



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2022

Report on the activities of the Parish Council over the past 12 months

- The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Zoom on April 21st 2021.
- Full Council Meetings were held on 18th May 2021, 6th July 2021, 7th September 2021, 2nd November 2021, 11th January 2022 and 1st March 2022.
- Cllr Susan Jones was elected Chair and Cllr Malcolm Corrie was elected Vice-Chair at the May meeting.
- An Extraordinary Council Meeting was held on 3rd June 2021
- Cllr Susan Jones attended and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at the Shropshire Council's Southern Planning Committee meetings on 15th June 2021 and September 20th 2021.
- Cllr Mark Thorn attended and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at the Shropshire Council's Southern Planning Committee meeting on August 10th 2021.
- County Councillor Claire Wild attended all our full Council Meetings.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Decisions in the Parish

The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee in planning matters within the Parish. The Parish Council gives comments on all planning applications and the comments are taken into account in any decision making. The final decision is taken by the Planning officer or the Planning Committee at Shropshire Council.

For details of all planning decisions and applications please visit the Shropshire Council Planning Portal at: www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning and view the

planning register or visit the Planning Tracker on our Parish Council website at [:www.leightonanddeatonconstantineparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.leightonanddeatonconstantineparishcouncil.org.uk)

Development of the former Ironbridge Power Station

Two planning applications have been submitted by Harworth Plc to Shropshire Council. One is for sand and gravel extraction and one for outline planning for up to 1000 homes on the former Ironbridge Power Station site.

Applications and supporting documents plus Parish Council responses can be found on the Shropshire Council Planning Portal.(see above).

We have major concerns as a Parish about the possible impact that up to 1000 homes on the former Ironbridge Power Station site will have on traffic within our Parish. Cllr Thorn and myself spoke at the Shropshire Council Southern Planning Committee meetings to bring attention to the traffic problems we have already in Leighton before adding traffic from up to 1000 homes. Thanks to the hard work County Councillor Claire Wild has put in on our behalf, there is now a legal agreement from Harwoth Plc to implement Traffic Calming Measures in the village of Leighton. These, potentially, will consist of ‘build-outs’ at either end of the village. We do not have all the detailed plans for these yet but as soon as we do we will put them on our website. The trigger time for implementation of the Traffic Calming measures has also been reduced from occupation of 180th home to that of the 50th home.

Full details of the Planning Permission are yet to be published.

Regarding the Sand and Gravel extraction work, there is a legal agreement that HGV vehicles will not use the B4380. Good news for our Parish.

A Liaison group is to be set up consisting of Shropshire Council officers, Parish Councils, Harworth Plc and County Councillor Claire Wild, to look at the impact of the development on traffic all along the B4380 going forward.

Highways

The Parish Council had several complaints about the vision at junctions such as the Cressage Crossroads and Bennetts Lane junction with the B4380. The Council decided to take on extra grass cutting at these dangerous junctions from Parish funds. Residents were asked to give opinions on whether this was

a good use of Parish money. We are pleased to say we had very positive feedback and so we are going to continue with the extra grass cuts this coming season.

Complaints have also been received about the maintenance of other areas within the Parish and in particular, Leighton village. We have decided to do extra grass cutting out of Parish funds this year to try and tidy up the village as it does help with road safety. We cannot take on every grass verge but we hope you will see an improvement.

We have a list of Highways issues that need attention and will carry on pushing Shropshire Council Highways department to get them completed.

Cllr Bain has asked to look at suitable traffic calming measures for Garmston. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to have a 30mph speed limit implemented, however, there are other measures, such as signage, that we will be looking in to this year.

Litter Picking

Councillors are regularly out litter picking, however, it is a continuing problem particularly along the B4380 and around the pull-ins overlooking the Meanders. Fly tipping is also a big problem here which is why Shropshire Council placed bollards in the layby by the woods to see if this reduces the problem. We will see what the outcome is.

Financial

The Council has increased the Precept this year 2022-2023 to £8,900 . This is a rise of 85p / month for a Band D property. We are using this extra money to pay for the extra grass cutting within the Parish.

Plant a tree for the Jubilee

On Sunday 6th February ,70 years to the day that the Queen ascended to the throne, we planted a Liquid Amber tree in the triangle in Leighton as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative. Every tree planted in this initiative is marked on a map as a lasting legacy of the Queen's outstanding reign.

Our guest of honour, John MacLean BEM, from Leighton, kindly helped plant our tree for us. We celebrated with a cup of coffee at 'The Mill' afterwards. A lovely event .

All are welcome to take part in the Green Canopy initiative. Anyone can plant a tree in their garden and mark its position on the QGC map. It is a lovely thing to do and has a really sustainable benefit for the environment. Please see website for details: www.queensgreencanopy.org



Finally, I would like to thank all our 7 councillors who give their time freely for our Parish, Parish Clerk Lorna Pardoe, for all her hard work during the year, County councillor Claire Wild, for her commitment and hard work helping with any issues in our Parish. Your efforts are much appreciated. Thank you.

Sue Jones