

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting and a brief overview of what has happened since the last Annual meeting.

It has been another busy year for the parish – we won the Best Kept Village competition and I would like to thank Pauline and John Jilbert and Sam Bailey for their hard work in keeping the village looking so neat and tidy. We are entering the competition again this year and any help in keeping the area around where you live litter free would be appreciated.

As a result of Staffordshire County Council's road improvement programme we now have a new roundabout which has created additional parking for the Church in the redundant part of the old road. Unfortunately, because it was dying, the Jubilee Tree had to be taken down but we hope to be able to create a sculpture from the trunk.

Residents of Stubwood raised their concerns with the Parish Council about the speed of traffic. An Action Group has been formed with representatives from local residents and the Parish Council to look into solutions to this and meetings have taken place with Staffordshire County Council. As a result a 40 mph speed limit has been introduced and the work of the Action Group; is on-going.

The Parish Council have taken over responsibility for the Oak Road Play Area as well as the Play Area on the Old Railway Line and these facilities are complemented by the kick-about area on Roberts Green which is managed by the Sports Trust.

On the subject of the Old Railway Line, we have secured a grant to extend the improvements to the surface from the Play Area to the Railway Bridge. Neighbourhood Forum have also given us a grant for a community orchard in the same area and work will begin on this in the Autumn.

The weather was kind to us again for the Denstone Show and we hope to be as lucky again on September 5th this year.

A Steering Group is working towards a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Essentially, this is about housing development in the village over the next 20 years. The scope of the Neighbourhood Plan is limited by legislation and the process is complicated. Because of this Parish Councils are advised to engage a consultant with specialist knowledge and this we have done. The cost of the consultant is covered by various government and other grants. Regular updates will be posted on the notice boards in the parish, on the village website and in the Weaver Message. If you have any other suggestions on how the Steering Group communicates information to the Parish then please let the Parish Council know.

Unfortunately, the Post Office remains closed but we are trying to resolve this situation and are in regular contact with the Post Office who tell us they are actively advertising to recruit for this job. The business model that they want to achieve is for the Post Office to operate within a retail environment.

Finally, a big thank you to my fellow councillors for their hard work and support. Mel Allen resigned as a councillor earlier this year due to other commitments and I would like to thank Mel for her contribution to the Parish Council and especially to the Stubwood Action Group. Caroline Vernon, who was previously Chairman of the Parish Council, will not be seeking re-election. She has been a brilliant councillor and Chair of Parish Council and will be a very hard act to follow. My personal thanks to Caroline for her help and support which has been invaluable.

Thank you very much for attending: there is now an opportunity to raise any questions that you may have.