

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is held every year and it is a meeting of the residents, rather than a Parish Council Meeting and it gives them an opportunity to meet with their Councillors and to raise anything of concern or interest that we should be aware of.

You will be pleased to know that throughout the past 12 months the parish council has been able to maintain all its statutory requirements and I would like to share with our residents, my sincere thanks to our clerk Mrs Katrina Baker for her dedication to ensuring that we have dispensed and achieved all of our duties and continue to progress those matters that are outstanding.

I would like to say thank you to all my fellow Councillors for their support during this term and welcome everyone back following the uncontested election on the 4th May and welcome Councillor Michelle Wilson as our newest member.

The council has continued to conduct its routine meetings and committees to ensure the maintenance of people's interests have been supported through planning consultations, appeals and the normal accountability of expenditure in the parish.

As residents, you will be aware that the installation of the moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID) locations has been completed with the financial support of the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner through the road safety initiative schemes fund and the post installation sockets by Telford & Wrekin Council Highway's department. Residents will see the SID being moved around on a 3- 4-week rotational basis at the 6 locations in the village. The SID will record the number and speed of vehicles over a 24-hour period at these various locations and this data will then be used to make informed decisions about traffic management issues and aid to address driver behaviour occurring on our streets.

The parish still has Community Speed Watch volunteers, and I would like to pass my thanks on to those people engaged in the supplementary monitoring of traffic at the other locations around the village away from where the SID has been sited and their contribution to road safety in our community.

The parish council continue to work in conjunction with the local neighbourhood policing team on "quality of life" matters of concern to residents and support them in crime prevention newsletters and encourage residents to contact the police when they witness things occurring.

There are other things that occur in the parish where residents help with the maintenance of road verges and other areas around the village and other that are engaged in the community garden at the rear of the Pavilion on the Recreation Grounds off Shrewsbury Road. It may interest people to be aware that there have been some newly planted fruit trees and a wild flower meadow sown between the Pavilion and the houses adjoining the car parking area.

I would like to mention Councillor Gwyn Jones as our representative on the Helicopter Liaison Group for keeping us abreast of developments in this area and when needed making representation to parties with regards to training flights in our locality.

I would particularly, like to thank Councillors Bentley and Burrell for their efforts with Telford & Wrekin Council for the introduction of the 103 bus service for the village. This service travels from Newport to Wellington, throughout the day enabling people to get to conduct their business for appointments or further afield via the train to Shrewsbury for other services. We appreciate this bus service comes with only a two year contract with 'Chaserider' and this service will be subject to a viability review, which will evaluate whether its provision will be continued, so I would ask all residents to use the 103 service as often as possible to ensure we keep this facility.

The Parish Council has been engaged with two major planning applications throughout the year with particular focus on those around the Lion housing development and 'Egremont House' conservation area planning application that went to appeal on the 22nd February 2023. We are pleased to see that the Secretary of State listened to community representations and on the 27th April 2023 made the decision to dismiss the appeal for the seven properties at Egremont House which is beneficial by way of protecting our conservation area too. We also acknowledge the approved development of 24 new homes on the paddock to the rear of the Lion public house by Upper Langley Homes who also own the Lion public house.

I was particularly pleased to see the reopening of The Lion recently (Good Friday) and I would like to extend a big welcome to Ed and Becky Roberts and we wish them all the success with their business and the opening date was a good omen for them too.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our other business that maintain and support the village, through the post office and stores, garage, our refreshment houses and the University. Equally it is sad to hear that Lance and Debbie Pettet at the Lamb will be moving to pastures new soon and the premises will change hands to a newer Punch Brewery licensee.

We continue working with Claire and the teaching staff at St Peters school and hold our liaison meetings with Harper Adams University, where I would like to say a big thank to them for their support in our work around the village helping with the various odd job clearances and for keeping the parish gateway planters so colourful. We are also grateful for introduction of a new permissive footpath to the south of the village which we have heard about earlier this evening.

Then there are further unseen people who maintain our 'rights of way' by keeping them clear of herbage and maintaining signs across the parish, and then also those that check the MUGA for wear and tear and occasionally brush off of the playing surface.

I believe that it is right to remind people that Edgmond parish council acknowledges that there is a climate emergency and that we are developing ways to reduce the carbon footprint of our community through sustainable developments. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint for the parish whereby we have swapped out virtually all the old sodium street lighting for the more efficient LED lighting units, saving us money over time on this necessary community safety item. Then there is also the longer-term carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures we request through the planning process when these planning applications are presented to us for consultation.

The parish council supports the efforts of local groups around the parish too, engaged in improvements for biodiversity in our green spaces, i.e. Church Field and the school grounds and also the peripheral areas of the large recreational grounds off Shrewsbury Road and also those people engaged in supporting the development and wellbeing of our residents, through clubs or play equipment.

We hope to instigate more natural ways of improving our parish by engaging in the Restoring Shropshire Verges Project programme (RSVP) to give space to our pollinators, etc and getting people to participate in recycling, re-using and other circular economy initiatives, to save resources and achieve global sustainable goals locally.

Along with Cllr C Edwards and our Clerk, I attend the Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership. Telford & Wrekin Council, has declared to be carbon neutral by 2030, and we wish to support them in this ambition. To this aim four members of the Parish Council have taken

qualifications to become “Carbon literate” a scheme to help councillors and clerks to disseminate information to the public around the climate change issues we are experiencing.

In addition to these local meetings, I currently hold the Vice Chair role on the Shropshire Association of Local Councils, where I have responsibility for promoting climate change matters across the whole county, where I am supported by numerous other charities or not for profit organisations engaged in various aspects of adaption to these changes.

Public scrutiny is always welcomed, and we shall endeavour to continue to engage with all our residents to understand local concerns. We will, where possible, address these ourselves or progress them through the relevant local authority departments. I would like to remind people that Edgmond Parish Council does not have a handyman, all work is completed through a contracted service, where we can demand resolutions to issues that arise, i.e. broken street lighting. All other matters have to be progressed through the local authority alongside the other 26 Parish & Town Councils requesting similar service.

To this aim we are still looking for three new Councillors to volunteer by coming forward to help our community despite the recent councillor election process undertaken within the Telford & Wrekin area.

The Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Parish Council will be made available following the completion of the Annual Audit by PKF Littlejohn, our External Auditors and these reports will be available for people to see on the parish website in due course.

I conclude my report by wishing everyone an enjoyable time and please do let us know if there is anything that concerns you or you believe that it will potentially impact on the ‘quality of life’ for our residents.

Allan Wilson

Chairman of Edgmond Parish Council