



HALLOW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 23RD 2022

This report offers an outline of our main activities this last year (May 2021-May 2022).

We have:

- Commented on a great many planning applications including on Greenhill Lane 55 houses, and as part of this we have taken professional advice and liaised closely with residents. We continue to monitor the progress of the South Worcestershire Development Plan review and its likely impact on Hallow.
- We also comment on a range of other planning matters, including extensions, changes of use and so forth. In doing so we are mindful of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Design Code, planning guidance, and our own NDP policies.
- We have looked after, and where possible improved, our various assets including
 - new litter bins
 - repairs and replacement of play equipment
 - new football posts and line marker
 - Defibrillator at the Parish Hall
 - working with a local voluntary group to maintain the Old Churchyard and commissioned professional advice on a longer-term planting scheme
 - installed CCTV for the protection of the hall, scout hut, and car park
 - granted money to the Scouts to help with the refurbishment and granted a 25-year lease
 - used grant money to purchase Hallow Allotments, and to begin the process of installing water on site
 - assisted Hallow School to purchase safeguarding books for children
 - supported the Jubilee arrangements and fete
 - improved Hollybank and undertaken some clearance work compliant with the Worcestershire Wildlife assessment report and advice
 - assisted with the planting of the Queen's Jubilee Tree
 - attempted to remove moles and rabbits from playing field with limited success
 - completed our tree pruning across the village in order to improve safety issues, and access to PROWS, and around the playing field
 - begun PROW improvement and clearance
 - identified a number of kissing gates and other gates that present access challenges to change them for more accessible gate types
 - purchased a new VAS speeding alert system and requested WCC speeding data to ensure we locate it in best possible sites.
- Where possible we have used either Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy grants to achieve our improvements.
- We have commissioned architectural advice re the Pavilion, and we are pursuing a 25-year lease for the Cricket Club-this will be the main 2023 project.

- We are seeking views on the use of, and location of, the BT phone box.
- Our financial position is sound, and our accounts have been completed for 2021-22 and will go to for external audit shortly. We reluctantly raised the precept in anticipation of increased costs for 2022-23, in line with the MHDC increase of 3.8%.

Thank you to all those groups who have supported the Parish Council's work this last year. So much is only achieved through this collaborative work, and we appreciate what you do! We are also grateful to our key suppliers who do so much around the parish, particularly to keep things looking nice and enabling groups to use our key assets like the playing field, the Green, and Hollybank. John Gwilliam deserves a huge thank you for his major contribution to the tidiness and welcoming atmosphere at the playing field and play area.

I would also like to express my personal thanks to my fellow councillors who work really hard behind the scenes and work respectfully together to get things done. Finally, my thanks to our Clerk Mrs Lynne Ambury who has improved our work tremendously since her appointment.

Hazel Kemshall

Parish Chair

hallowparishcouncil@gmail.com