

Chairman's Report on 2020/2021

Looking back to mid-February 2020, the storms Ciara and Dennis appeared to be setting Council's focus for the first few months of 2020/2021. Council's response began in February 2020 but what was to follow slowed progress. The Covid19 pandemic and the spread of the Corona virus impacted Council's work for the year. Council had to change its way of working; on-line meetings were enabled in April and lasted twelve months. The Clerk had already tended his resignation and left Council in May 2020. Our grateful thanks go to Michael Pettingale for his efforts throughout his employment, especially the initial three 3 months of the pandemic. We wish him well in his future career.



Recruiting during a pandemic was challenging and my thanks go to the Personnel Committee for their hard work in recruiting a new Clerk. Mrs Kay Lear was appointed Clerk in July. We welcome her aboard and thank her for her enthusiastic start, picking up the reins remotely would not have been easy.

Council life settled into its new "norm" and continued to respond to the Borough Council's planning applications. It was gratifying to have parishioners join the meetings and assist Council in this function. Decisions made by the Borough Council demonstrate that the comments received were "heard" and evidence the Neighbourhood Development Plan playing its role.

The flooding response was kick started and gradually third-party engagement grew. Council has been praised by the Environment Agency for how much has been achieved in a short period of time. Having addressed the water flow through the village the Environment Agency is now talking to landowners about management of the flow into the village. Thanks are due to the Barton Flood Management Group for their input. Council is grateful to the County Council and Environment Agency for their responses and continues the dialogues.

Council's thanks go to all who stepped up in the Community to deliver food, prescriptions and generally "look out for" their neighbours. Some are known to Council, many are not, but you and those you supported know who you are – Thank You

Our thanks are also due to the volunteers who have been supporting Council in its safety campaigns. Too many to mention by name but Council thanks every single one of you.

the volunteers who routinely ensure that our three defibrillators remain ready for use

the Speed watch volunteers who trained in Summer 2020 but could not work until May 2021

the current volunteers who move the two Speed Indicator Signs (acquired Spring 2021). Without the ability to move them around the designated sites their efficacy cannot be maximised. The next stage is to establish a regular programme of moving the devices. Please contact the Clerk if you can help spread the workload.

The planning for the Branston Locks development included some funding (to be released when 350 houses are occupied) for implementing a traffic management scheme in Tatenhill village. Council has commenced thinking about how to obtain best value from this. It is confident that residents will want their say too.

Appointed to the Office of Chairman in August 2021, my personal thanks go to Cllr Helena Pointer for her leadership as the pandemic commenced. I also wish to thank all the Councillors for their support and understanding as I picked up the reins. Meaningful Community Engagement during a pandemic is hard. The recent announcement to delay the final step of the Government's Road Map has provided parishioners with more thinking time. What are YOUR priorities?

Please watch for the Community Engagement events for your input into the Council's plans. The Annual Parish meeting was held to defer, until a future date, a meeting which can be attended by as many residents as possible. That will be an opportunity to air your views on life in the Parish and help Council to set its priorities for the future.

Finally, and with some personal sadness, Council has to join with the All-Saints Primary school community in saying a fond farewell to Charlene Gethin prepares to leave after over fourteen years as the now Executive Head Teacher. Her presence has been inspirational to a generation of children; her enthusiasm for education and Forest Family school is infectious and her generosity with her time has been appreciated by Council. We wish her well as she moves to her new role with the Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust and say one final "Thank You!"

Cllr Emma Coleman