

Chairman's report for Border Group Parish Council (BGPC)

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was submitted to Herefordshire Council in March at Regulation 16. Consultation ran from 16 March to 27 April 2018. It has now reached the Examination stage. A great deal of work has gone into the NDP and I thank the Steering Committee on behalf of BGPC for their commitment and hard work.

Walford residents have serious concerns about flooding. A suggestion of a sluice on the Adforton to Leintwardine road (A4110) is being researched. BGPC has written to the drainage officer and is also awaiting advice from the Environment Agency on ditches behind Walford.

A leaflet highlighting a potential rise in precept to pay for the Lengthsman and footpath works was delivered to every household in January. A number of parishioners responded. It has been decided to continue with the Lengthsman Scheme in its current form. The responsibility for mending pot holes remains with Balfour Beatty. Their 'jetpatcher' machine was seen within the parishes in May and pot holes have been filled.

On behalf of the parish council I thank Mike Oliver, our Footpaths Officer, for another year of voluntary work in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme.

BGPC has asked Balfour Beatty to include the C1007 from Birtley to Brampton Bryan as a primary gritting route. This route is used by the school bus and has been a concern to parishioners for some years.

Speeding continues to be a problem in our villages. A Community Speedwatch Scheme in Brampton Bryan was considered. The data collected by the Safer Roads Partnership indicated speeds were too high and the volume of traffic too low for this to be an option. It is hoped some enforcement action might be carried out. Speed Indicator Devices are still being considered. The parish council has £4,400 ringfenced to fund this.

The budget for the 2018/19 is £15,270.00 with a precept of £8,000.00 and the balance of £7,270.00 from reserves.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will come into effect on 25 May 2018. New policies and a privacy notice are to be adopted in order to ensure compliance. This additional regulation will increase the clerk's workload, and I thank her on behalf of the BGPC for the careful research done.

A new laptop has been purchased for the clerk.

I attended the three Parish Meetings and was interested to hear the views of parishioners. Reports from each meeting will be made separately.

I wish my successor a good year.

Cllr Maggie Brown. Chair, Border Group Parish Council

13 May 2018