

## Chairman's report for Border group Parish council

It has been a difficult year for the council emphasised by the resignation of our Chairman and Councilor for Coxall and Buckton in September. The ongoing complexity of the Neighbourhood plan and procedural process that has to be followed have been the cause of much debate and some division within the community. I would like to thank the steering group for their continued efforts and the large amount of time spent on this, headed up by Councilor Chilman, and we hope that now we have had a second consultation we can move on to reg 16 and make further progress to its adoption. This has been a lengthy process with the Parish Council agreeing to start the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood plan as far back as December 2013.

The lengthsman and the footpaths schemes are working well and provide good value attending to more immediate work within the parishes, but looking forward with the financial constraints put on budgets from Herefordshire Council, we will have this funding reduced. Therefore we will have to decide to what level we want to continue this work to be done as it will be coming out of the precept which will have to be increased to cover the shortfall. At a current combined level of expenditure of £4200 P/a and a budgeted spending of £5755 for this next year, which will include an increased contribution from the BGPC of £2293, both schemes will in the future have to be funded from additional monies raised by the precept.

This reduction is to be phased in over the next two years for the Lengthsman, and three years for the P3, resulting in BGPC having to fund the full cost of lengthsman and P3 by 2020. Which leaves the question, are the residents willing to contribute more to the precept or will we have to reduce the current service provided?

On a brighter note we welcomed Tom Dixon who was co-opted on the Parish Council in November as Councilor for Buckton, Coxall and Adley Moor.

We also welcomed the manager from Kays Care home at Paytoe who updated us as to their progress and reiterated their desire to work and be a part of the local community and co-operate with any concerns neighbouring residents may have. Regular meetings are still taking place.

I would like to thank Ward Councilor Gandy for her continued attendance, and attention to the Council and parishioners concerns. The ongoing subjects of road repairs, speeding, 106 monies, empty and dilapidated buildings have all been discussed, some have been resolved and we will continue to follow up on those that have not.

The issue of using 'SIDS' to slow traffic has been discussed over the past twelve months but cost and lengthy procedures to provide evidence for their deployment have hindered progress. Progress has however been made in providing a mirror for the residents of Reeves lane to help access on to the main road and repairs to the culvert on the C1001 at Parsons Pole bridge.

The poor condition of our road network and the damage it is doing to the local economy as well as vehicles is a constant headache to all who live and do business here. Balfour Beatty inform us that we are not due any major resurfacing in the near future and will have to rely on patching and repairs of potholes. These need to be reported to Balfour Beatty with reference to location.

Simon Whiteman

Chairman of B.G.P.C.

16 May 2017