



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER

Winterer 2020 No. 105

### christmas lights 2020

As the weeks go by and Christmas gets nearer it is becoming very apparent that Christmas 2020 is going to be very different than we would want it to be. Public celebrations will be far less than usual and those that do take place will be very much scaled down. Some people will be faced with not spending Christmas with families and friends which is a very dismal thought. For this reason, the Parish Council wishes to encourage everyone to reach out to each other and light up your homes to bring light into a dark world. Our villagers rose to the occasion on VE Day to mark the event and with the Scarecrow competition. Whilst the time of year is not conducive to sitting outside, as we did in May, we can still bring cheer to others by decorating our homes with light.

The Parish Council lights within our villages will consist of Christmas trees in Colwich by the school, at the Parish office in Little Haywood and in Trent Square, Great Haywood. There will be further lights at the Jubilee Playing Field. In addition to these the more lights that each household, church and pub can display the better. We would, of course, encourage everyone to consider the environment and make use of energy saving lights such as LED lights which are readily available and can be run at very little cost to your pockets and the environment. Moreover, we would ask that lights be switched off by 11:00pm, if possible.

In line with many other areas there will be no grand switch-on event this year but on Saturday 28th November at 7 pm the lights will go on. Stand by your mobile phones, electronic communication devices etc from 6.55pm on that evening to view the digital switch on. More details will be provided on Facebook and the Parish website in the week leading up to the switch-on. We are aware that not all villagers are on Facebook and so we would ask those who are to keep their neighbours up to date.

We are led to believe that Santa will be making a visit to our villages during the days before Christmas. As he knows what is best for girls and boys, and wants to keep everyone safe, he will not be stopping to talk but he will have a cheery wave for everyone. Here again, keep your eye on Facebook and spread the word around.

As last year, the Parish Council will be running the best Christmas decorated house competition and an application form is attached with this Newsletter. We shall be offering prizes for the best lit-up house and the best lit street. The competition will be judged on similar lines to the Scarecrow competition and we invite all villagers to vote for their favourites. Hopefully some householders will wish to have their decorations up in time for switch-on day on the 28th November but we know that other people will prefer to wait until a little nearer Christmas itself. We would encourage everyone to have their lights up by the date indicated on the application form when votes will start to be accepted so that by the time Christmas arrives our villages will be ready to welcome a somewhat different Christmas.

Light spreads joy, cheer and hope for a better 2021. Let's go for it and wish our friends, neighbours and villagers a very Happy Christmas.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year has been very different to all others. We were unable to come together in May to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day. However, this did not stop us from remembering and honouring those who gave their lives for us. Equally, we were unable to come together for our usual Remembrance Sunday service in one of our village churches. Again, this did not prevent us from remembering.

The Parish Council installed remembrance Poppy crosses outside the parish office and in Trent Square and invited residents to place their own remembrance crosses in one of these sites. The Council was delighted when Mr Dickett, of Billington Avenue, built and donated a Memorial tableau which we installed outside the office. On Remembrance Sunday 8th November and Armistice Day 11th November, we all stopped to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



# SCARECROW COMPETITION

As announced in the previous Newsletter, the Council introduced a scarecrow competition to liven up the village as we moved into the autumn. We were deliberately not prescriptive as to the style of scarecrows, preferring to leave this to the imagination of entrants. What an imagination. Entries included, amongst others, a Postman, Santa and his Elf; Boris and Donald debating across Hawkesmore Drive; a Gardener cutting the lawn; A Plumber; a Bride and Groom; Spongebob and Darth Vader. The Council Lengthsmen made a colleague to display outside the parish office and the Colwich in Bloom added a scarecrow to their community garden at the Little Haywood village hall.

Over the weekends of 5th/6th and 12th/13th September residents were invited to visit the scarecrows and then vote for their favourites. A list of entries was posted both on our Facebook page and in the parish noticeboards. We also included photographs of the individual scarecrows on our Facebook page.

