

## **Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 23rd April, 2019.**

This year sees the local council elections and I must thank all the existing Members for their diligence in dealing with the matters that come before Council.

Planning applications are the most difficult to respond to. We are merely consultees, not decision makers, but we are still required to consider everything that comes before us. In spite of the time, expertise and commitment made to reaching our conclusions, we are regularly disappointed when our responses are dismissed by the Planning Committee. In spite of our best efforts, we can do little to affect the result.

The environment is a priority as the surroundings have an impact on the lives of our residents. We are grateful to Denso for the delivery of the Hadley Park roundabout which has impressed residents and visitors alike. The new contract between the Borough Council and idverdi has promised to maintain the environment of our Parish to the high level already in evidence.

The War Memorial is a feature to be proud of. The Remembrance parade and service are always well-attended and greatly appreciated. An invitation has been extended to the West Midlands Ambulance Service to nominate a senior paramedic to take this year's salute in order to highlight the value that this community places on their service to us all. Salopian Brass tell us that as their players no longer feel able to lead the parade but we have agreed to their playing at the start of the march, and moving to the Village Green to play for the parade's arrival at the War Memorial.

Castle Farm Community Centre has been renamed as people often did not know where it was. It is now Hadley Community Centre and has been beautifully transformed, encouraging many more groups and societies to hire our rooms. We must say a huge thank you to Carol Henderson and Karen Walker for keeping the entire building in an immaculate condition.

Our other asset, the Cemetery Lodge, is also undergoing restoration. This has been delayed for too long and this Council has arranged to make the building more habitable, mainly warm and free of damp. We are also funding a new office and disabled-access public toilet for visitors. The Cemetery itself continues to draw praise and gratitude and we congratulate the Manager, Cliff Henderson, on his tireless work.

Our Youth Club, under the leadership of Mark Palmer-Burridge, continues to thrive. We fund several external activities which always prove popular.

11 defibrillators will be installed throughout the Parish. The West Midlands Ambulance Service gave the advice which we have taken. To help us to select the appropriate model.

We thank our Clerk, Jonathan Brumwell, and Assistant Clerk, Gail Lawrence, for being reliable and hard-working in the duties. They are both invaluable and I am extremely thankful that we have them to look after our business.

They not only conduct Parish Council matters, but help to deliver our social events. We host concerts with our own Hadley Orpheus Choir and all the schools in the Parish to maintain the choral tradition of the area.

The older residents continue to enjoy the Christmas meals we arrange at Hadley United Services Club over 2 days; this year on the 11th and 12th of December. We have invited Wellington Town Band to play carols in the shopping centre at Christmas time. Our new event, the Concert for St. George's Day is free, and this year was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Finally, I express sincere thanks to Vice-Chairman, Malcolm Smith, Finance & General Purposes Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, John Parkin and Angela Twyford, and Chairman of the Events Committee, Pat Smart, together with all our Members for their contribution, and I wish those who are standing good luck in the coming election.

Whoever is returned to serve the Parish, I am confident that the people will receive the same level of care and service which they have come to expect from us.

Best wishes to all who are lucky enough to live in this Parish.

Cllr. John Smart (Chairman of the Council)