

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

www.littlestanney-pc.gov.uk

## Chairman's Report for the year 2017-18



Councillor Chris Dilworth (Chairman)

Councillor David Astbury

Councillor Linda Carter

Councillor Paul Carter

Councillor John Glazzard

Councillor Roy Greenwood (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor John Jones

Councillor Clive Lipscombe

Councillor Peter Mountford

Councillor Judith Thomas

Councillor Michael Todd

Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

**Meetings:** At the Annual Meeting in May 2017 I was elected Chairman and Councillor Roy Greenwood was elected Vice-Chairman for the year. The Parish Council decided to continue with monthly meetings, on the fourth Tuesday in the month except in August (unless needed) and December, the regular meetings starting at 7.30pm in Little Stanney Village Hall, and the meeting in April taking place on the rise of the Annual Parish Assembly which starts at 7.00pm

**Finance:** We increased the precept to £9,000 in 2017-18 to enable us to continue to employ our Amenity Cleaner and to continue to ensure that we have sufficient reserves should an election be contested, as it was in 2015. Our internal auditor, Dotty about Accounts, completed the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for 2017-18 in May and we are now ready to submit the Annual Return to the external auditors. Once the Annual Return is returned by the external auditor we will put it on the website.

**Amenity Cleaning:** Graham Povey, our Amenity Cleaner, is still enjoying his morning strolls picking up litter and looking after anyone who needs help. He has been with us for around 15 years, and has stuck with us despite us having to reduce his hours from 16 to 10 a week in 2011 due to a shortage of grant support. Even our Ward Councillor has been told he can't support us. Graham not only collects rubbish from our streets and grass verges, he also reports fly-tipping and other problems to CWaC when he spots them. He liaises with the bin collection team and keeps an eye on the general condition of the villages. We would find it difficult to replace him so hopefully he will never want to retire! One of the ongoing problems is litter dropped by people who have visited the fast food outlets on Cheshire Oaks and we have raised this with McArthur Glen, the owners of the site although nothing has come of it yet.

**Playing Field:** Pentagon Play's new Tower Unit, which was installed last year, seems popular with the local children and we have also put some new seats on the baby swings to make them safer. Fortunately there has been no "return of the moles"

**Nature Park:** The hedge on the canalside has been removed which means that we get unwanted guests on the Nature Park. It's a no-win situation because if the hedge grows too high then people can get up to all sorts behind it. Once again, there are signs of drug abuse on the site which we will ask the Police to monitor

**Planning:** The Parish Council was consulted on six planning application this year, two of which related to industrial sites. There were four householder applications, none of which caused the Parish Council any concern.

Councillor Greenwood continues to represent the Parish Council on the Protos (formerly Ince Park) Community Forum and attended several meetings throughout the year. This year the Community Benefit Fund has been opened up to Little Stanney & District and Thornton-le-Moors (and possible Helsby) and the Parish Council is putting in an application to raise sufficient for two Village Gateways on the A5117 so that people know they are in Little Stanney. Two smaller signs will also be requested to go on street furniture on Whitby Lane and Chester Road (subject to Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Council's approval)

**Highways:** Highways issues have once again been the main topic for discussion at Parish Council meetings. As always, the Cheshire Oaks junction manages to annoy everyone but the Parish Council has put an idea forward to CWaC about a possible solution. CWaC have referred it to Highways England, who manage trunk roads, and a reply is awaited. The 30mph speed limit is operating (sort of) in Wervin although the signs were put in the wrong place and are having to be moved. The Rake Lane saga continues. We even had a residents' meeting with officers from CWaC and the Police, but that ended in stalemate. The next move is up to CWaC and we can't wait to see what it is going to be. In the meantime, the Parish Council has asked for the national speed limit signs to be removed and replaced with 30mph signs. Nothing has happened...yet. We will continue to fight to keep it at 30mph.

Inchcape have removed another three trees from the Mercedes dealership site at Little Stanney. This has been reported to the Planning Officer dealing with the site and she is looking into it. Like us she doesn't believe Inchcape had permission to remove any more trees.

The other dealerships have been very quiet and have been behaving themselves, although there have been reports of cars speeding up Rake Lane. Even a Police caution doesn't seem to have rattled them.

Traffic was again chaotic over the Christmas period. We were too late to get cones put out along the verge in Stanney Lane, especially by the Reindeer Farm but we have heard on the grapevine that he may be moving to another site so the problem shouldn't arise this year.

**Communications:** Councillor Glazzard, our webmaster, continues to keep the website up to date and legal. There are so many things we have to comply with now, it's hard to keep up with them all. There have been some minor concerns about access to the site, which have been sorted out.

**Police and Fire:** We don't seem to have a designated Beat Officer at the moment and we don't see a lot of our PCSO, Wendy Leason, which is either good news or bad depending on where you're coming from. Not having a police presence means we could attract more crime but not having a permanent police presence hopefully means we don't have a lot of crime to deal with in the first place. The new Police and Crime Commissioner doesn't seem to like meetings with the hoi polloi - he's only had two since he was elected which is nowhere near as good as his predecessor.

**Cheshire West and Chester:** The Little Stanney have become involved in the debate about the Community Governance Review of the non-parished areas. The Civil Parish of Little Stanney has a boundary with Ellesmere Port and CWaC are consulting all the neighbours to get their views on becoming part of a parish council. Houses to the East of Stanney Wood Country Park off Stanney Woods Avenue (Stanney Oaks), the area bordered by Longlooms Road, A5117 and Kinsey Road which includes Stanney Lane, the area bordered by M53 to the west, A5117 to the south and the Shropshire Union Canal to the east as far north as the end of Stanney Mill Road and the triangular area bordered by the A5117 to the south, river Gowy to the east incorporating part of the Oil Refinery are all possible areas for inclusion. The closing date for comments is 8 June.

**Membership of Associations:** The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, the Cheshire Playing Fields Association and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

**Parish Clerk:** We have been without our Parish Clerk intermittently over the winter. She spent six weeks on the Clatterbridge Dermatology Ward wrestling with a painful and irritating skin complaint. Fortunately, she was allowed out on bail at weekends so we were able to keep in touch, but she wasn't able to attend meetings in November, December, January or February. Councillor Todd kindly stepped into the breach and took a note of the meetings. The Clerk is now back at work.

Chris Dilworth  
Chairman, Little Stanney & District Parish Council  
April 2017