We had a wonderful response from residents who took the time to visit and vote for their favourites and can announce that the results were:

<b>Cllr Barrie Birt Shield</b>	<b>Rank</b>
11 Covert Close, Gt H'wood	1
27 Marlborough Close, Gt H'wood	2
14 Green Close, Gt Haywood	3
4 Hazeldene, Main Road, Gt H'wood	4
23 Covert Close, Gt H'wood	5
18 Green Close, Gt H'wood	6
Butts Haven, Main Road, Gt H'wood	7
22 Covert Close, Gt H'wood	8
6 Green Close, Gt H'wood	9
7 Covert Close, Gt H'wood	10
15 Marlborough Close, Gt H'wood	11
57 Oldfields Crescent, Gt H'wood	12
54 Oldfields Crescent, Gt H'wood	13



<b>Cllr Amyas Stafford Northcote Shield</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Billington Avenue, Lt. H'wood	1
15 Priory Drive, Little H'wood	2
2 Kingscroft, Lt. H'wood	3
8 Hawkesmore Drive, Lt. H'wood	4
7 Hawkesmor Drive, Lt. H'wood	5
1 Convent Close, Lt. H'wood	6

6 Lavender Lodge, Main Rd, Colwich	7
2 Paget Close, Lt. H'wood	8
2 Chilwell Avenue, Lt. H'wood	9
30 Haywood Grange, Little H'wood	10
Chaselyn, Crossheads, Colwich	11
1 Bower Lane	12



**Congratulations to our winners and a big Thank You to everyone who entered. We raised £194 for Little Laura.**

During lockdown we arranged home deliveries of plastic free goods and a recycling collection point. The Coffee Mornings, cancelled during lockdown, resumed in July whilst our May and July 'Green Drinks' were held via Zoom. In

August we were fortunate to have a tour around the Allotments on Coley Lane and then in September we resumed in person meetings. Nigel Evans, Roots Larder plastic free shop, and Jennifer Woodyard, Stafford Litter Heroes, were our speakers.

We have changed our group name from Plastic Free Colwich and the Haywoods to better reflect our overall purpose e.g. how and where our food is grown and reducing the impact of the energy and transport we use and of the clothes we wear.



## HANDBALL STAR IN THE MAKING

Polly Farrow, who lives in Great Haywood, has successfully obtained a place as a regional academy handball performance athlete following a trial at Wolverhampton University at the beginning of October. Polly has played for Cannock Olympia Handball team for the past two years, and was offered the opportunity to attend a trial along with other under 17 girls from the Midlands region.

The trial, run by England Handball, was a tough session

where players were required to demonstrate excellence across a range of technical, tactical and physical competencies. The regional academy is the second stage of the England handball performance pathway and players selected show the potential to achieve excellence in the future. Polly will now benefit from additional performance training sessions, regional academy tournaments and the opportunity to apply for the national academy.





# Christmas Lights Competition

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
to Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Individual/Street\* Entry Form

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Contact Number: .....

Email: .....

