

# **Liddington Parish Council**

## **Annual Report for 2018-19**

### **Summary**

11 meetings were held during the year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month excepting August. The Council has its full quota of 7 Councillors and as of today I have decided to stand down as Chairman of the Parish Council after 10 years in that role.

Mainly as a result of the reduced transitional funding from SBC the Parish Council increased the Parish precept for 2019-20 resulting in a Band D Parish Council contribution of £58.85pa, an increase of 9.5%. This should complete the transitional arrangement of the transfer of services from SBC to the Parish Council which has resulted in the larger than normal increases over the last 3 years.

Again, road safety and excessive traffic speeds through the village have been a major concern.

A planning application was submitted last December for a 'Science Park' at Inlands Farm in Wanborough which has now received the largest number of objections (over 600) for a planning application in the Swindon Unitary Authority.

New play equipment has been installed on the playing field and 2 AED defibrillators have been ordered for installation in the village shortly.

### **Ground Maintenance Services**

Adams and Watt Ltd have continued to provide excellent services for grass cutting and related works around the village. I'm sure you will have seen a significant improvement but please let us know of any concerns you may have.

### **Road Safety**

A meeting was held with SBC Highways Department on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct to identify realistic solutions for reducing speeds and to improve road safety on the B4192 through the village. CSW data collected shows a major speed problem. However SBC have resource and financial problems to support any initiatives to take action - accident statistics are not bad enough. It has been suggested that a highways engineer could be contracted in to work on behalf of several parish councils in providing professional advice in deciding optimal solutions.

M4 Junction 15 works are now due to commence in September and may result in more traffic diverting through Liddington. Day House Lane will also be closed for a period of time for the tunnel under the A419 to be extended to accommodate an extra southbound lane on the A419.

The Parish Council also arranged a meeting last August with Robert Buckland QC, MP for South Swindon to discuss some of our concerns particularly as regards Jn 15 works. Road safety issues were also raised with the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Angus McPherson, when he attended our March meeting.

### **Planning**

The proposed Science Park Planning application submitted, Dec 2018, is a major concern for the parishes of Liddington and Wanborough. You may have noticed the details of Liddington Parish Council objections in the minutes, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, and the articles published in the Lyden Magazine by the SSPG. Liddington PC has donated £500 to the protection fund to provide for professional planning advice.

Development at Badbury Park continues. Following on from the planning permission last year for an extra 81 homes the developers have now received planning consent for the change of use of the Business Park area to 300 houses. Proposals are in place to restrict access onto Day House Lane and thereby traffic movement from the development through Liddington and Badbury.

We continue to monitor the NEV development, particularly Redlands and Lotmead, and to support Wanborough in ensuring the infrastructure and the Southern Connector road to/from the A419 are constructed at an early stage of the development.

## Projects

At our Village Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November proposals were presented for extending the play area facilities for under 5 year olds. These were well received and the new equipment was ordered and installed in January. Very positive comments have been received from local residents. The play area is checked every 2 weeks and annually by an external contractor. Let us know if you come across any problems and if you walk your dog there please ensure it does not enter the children's play area.

Village clean-up days were held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> April. Fly tipping continues to be a major problem in rural parishes.

Defibrillators: 2 AED, Automatic External Defibrillator, units have been ordered. One is to be mounted on the outside wall of the Village Hall and the other in the old telephone box outside 14 The Street.

An oak tree has been planted on the playing field with a plaque in remembrance of the Armistice 100 years on.

## Other Issues

1<sup>st</sup> March was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Village Hall in 1994 by the Duke of Marlborough. Cllr Moore wrote 3 articles for the Lyden Magazine about its history and a celebration has been organised by the Village Hall Committee for 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2-5pm, entrance free.

I would especially like to thank all my fellow Councillors and especially our Clerk for all their hard work over the last year. Cllr Sarah Hill, manages our website [www.liddington.org](http://www.liddington.org) which gives Council news, agendas and minutes of meetings and information on village events.

I would also like to thank the residents of the village for supporting village activities and the village clean-ups. Your support and feedback to the Parish Council are essential in helping to improve our village.

Gordon Wilson

Chairman, Liddington Parish Council

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019