

Chairman's Report

This report will follow the agenda format used at our meetings

We started the year with only 6 members after the retirement of Sir Francis Graham-Smith

Our efforts to find a replacement have not been successful

Though we were able to persuade Matt Wood to join the council on a short-term basis to help with our objection to the planning applications

Councilor Janet Bayley has decided to stand down at the next election

The five remaining councilors agreed to continue and have been re-elected (un-opposed)

The vacancies have been circulated and we will be able to co-opt any candidates who might be interested

There were seven meetings with 88% attendance by councilors and 72% from our Ward Councilor

When ever possible the PCSO officer attends and makes a report on the current situation and any areas of concern

Road Safety

The speed limit on Andertons Lane and Church Lane is still being ignored by cyclists and motorists

A three year saga surrounding the installation of a Speed Indicator Device on Chelford Road
Has now been refused on “Road Safety Grounds”
Being reviewed 15th May

The A537 is a “dangerous road” and the increased traffic volumes excessive speeds and accidents are cause for concern

This has been raised with the CEC portfolio holder who would not engage until after the Local Transport Plan was published

Surprisingly the A537 is not even mentioned

With three housing developments now in progress and the lack of maintenance or an alternative route

This is now considered to be a major area for action from CEC

Discussions on a Community Speed Watch with the PCSO are in progress

Local Plan

The Planning Applications for residential development in Henbury (17/4277M) along with (17/4034M -18/0294M) just beyond the parish boundary

Have now been passed by the CEC Strategic Planning Committee

A very comprehensive and detailed objection to the applications and shared with Macclesfield Green Belt and other interested parties failed to persuade the committee

We explored the possibility of a Judicial Review and the legal opinion was that “no reasons could be found to support a challenge”

The need for development is not questioned

Though with adequate infrastructure, health and education only being available after S106 contributions become available

The out come is the deterioration of lifestyle and not the economic re-generation of the area

The legacy of the politically changed policy leaves Henbury open to even more development and possibly ceasing to be outside the municipal part of Maccelsfield

Footpaths

The condition and maintenance of the footpaths is always discussed and we make strong representations to the PROW team

It seems that the main issue is the lack of budget / funding within CEC

We will always strive to keep them clear and fit for use

Precept

The precept for 2019/20 has been agreed at £13900

This was discussed at length and the decision to increase £1900 (15.83%) (£7per house)(13.46p per month) was our wish to maintain the parish to the best possible standard as a consequence of the reduction of the level of services from CEC

The Parish Council has always supported the Milenium Green and we are happy to increase our contribution to £1000

The major funding for the diffibrulator and cabinet was an expense that was not in the previous years budget so it required extra funding

Finance

A separate financial report and budget will be following later

Planning Applications

There has been an increase in the number of applications most of which are for re-modeling property or minor alterations

Millenium Green

The council appreciates that support for the Green is a benefit to the village

It continues to mature and provides an amenity to the area

We are always available if certain projects needed extra contributions

Village Housekeeping

Grass cutting by a local contractor will continue

The three bus shelters are scheduled for maintenance

Requests to CEC Highways for remedial and preventative action are only being scheduled through a complaint number and patching policy

To maintain and keep the village character we need to take responsibility because CEC no longer supports the requirements

We support and appreciate the volunteers on the “village clean up” organized by the Henbury Society

Environmental Project

Simon Browne continues with the project and support from volunteers is appreciated

We have agreed to continue financing the project

Web Site

The web site is providing a very useful inter-active way to inform and communicate

It delivers on the “Transparency Code” requirements that helped fund it

There is a far greater potential and will improve with more participation from residents

Thank you to the volunteers who maintain a high standard

Broadband Connection

The connection to the Church Hall is provided by the Parish Council

The speed is at the minimum level for “superfast” and the majority of properties are 1000metres from the cabinet

Though some are now receiving the highest speeds equivalent to “fibre to the property”

The new development on Rough Heys Farm will have (FTTP) from a new cable and node with excess capacity

Over 90 responses to our request for improved speeds have been recorded and passed on to the service provider

We are in negotiations with “Openreach” about the prospects of connecting to this new facility

Or how an improvement in speed can be delivered

We are treating this as a priority as we feel that the opportunity could be over-looked

Conclusion

Anne Common our Clerk / RFO who also looks after the Web Site has been instrumental in bringing our administration to a very high standard

I would like to record our appreciation

Ward Councilor Lesley Smetham has been actively involved and shared our frustrations at the outcome of CEC policy decisions and deteriorating levels of service

The quality and commitment of your councilors make it rewarding to be the chairman

Knowing that they are prepared to continue is a positive sign