

APPENDIX 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I wish to welcome :

Dan Hurcomb – Our local councillor who provided both the wine and glasses .

Alison Wilkes from the Severn Valley Rivers Trust

On behalf of Graham Shaw, chairman of the Orleton Recreation Association, may I offer his apologies for not being able to join us tonight to provide an update on their work.

Last, and by no means least Barbara Gittings and Carole Mitchell who kindly volunteered to organise the refreshments you have all enjoyed this evening.

A year of some stability with only a change of Chairman. My thanks must go to David Lane who gently introduced me to this role. I won't forget this in a hurry!

The same calmness has enabled the PC to commence community wide projects as well as minor procedural policy reforms.

In particular the PC has organised the following:

Land Drainage Group : Footpaths Volunteer Group : Adopt a Footpath Scheme

Significantly updated the PC Website, providing a current perspective on PC goings on; together with a significant archive of PC history.

Despite all these positive actions there are still significant challenges.

Flooding.

The village suffers severe flooding in time of heavy rainfall. This invariably significantly affects access both within and exiting the village. David Lane will be providing you with a talk to provide further details of a flood alleviation scheme to try and reduce flooding in the village. On this subject I must mention that Orleton has been selected – and is the first village in the country to carry out a project to enable volunteers to close Millbrook Way should it become impassible to traffic. This will supersede the authority normally given by Balfour Beattie.

School Crossing.

Despite the PC requesting a pedestrian crossing at the School in Kings Road this was refused by Hereford Council due to our 'low lighting' policy. Given the danger to children the PC has manged, with the help of Dan Hurcomb and officers at Hereford Council, to formulate a traffic calming scheme. Expect various road changes, including early warnings on entry to Kings Riad and Kitchen Hill Road together with chicanes to slow traffic near the school. More details are available on the PC website. One of the benefits of this project is the likelihood of some road resurfacing before the project goes ahead.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Revision has been delayed due to Hereford Council's changes to their Local Plan which designates Orleton as a Rural Hub with Environmental Constraints whilst Richards Castle is

regarded as a rural community. The PC decided to disengage with Richards Castle and you will have seen yellow notices advising you of this. Full details are available on the PC website.

Successes during the last year include:

Defibrillators. An additional defibrillator was obtained, courtesy of Shropshire Homes who constructed the Captain's Meadow development, and with the kind approval of the Boot Inn; it has been located there. This brings to the total in the village of three which should ensure best accessibility in the event of an emergency.

Street Signs. You may have noticed the street signs being refurbished. This is an ongoing project to save these beautiful cast iron signs so they can take pride of place in our village.

War Memorial. The village war memorial was refurbished last year in preparation for the annual remembrance day in November.

Benches. The PC, with the help of 'Welcome to our future fund' managed to purchase a new bench. This was placed in Halletts Well with the bench there being placed in Tunnel Lane. The bench there being in a poor state of repair.

Brimfield Brook. With the help of the Land Drainage Volunteers the brook flowing through the village is regularly cleared of vegetation and silt deposits. This has enabled to ensure higher flow rates with the brook becoming almost self-cleaning of deposits.

Dog Bins. The PC has added an additional bin in the Halletts Well Area and increased collections.

Speed Indication Devices. The PC has managed to obtain a grant from West Mercia Police to facilitate the purchase of new SIDS. Expect these to be installed in the village soon. You have been warned!

I hope this has given you all an indication of our activities over the last year.

There are still yet more challenges ahead, not the least of which is trying to keep Hereford Council aware of our issues and providing solutions in the areas of responsibility. This will not be easy given the acute shortage of money available.

Full details of what the PC does, its communications and future plans can be found on our website.

Finally, with great regret, I have to mention our clerk Olena Hayward will be leaving us for pastures new at the end of May. She has been an inspiration and her work has significantly contributed to make this Parish Council what it is today.

Colin Mitchell
Chairman
Orleton Parish Council
9th May 2024
