

CHAIR'S REPORT 2017/18

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. This needs to alternate with a hand pulling session in alternate years as this weed is well nigh impossible to totally remove. We are now able to maintain these water features and are now in the second year of the fixed price maintenance contract with Caddis.

Of the 9 play areas we are responsible for, this year has seen the play area at the end of Dukes Way receive a refresh at a considerable cost. A continuous review cycle is now in place for all play areas and the small play area on Burwardsley Way, which was subject to a residents survey as to its future use, will remain a play area.

In June we had the first Best Kept Garden competition with the results announced and prizes awarded at the school fair. The competition is being repeated this year with hopefully more entrants.

The Christmas Fair and 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 the various stalls. The feedback from the stall holders was fairly negative.

The 20mph zones have been extended from Monarch Drive to now cover St. Georges Way and Moor Park Way including all roads off. After a recent meeting with CWaC Highways Dept it has been confirmed that Dukes Way will become a 20mph zone hopefully before Christmas. 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 was vandalism & graffiti on both the road signs and walls on Kensington Way which we managed to deal quickly with thanks to our colleagues at Northwich Town Council. We would ask all residents to report anything to the police on 101 not just on the Residents FB page.

Most worrying this year has been the number of instances where residents have, without permission, cut down trees and shrubs that were on Council land causing distress to neighbours. Equally worrying is the lack of support from the Police when we have reported these acts of trespass and criminal damage. They also incurred legal costs to the Council when trying to recover the costs of replanting.

All the work carried has been achieved within budget but we have only a small carry forward to 2017/18. We have set a precept which had a minimal increase given the rising costs of the services we employ but will not be able to carry out any new works outside of those that are already costed and budgeted for.

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)