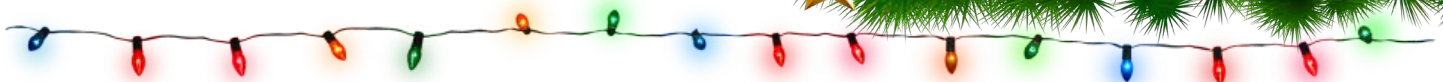
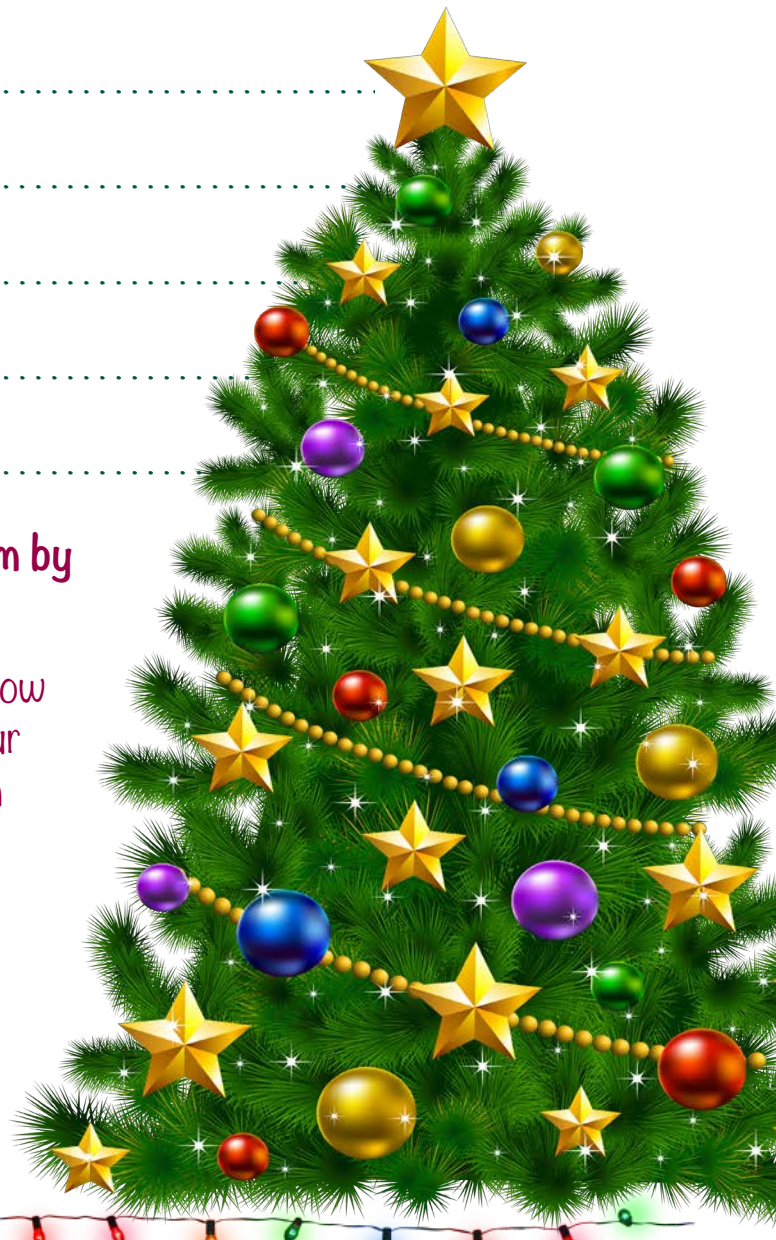
Signed: .....

**Please submit your completed entry form by  
Friday 4th December 2020.**

By signing this entry form, I/we agree to allow Colwich Parish Council to photograph my/our Christmas lights display and the presentation of any awards which may be used on the Council website, social media pages and for future advertising, including in the Council's quarterly newsletter.

I/we enclose a donation.

\* Delete as appropriate





## Terms and Conditions of Entry to Colwich Christmas Lights Competition 2020

This competition is open to any household and/or street within the civil Parish of Colwich.

To register please complete and return your entry form, along with the appropriate entry donation, to Colwich Parish Council, Parish Centre, St Marys Road, Little Haywood ST18 0TX by Friday 4th December 2020.

The non-refundable entry donation will be £5.00 for a household and a suitable amount per street, taking into account the number of households participating. Participating households, for street entries, should be indicated in the space below.

All entry monies will be donated to the Council's charity of the year. In 2020 this will be "Little Laura".

Judging, by residents, will be on the weekends of 12th/13th December and/or 19th/20th December 2020.

Winners will be announced during the Council's virtual meeting to be held on 13th January 2021.

All illuminations should be turned off by 11:00pm.

The winning trophies in the two categories will be made out to the name as on the entry form.

Entrants are reminded that it is their responsibility to comply with any and all safety matters and regulations relating to electrical fittings. The Council accepts no liability. If in any doubt, please contact a registered electrician.

All entries must be visible from the Highway. Residents will be asked not to enter the curtilage of properties.

Displays may be a combination of lights and decorations, with the proviso that these will need to be visible at night.

The security of displays remains the responsibility of entrants. The Council accepts no liability.

Colwich Parish Council accepts no liability or responsibility for any damage, injury or theft which may occur as a result of entry to this Christmas Lights competition.

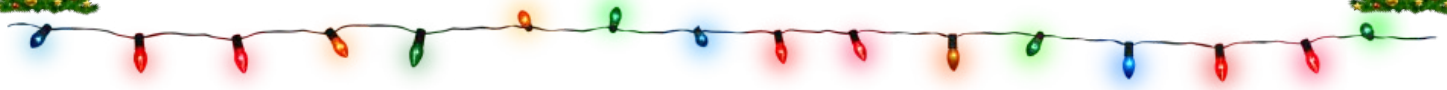
Colwich Parish Council accepts no liability or responsibility for any actions, incidents or injuries that occur at or near the property relating to entry in this Christmas Lights competition.

