

The Parish Council has been in existence for 5 years and is now moving quickly into a 'maintain' phase after having to spend the first 4 years recovering the public land back into an acceptable state after the years of under investment by the management company.

All the ponds and the culvert, which runs from the top of Stretton Walk through the Parish into the River Weaver, have been cleaned of debris and silt. This was done at a not inconsiderable cost partly due the dumping of non-native water weed from a residents fish tank which required a specialist environmental contractor to be employed. We are now able to maintain these water features and have signed a 3 year fixed price maintenance contract with Caddis.

Of the 9 play areas we are responsible for, this year has seen the play areas in Campbell Close & Capesthorpe Close receive a refresh at a considerable cost. A continuous review cycle is now in place for all play areas and currently the small play area on Burwardsley is subject to a residents survey as to its future use and the larger play area at the end of Dukes Way is in the planning phase for the equipment to be renewed.

As the current maintenance contract expired in March 2017 a considerable amount of effort was expended in ensuring that the new contract covered all areas of the Parish the Council has responsibility for, placing requests for tenders, reviewing all responses against our criteria and then finally choosing the contractor. At the end of the process the contract was awarded to Lawtons for a period of 3 years at a fixed price.

The Christmas Fair and tree light switch on was a limited success mainly due to the number of 'no shows' from stall holders who had booked a stall. Next time there will be a refundable deposit required.

The 20mph zones have been extended from Monarch Drive to now cover St. Georges Way and Moor Park Way including all roads off. It would be satisfying to see more people volunteering to join the Speed Watch group that currently covers Monarch Drive.

A number of Chestnut trees in the Parish have been hit with the Bleeding Canker Fungus and have had to be removed and burnt. On Regency Way these have been replaced with native Hornbeams.

There has been minimal vandalism most of which has occurred in the parks. We would ask all residents to report anything to the police on 101 not on the Residents FB page.

All the work carried has been achieved within budget with a reasonable carry forward to 2017/18. This enabled us to set a precept which had a minimal increase given the rising costs of the service we employ.

Finally I would like to thank all the Councillors who give freely of their time and experience. Without them the Parish would not be the green and pleasant place it is.

Chris Reed (Chair)