

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2024

It has been a pleasure to Chair the Parish Council for another, extremely busy, third term and so again I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Councillors and Colleagues for their loyalty and shared visions for Parish improvements. A thank you too for their continued confidence in allowing my appointment to run for a fourth year. We all volunteer our time and private resources on managing Parish affairs to the best of our ability with much determination, dedication, and enthusiasm. It is this common care for the Parish that continues to provide the driving force and I hope this will continue to be appreciated by the majority.



We continue to contribute to the Parish magazine, our notice boards and website which hopefully communicates our current thoughts, achievements, and aspirations to the Parish on a regular basis. Attendance at Civic Events and Parish Forums have also remained in my focus continuing the advance of our Parish profile within our higher tiers. We recognise, that our Parish Council, in reality, has little power and a meagre budget, so it is essential to forge good working relationships with those who, indeed have, deeper pockets and grander influences and to endeavour to focus their attention on the needs of our Parish.

Working in partnership with higher tiers of Council is therefore essential and we continue to be successful in this goal. I would therefore wish to show gratitude to our County and District Councillor Victoria Wilson and District Councillor Robert Reade for all their continued support and show of interest in our Parish affairs. This mutual respect is an invaluable 'intangible' asset and one that consistently produces 'real' benefits for our Parish. Thank you, Victoria, and Robert!

Likewise, I must mention our Parish volunteers and cherished Parish Institutions. More selfless dedication of time and effort continues to make our Parish what it is - Impressive and the envy of many others.

Community Initiatives & Support, Communication & Connectivity, Health & Well-being and not just the Physical Environment that are significant categories in the Best Kept Village Competition. The Parish Council has continued to achieve much improvement and advancement with many of these considerations in mind. The competition provides an important focus for the direction of Parish development. Last year I commented that, whilst our achievements were many, there remained much to do before we could expect any recognition. How wrong was I? To our complete surprise the Parish became honoured with a BKV Highly Commended Award. On reflection we should, perhaps, not have been so unexpected. The Award was well deserved, and all our volunteers and organisers of the numerous community events and projects highlighted in the application, have our gratitude in plenty for helping achieve this fine acknowledgement. I believe that our 2024 BKV entry, a significant project in its own right, will also be very well received.

And we have much more work in progress:

- Permanent Community Speed Watch Signs and new roll-out of this year's Speed Watch activity.
- A regular programme of Village Tidy-Up events.
- Village Planter care and maintenance.
- Oak Post replacement on Trysull Green and Pavilion car park.
- Car Park gate painting / Play Area, Telephone Box and Bus Shelter maintenance.
- Benches for Seisdon Playing Field.
- A Seisdon defibrillator.
- Development of the Community Garden, Trysull.
- Up-grading of our Website with improved accessibility.
- Christmas Lights 'switch on' now established as a community event.
- Plans for the expansion of Christmas Lights programme to Trysull.
- Parish Calendar Competition.
- Biennial Summer events.
- 6th June 80th Anniversary D-Day flag.
- to mention a few items on the immediate agenda.

My colleagues and fellow Councillors will remain key players in the ongoing development and implementation of the most significant of these projects, but essential too will be the involvement of the wider community. In this number it is noted that a few familiar names regularly attract our admiration for their outstanding contributions to the Parish. I propose we consider organising a social event to highlight our sincere appreciation of this community spirit.

We must also continue to welcome community engagement and encourage public participation in our meetings. These remain the only correct forum for considered debate and informed decision making. We acknowledge some decisions this year have been difficult but were rightly taken with diligent attention to budgetary and financial control. It is no accident that our parish precept, year on year, remains below that of the average for all South Staffs parishes, and I may commend, again, our exemplary delivery of value for money.

So, long may the 'Teamwork' and the generous support of the Parish continue.

Parish Council Chairman

Cllr. A Hingley-Smith