By entering the Christmas Lights competition entrants are giving Colwich Parish Council express permission to publicise their name, address and photographs in association with the event in any reasonable manner it sees fit.

The Council's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Properties within ..... (enter name of street)  
included in this entry are numbers .....

.....  
.....  
.....





# Look for a light

We would like everyone in the community to be part of our **Look for a Light** project

Make and design your very own lanterns and help us to light the way for our local communities on a special lantern spotting walk on

**Saturday 12th December**  
**6.30pm - 8pm**

For more detail please go to our Facebook page

**f** **Look for a light**



# HELPHAYWOODS

During the lockdown period in the spring, a group of local people, coordinated by Anne-Marie and Colin Rattray, came together to offer assistance to the those who were shielding or isolating. The group collected shopping and prescriptions as well as offering a friendly ear. The Parish Council offered to cover the travel costs of these volunteers. Instead they asked that an equivalent amount be donated, in their name, to Rugeley Food Bank. In total the Council donated £295.85.

As we have now entered the second lockdown, and looking forward to the new normal, the group is considering a more formal Good Neighbour Scheme. Please find enclosed a questionnaire to gauge support for such a scheme both for potential users and volunteers.

The group are also looking for us all to support the Staffordshire "Look for a light" project. Further details see over.



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**Good Neighbour  
Scheme**

## Helphaywoods – Good Neighbour Assessment Questionnaire

Are there any small jobs or tasks that you struggle to do? Would you like to chat to someone on a regular basis? Is there anything a local volunteer could help with? A Good Neighbour Scheme could help you with small things like collecting shopping, being a friendly ear or helping you fill in forms. Although it can be difficult to ask for help sometimes this Scheme would be all about matching you with a volunteer who can support you.

Maybe you don't need help yourself but would like to volunteer? All of our volunteers would be supported to do their role and we would be interested in hearing from anyone new. Anyone can apply even if you only have a little time to give.

We would be happy to hear from you and ask that you complete this form if:

**1) You may want to use the Scheme OR 2) You want to volunteer your time**

### 1. WOULD YOU BE USING THE SCHEME?

- Please let us know in what areas you might need help:
- Someone to talk to
- Shopping help
- Prescription collection
- Help with form filling or letter writing
- Small household DIY tasks like changing lightbulbs or hanging curtains
- Gardening tasks
- Walking dogs or other pet care
- Other (please state):

### 2. DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE SCHEME?

- Please let us know in what areas you are interested in?
- Someone to talk to
- Shopping help
- Prescription collection
- Help with form filling or letter writing
- Small household DIY tasks like changing lightbulbs or hanging curtains
- Gardening tasks
- Walking dogs or other pet care
- Other (please state):

Can you be part of a rota answering phone calls? YES/ NO

YOUR DETAILS:

Name: .....Phone .....

Address: .....

email: .....

*Thank you to return this form either via email to [helphaywoods@gmail.com](mailto:helphaywoods@gmail.com)  
or the Parish Office St. Mary's Road, Little Haywood, Staffordshire, ST18 0TX*





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello and I hope that this finds you all well.

I have watched our community over the last few months, firstly coping with the ups and downs of Covid-19 enforced lockdown followed by the relaxation of the rules to help us return to normal life. The response of those at work, working from home, families and friends trying to reconnect and how different people have responded.

I am reminded of a story that I heard on the radio. It goes like this:

An old lady was weeding in her front garden. A stranger walked by and stopped to talk to her.

"Hello" he said. "I wonder if you can help me."

"I will if I can" she answered.

"Well, I am thinking of moving to this village. What are the people who live here like?"

"What are the people like where you live now?" she asked.

"Oh, the people where I live now are not nice. They are not friendly, not helpful and very selfish." He told her.

"You will find that the people here are the same." She told him. He thanked her and went on his way.

As a community, we have had our troubles with vandalism and anti-social behaviour. However, we have had many bright spots of neighbours helping neighbours, people supporting people and acts of kindness and generosity that make me proud to live in this community.

