

# Hallow Parish Council: Chair's Report

Annual Parish Meeting  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023.

Hazel Kemshall



# Overview of the last year



- Finances are in good shape and the precept remained the same, but because spread over more households the individual burden fell by -1.4%
- We commented on a great many planning applications including a larger application for 40 homes
- We continued to manage our land assets, informed by assessments and advice from Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy
- We repaired the car park, and other general maintenance around the parish
- We progressed the pavilion planning application and received positive pre-application feedback from MHDC and we are progressing to full application.
- Water to the allotments (HOORAY)!

# We supported the following events and organisations

- Jubilee event and tree planting
- Coronation picnic and tree planting
- Maypole dancing and Hallow School
- Car boots where weather permitted
- Sporting activities Hallow Playing Field
- Scouts



# The Coronation Tree: An Oak Fit for a King



# Old Churchyard initiative for biodiversity Joining the Natural Networks Programme



# Aims of project



We are 1 of 170 projects across Worcestershire.



Projects aim to:

- Improve biodiversity and nature
- Help to combat climate change
- Improve flora, fauna, habitat
- Usually means “Relaxed Management”
- “Untidy” habitats are richer habitats!



# Our small project....



We have:

- Put up nest boxes, bat boxes, insect boxes, hedgehog house
- Planted 2,000 snowdrops and 1300 bluebells
- 200 foxgloves, natural primroses, cornus, shrubs, anemones, lily of the valley
- We are growing red campion for later planting
- ALL DONE BY VOLUNTEERS!
- These small things have contributed to 25,500 trees across Worcestershire, and 71,000 of bulbs across the County.
- IT ALL ADDS UP!





Volunteers at Work!





# Future initiative: Hollybank

Subject to grant funding...

- Continue “relaxed management” of Hollybank
- Improve biodiversity
- Especially for particular species, e.g. butterflies
- A “Help Hallow Day” in October to plant bulbs and plants.





## Second major initiative: Public Rights of Way (PROWS)

- A Survey carried out by Paul Clarke and Anne Holmes
- Identifying access barriers and what we can change
- Getting the evidence for WCC and for us to seek grants
- Identifying 3 main walks of differing lengths and challenges AND
- Producing walk leaflets for use, if you are new to the village, or just want a reminder and a motivator to get out there!
- Display boards showing their work and the leaflets for comment and ideas. PLEASE HAVE A LOOK!



# Speeding



- Data from WCC monitoring shows limited problem on Main Road-so smiley VAS is working to some extent!
- Data shows problem in Moseley Road- we have purchased a further VAS with grant from our County Cllr
- We are looking at other things we can do through a “Task and Finish Speed Group” starting shortly, including residents who have dealt with the issue before or who have practical ideas to contribute
- We have joined “20 is Plenty”



# Revision to Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)



- Revision to keep it relevant and fresh, and to gain the maximum benefit
- It is the only way to gain village input on housing numbers, location and type (Greenhill Lane extension was the chosen location of the village)
- Two major changes only: Slight amendment to the Settlement Boundary; and a First Homes Policy for first time buyers, providing a discount on mixed sites.
- Formal consultation starts today, so please do comment!
- See the board display for more details and a comment form



# Display boards and Other Visitors



- We welcome Worcestershire RSPB, Nick Skelbeck and Team on the Hallow Fields Initiative and Nature Reserve. Please look at their display and chat to them.
- We welcome Hallow Tennis Club- please chat to them about the proposed improvements to courts and lighting.
- We welcome a visitor from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.
- Please look at our display boards for more information, chat to us, its what we are here for, AND THINK ABOUT BECOMING A COUNCILLOR..... AND NOW.....



Some really important THANK YOUs

To acknowledge, thank and  
celebrate those in Hallow who  
have helped the Parish Council  
and therefore the village this  
year.

