found on our web-site.

**A Thank You from All Saints' Primary Pupils**

You may also remember one of the Parish Council's Jubilee celebratory events was to present each and every pupil of our village school with a special edition 'Royal Mint Platinum Jubilee £5 Coin'.

The Parish Council were recently delighted to have received numerous letters and hand-made cards from the pupils expressing their gratitude for these special gifts. The coins were given, of course, on behalf of the whole Parish so the pupils' very warm expressions of thanks are to you all.

It's a real shame we won't be able to publish all of their work but a few examples are shared in the centre pages.

**Village Signs, Planters & Seasonal Colour**

Councillors and volunteers have again been working extremely hard maintaining and preparing our village planters with seasonal flowers to ensure we have some enduring colour in the forthcoming shorter days. Daffodil bulbs have already been planted for next spring too. Again, a thank you to all those who have graciously acknowledged our new village signs which, mentioning Daffodils, have also provided for perfect additional planting sites. (Photo on centre page). These will look magnificent in bloom early next year!

For now, compliments from all the Parish Council and Clerk.

Parish Chair - Andrew