Many of us have found strengths and trials that we did not anticipate. As we look to 2021 will you consider what you can do for your community? We have an abundance of opportunities in the Parish from the WI to Colwich in Bloom, Youth groups and of course serving on the Parish Council.

Ask not what your community can do for you, ask what you can do for your community. **Apologies to J F Kennedy.**

## COLWICH PARISH IN BLOOM

The origins of our group date back to 1992, when the Parish Council requested a small group of residents to form a committee to work for entry in the 1993 Community Council of Staffordshire's Best Kept Village (BKV) Competition. We continued to enter this competition until 2016, actually winning it in 1996 the same year we first entered the Heart of England in Bloom. We won Gold Awards from Heart of England in Bloom in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

As we are a very small group, we decided, in 2018, that entering the BKV competition



was simply too much work for us and to concentrate, in future, on the In Bloom competition, hence the change of name.

2020 has been a year of mixed fortunes for us. Earlier in the year, our good friend and colleague Amyas Stafford Northcote passed away. Amyas had been our Chair since 1997 and is sadly missed. In July we held a remembrance ceremony to commemorate his service to our group, planting a flowering cherry tree in Trent Square, Great Haywood as a permanent memorial to him.

We are grateful to the Parish Council who have sponsored most of our horticultural requirements from Roseacre Nurseries. In return we hope to help the Council to continue with their River of Flowers initiative starting with the planting of 2000 daffodil bulbs at both A51 entrances to the villages.

To support the Keep Britain Tidy's Great British September Clean promotion, we joined forces with the Plastic Free Colwich and Haywoods group to hold a grand litter

## VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

We are looking for people with a can-do positive attitude, who enjoy working as part of a team, to join us to help keep our parish a great place to live.

Councillors are ordinary residents from the community who give up their time, on a voluntary basis, to try and make a difference.

Local Government is very different from other walks of life and so we would expect you to want to undertake training, in various aspects of the role, which will be funded by the Council.

The Council employs two qualified clerks who are ready to support you in your role.

You should be comfortable in working electronically. A Council email account will be opened for you and all Council business should be conducted through this account.

All meetings will be held remotely, using MTeams, until at least May 2021

Expressions of interest are welcomed from anyone over 18 years old who either lives or works in the parish. Our parish boundary stretches from Farley in the north to Bower Lane in the south, Moreton in the east to Shugborough in the west.

**Revd Mr Michael Lennon, PSLCC, Parish Clerk**

for more information and an application pack on

01889 882665 or 07378 145397

[clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk)

picking exercise and will hold regular litter picking throughout the villages. Most of Great Haywood has been covered but we do need more volunteers for Little Haywood and Colwich.

Recent activities include the Parish Council's Lengthmen's refurbishment of our mosaic village signs in Great Haywood and Colwich. Also, we have purchased a new noticeboard for siting outside the Parish Council's offices in Little Haywood.

Finally, several new volunteers have joined us recently which will enable us to continue and expand our work for the benefit of the community next year and beyond.



# Floods and Drains

Floods have featured large in our villages this year and continue to cause concerns. Flooding is nothing new in the Haywoods and there are many photographs showing some spectacular ones over the years.

Surface water, naturally, drains from the hills into the village centres of both Great and Little Haywood. An increase over the years in paved roads, drives and parking areas and a drainage system that has its origins many years ago, and some of the reasons for the flooding become more obvious. Added to this is the frequency of the deluges in recent years which have become a regular occurrence with sudden and heavy downpours taking place several times a year and the drainage system is unable to cope. Whatever the reasons, the question remains: 'what is to be done about it?'

Regular flooding of people's homes is not acceptable. The responsibility for the provision and maintenance of an efficient surface drainage system lies firmly with

the County Council. Furthermore, road sweeping, not least to clear fallen leaves, lies with the Borough Council. However, both the County Borough Councils are short of money and looking at ways to economize. Services have been prioritised, with some cut down to a minimum, as their ability to raise Council Tax is capped at 3% per year. The Parish Council were informed in 2019 that the County Council would be reducing the frequency that drains are cleared and gullies emptied meaning our gullies will be cleansed once every 2-3 years.

