

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting – 2017/2018
Held Tuesday 1st May 2018

Chairman's Annual Report

Please note that the official Annual Report will be posted on the Parish Website

Cllr. Neil Thompson - Chairman, presented the annual report.

Communications

- The website has continued to be developed by Parish Clerk, Lindsey Worrall.
- The Parish Newsletter continues to go out quarterly to all 200 + dwellings in the Parish and via email to circa 180 "Friends of Eaton". Thanks to our team of distributors co-ordinated by Mary Wilson. The Newsletter is professionally printed with the cost shared between the Parish Council and the Village Hall. Editor, Phil Allcock has succeeded in chasing up the various contributors each quarter and is developing the publication into a truly quality product.
- Parish Publicity Officer Mike Wilson produces flyers etc for the Jessie Village Hall and Parish Council. To comply with the new Data Protection Act, coming into operation 23rd May, Mike has sent the relevant email to the circa 280 addresses who receive the information as Villagers or Friends of Eaton.
- SuperfastBroadband - Progress has been made this year with pushing Connecting Cheshire and BT Openreach to deliver upgrades to the Broadband network serving the village though we are still not where we want to be. Phase 1 has been delivered which enabled some households served by the Little Budworth exchange to access 'Superfast' speeds, but the remainder of the village still lags behind. The Parish Council therefore began to look at alternative options to supplement the BT work and a company called Voneus have started to look at the feasibility of providing wireless superfast broadband to the village. It is hoped that next year will see real progress with both fixed line Superfast broadband, with the continuation of Phases 2 and 3 of the upgrade work delivered by Connecting Cheshire and BT Openreach, along with Voneus' installation of a Wireless superfast broadband network (which will be dependent on agreements being struck with local households/landowners for sites to transmit the signal around the village).

Environment and Development

The Red Lion Site - Apex Construction began work in March and we can already see the houses coming up. There has been a lot of work done in the ground and its nice to see the site starting to take shape.

- This year saw the installation of an AED device on the outside wall of the Village Hall which was jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Village Hall, along with a grant from the British Heart Foundation. Just over 40 villagers received life saving CPR training delivered by local resident and Paramedic, Kathryn Telford using training equipment kindly provided free-of-charge by Jigsaw Medical Services.
- The initiative of co-ordinating hedge cutting for residents on busy roads was successfully repeated in 2017 and we will aim to deliver this service again in 2018.
- The curb to edge the village green to stop the grass being churned up by vehicles was unfortunately cancelled due to the extra rising cost of traffic control etc. It is hoped that this will be looked at again when there is a relaxation of cutbacks in CWaC Council funds.,
- Oulton Mill Picnic Area purchased from CWaC by the Parish Council in 2015 continues to be well maintained and no reports of feared mis-use in the evenings have been received. Due to other commitments, not as much of the planned development work has happened in 2017 but plans are afoot for more to be carried out this coming summer. A Tesco funded £1,000 project with the primary School entitled Bugs, Butterflies and Birds co-ordinated by

Mike Wilson Neil Thompson and teacher Miss Berry is due to start as soon as copse safety clearance has been done.

- The leaf collection on the village green was repeated on the first Saturday in December and again circa 30 volunteers turned out with refreshments supplied by the “Burgons”.
- Mary Wilson continues as “litter picker co-ordinator” and the Council would like to thank all volunteers
- The Telephone Box on the Green is well established now with resident John Freeman maintaining an information centre inside.

Road Safety for All

The Eaton Road Safety Working Group was disbanded recently as the Parish Council prefers to run these projects themselves. So the following projects continue:

- A vehicle activated sign has been purchased recently and this will be installed in the hedge-row at David Edge Garage. This will help slow traffic on Lower Lane which hopefully will assist with the extra traffic that will be generated at the school with its expansion.
- 20mph speed limits on Lower Lane, Edgewell Lane and Winterford Lane were installed but the next step of including Eaton Lane (in the village) the extra parts to make this a rectangle of safety are still an outstanding issue. Highways have this on their list,
- Traffic calming measures on Eaton Lane may still be helped due to the Red Lion site development. Apex, the developers, have worked with Highways to do a risk assessment of the entrance to this new 5 building site.
- The Cross: Again, accidents and near misses have occurred at this junction. The Working Group put forward a list of possible improvements which Highways have said that they will look at.

Youth and Social

- The annual Village Fun Day which ran from 2010 to 2016 may have a revival this coming September. The Parish Council & the Jessie Village Hall are proposing a celebration of the 10 years that the new Village Hall has been open with a special Village Fun Day on 2nd September. Mike & Mary Wilson who ran the event for the 6yrs have agreed to help run this Septembers special celebration.
- The youth club continues to be a great success with leader Julie O'Shea and her team involving more parents to accommodate the increased numbers (circa 40+ in the summer).
- The Play Zone and MUGA installed and opened October 2015 has settled down to be a popular and attractive part of our Village. A team of 52 helpers look after the inspection / maintenance of the facility with someone going down every day when on their duty week. A new notice board has been recently installed and some improvements to the equipment are due to be installed this summer.
- The Village Golf Day (another PC initiative) will happen again in 2018 on 18th August.

Finances

With increasing needs due to projects etc, the precept had been raised in previous years and it was therefore decided not to raise the precept in this financial year. The accounts are shown at the AGM which follows this meeting.

Help & Volunteers.

Over the past 5 or 6 years, the Parish Council have been pleased to arrange and promote projects etc which enhance the village. Youth Club, Play Zone; Picnic Area; Road Safety are all relatively new initiatives. However, they do entail quite a lot of work and an increasing need for volunteers. We are lucky & grateful that many do come forward but often it is the same people and the Council would like to see even more volunteers who perhaps have not been involved before. Contacting our Clerk Lindsey is the best way to start helping.