

Chairman's Report 2023

Achievements this past year.

It has been a busy year for the Chairman, Clerk and Ward Councillor.

We have had numerous meetings with staff from Herefordshire Community Hub, Balfour Beatty, and AONB staff.

The deteriorating condition of the BOATs in the parish took up a lot of time in the first half of the year with correspondence and site meetings relating to Leaping Stocks Lane and Wye View Lane in particular. Leaping Stocks Lane was in such a poor condition it was deemed impossible to repair, and so was completely resurfaced. Wye View Lane had all its potholes repaired at the same time. We were just sitting back thinking the worst was over when Meeks Well Lane was closed due to a major landslip beneath the road surface. The repair of this is still ongoing.

In May we had elections for the County Council, and with new council members has come a new emphasis, where road repairs seem to have a higher priority. This has been helped by money released from the HS2 project.

We have successfully applied for Lengthsman Scheme funding, and by doing so this has allowed us to apply for ditch work funding as well.

The play area has been upgraded with permanent rubberised matting and the table tennis table has been beautifully restored by our lengthsman.

Herefordshire Council appear to have been a bit stingy with the salt grit this winter, so to counteract parishioners concerns the PC have invested in a small stockpile of salt grit which people can help themselves to. I would like to thank E & I Williams for providing this facility.

The PC has remained committed to supporting tourism and improving the appearance of the parish with the installation of additional litter bins, dog bins and general maintenance. We have continued to help with churchyard maintenance, and we maintain and service four of the defibrillators in the parish. We continue to provide all equipment necessary to anyone wishing to help with litter control in the parish.

Planned improvements.

Rain Rain Rain

We were hoping that the planned additions to the Play Area would have been installed by now, likewise the improved signage in the 30mph zone on the Llangrove Road. Both projects have been seriously delayed by the continual rain we have been having. We have purchased all the necessary equipment.... We just need some dry weather!

Since covid the footpaths in the parish have received a higher-than-normal footfall, which has helped to keep the undergrowth at bay. However this has caused wear and

tear to some of the infrastructure, and we have requested repairs to the footbridge on WC1 by St Dubricius, and the stile on WC101 to the north of Great Doward View.

We have agreed to part fund (and provide subsequent support for) a new defibrillator to be positioned on the north side of the Doward, near the telephone box.

Thanks and appreciation

The work of the parish council would be far more difficult without the valued contributions of a number of people:

I would like to thank our new Ward Councillor, Simeon Cole for his efforts on our behalf. I would also like to thank our pc working groups who give up their time to gain results and take the parish forward. The Good Neighbour Scheme team under the beady eye of Sue Morris, provide an invaluable service to the parish.

The Old Court Hotel is always helpful and hospitable to parish groups and parish work meetings. They also help the parents of local school children with free parking at the start and end of the school day.

Our Balfour Beatty locality steward deserves thanks as he goes over and above our normal expectations to help us with parish issues. The Balfour Beatty team in Rotherwas is also very helpful to our clerk and supports our needs.

Since Herefordshire Council took back responsibility for public rights of way (PROWs) from Balfour Beatty we have a new PROW Officer, Ceri Belli, who has been very proactive in helping us maintain our footpaths. I would also like to thank Simon Hall, our PCSO, for his continued support.

Finally, as mentioned earlier, E&I Williams get thanks for their invaluable support, and last but very much NOT least, big thanks to Mark Roberts, our lengthsman, for doing such a great job in the parish.