Whilst emphasizing that the maintenance of these gullies and drains remains the responsibility of the County Council, there are options available to the Parish Council to allocate some of our budget to make up for the shortfall in services. The Parish Council, for instance, commissioned Burntwood Group, at a cost of £4,800 +VAT, to clear all the gullies within the Parish. This work began in mid-March and was completed in May, after the first Lockdown. Other nearby Parish Councils have been unable to find these resources

and so remain solely on the Highways schedule.

Recently, the Council's Lengthsmen have emptied a number of gullies on Back Lane, Little Haywood, by hand, as approaches to County Highways resulted in no action. Previously, they have hand cleared other gullies, for instance on Meadow Lane which fill up with silt washing down Coley Lane. Obviously, their abilities are limited by the equipment and time that they have available to them and, without significant investment, would not be in a position to empty all the gullies in the Parish.

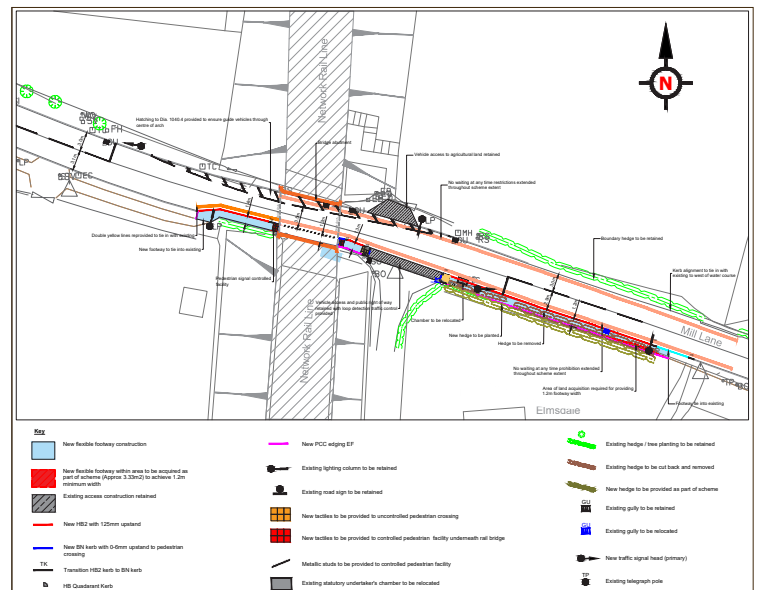
The ever-increasing financial restraints on the Borough and County Councils raise a significant issue for the Parish Council and the opinion of the villagers would be appreciated. Statutory responsibility remains with the County and/or the Borough Council. However, the Parish may undertake certain tasks, e.g. clearing leaves, emptying gullies and grids, to make up for the shortfall in services. Are you happy for the precept, the Parish Council's element of the Council Tax charge, to be spent in this way? If yes, what tasks would you like us to take on?

## MILL LANE

Over recent years the Parish Council has been allocating funds, within its budget, to help finance traffic improvements along Mill Lane, Great Haywood. We have held numerous discussions with County Highways officials facilitated by Councillor John Francis, our local County Councillor, to agree the best solution to this issue.

Mill Lane is a very busy through road for traffic travelling between Stafford into and through the village, not least onward travel to the industrial estates at Hixon. Mill Lane, naturally, was one of the sites chosen by the Community Speed Watch group as studies showed that vehicles were consistently and persistently exceeding the speed limit. Coupled with the number and speed of vehicles is the lack of safe pedestrian access up to and under the railway bridge. The Council considered a pedestrian tunnel through the railway embankment but this was not supported by Network Rail.

County Highways' proposal, received over the summer, is to reinstate a footpath leading up to the bridge, a protected pathway under the bridge and a short section of new pathway joining up with the pavement opposite Canalside. This pathway will be supported by the installation of traffic lights either



side of the bridge. Moreover, they propose extending the 30mph zone by 200 metres, which will take it beyond the River, and are looking at the possibility of introducing a 40mph zone beyond this towards Hoomill Lane/Ingestre Park Road junction. After a number of false starts it is now envisaged that works will commence in spring 2021.



**Chairman:** Wendy Wells  
**Clerk:** Michael Lennon

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