

CHAIRS REPORT 2018/19

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 has been completed at considerable cost partly due to non-native water weed infestation which required a biannual use of an excavator to pull out the remaining weed to the pond side to dry and die. We have also been able to negotiate an extension to both maintenance contracts (Lawtons & Caddis) at no increase in cost over the current agreements.

In June we had the second Best Kept Garden competition with the results announced and prizes awarded at the school fair. There was a sad lack of entrants until we announced it was being cancelled when more people entered. Let's hope next year is better.

The Tree light switch on was a limited success mainly due to the number of people who disappeared into the Kingfisher after the school band and light switch on leaving a number of children running around. However the reindeer and Father Xmas went down a storm as did the magic so photobooth. Thanks to the Events team for setting it all up.

The 20mph zones have been extended to now cover all side roads with the exception of Regency Way. It would be satisfying to see more people volunteering to join the Speed Watch group so that more of the roads can be monitored.

There has been some drug related issues which the local Police have dealt with. We would ask all residents to first report anything to the police on 101 not just on the Residents FB page.

Yet again this year there have been a number of instances where residents have, without permission, cut down trees and shrubs and dumped rubbish on Council land as well as driving building equipment and materials for extensions across Council land. We now have an agreement in place with the Crown Prosecution Service and Cheshire Police that any future occurrences will be a legal matter.

All the work carried has been achieved within budget but we have only a small carry forward to 2019/20. We have set a precept which had to allow for the Auditors informing us we now need to have reserves of at least 25% of the annual precept as well as being informed by CWaC that we are responsible for the wooden footbridges even though they form part of the public footpath network.

We have had some fruitless meetings with Highways about the pedestrian crossing, voicing residents concerns over the dangerous siting and the number of near misses. Their response is it meets all legal requirements so they don't need to take any action.

Finally I would like to welcome Sarah Morgan as our new Parish Clerk and 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.