

# Chairmans Report

## Annual Parish Meetings Dormington and Mordiford May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Globally and therefore locally we are facing increasing price rises and shortages; it's an uncertain world with unpredictable weather adding to these problems. But we have survived Covid and look forward to the summer and some appropriate weather.

I want to summarise the work of the Parish Council during the last two years. It has built upon the work of previous Parish Councils; and we have also initiated many new projects.

We are all volunteers who give up our spare time to support the parish in these many activities and achievements.

These include:

1. Restarting the NDP
2. Installing the Dormington bus stop
3. Working with local landowners to create the Checkley common biodiversity management plan.
4. Working with and supporting Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Ledbury Naturalists with the survey work they have undertaken voluntarily in Checkley.
5. Supporting the Black Poplar DNA project.
6. Supporting residents to create and implement the Mordiford Dragon Trail
7. Making improvements to Mordiford Green
8. Purchasing and re-landscaping The Maltings Green to reduce future maintenance costs and increase visual amenity.
9. Working with and supporting residents with improving communal amenities and the play area on the Maltings Green.
10. Managing the Allotments at Shepherds Orchard.
11. Working closely with Mordiford School to improve safeguarding and obtain community benefits from the Solar Farm development.
12. Reviewed planning applications including visits to properties, and occasionally meeting with property owners.
13. Obtained faster broadband speeds in the most remote area of the Parish.
14. Worked with and supported churches on a variety of environmental projects, including control of pernicious and non-native plants (Japanese Knotweed).
15. Purchase and installation of defibrillators in Checkley and Dormington.
16. Supply and planting of native trees (one in each village) to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
17. Supporting and organising events such as the Jubilee Bonfire and free commemorative Jubilee Mugs for the School; the Checkley and Dormington Egg Roll, and the Checkley Picnic, and the opening of the Dragon Trail.
18. The ongoing work of working with landowners and contractors for maintaining and improving the PROW.
19. Purchase, installation, maintenance and repairs to picnic benches and seating at Checkley Barn and Swarden Quarry.
20. The ongoing work of reporting, advocating and negotiating (with landowners, neighbouring Parish Councils, Herefordshire Council and its contractors), for improvements and repairs to our roads, signage, verges, hedges, drains and pavements.
21. Purchase, replacement and refilling of grit bins.
22. Working closely with our Lengthsman to conduct 'minor works' associated with the above.
23. Supporting local charities

24. Being there for our residents to signpost and support them with their concerns about environmental matters (including potholes, noise, pollutants, littering).
25. Maintaining and managing the Burial Ground, its monuments, and interments.

### **Focusing on the future of the parish**

The Neighbourhood Development plan was reinstated as a result of the moratorium on building due to the Wye and Lugg phosphate levels, and that housing stock in the area could be depleted if no houses were to be built; at the end of this, if we have no plan, then we automatically fall under the Hereford City Development plan and so could be vulnerable to uncontrolled housing of the wrong type. We need affordable housing here for our key workers, those who work the land and provide essential medical services for example.

### **The Neighbourhood Development Plan**

I'm pleased to report, that thanks to the efforts of the NDP Steering Group and our Clerk and our external consultant, the NDP is almost at the first public consultation phase, and we should be sending out a draft summary of the plan, and a questionnaire to gain your views on it. We have our first public meeting planned in June, and will be showcasing the sites submitted for development, the design guide and the NDP itself.

We hope you will attend but if not, we particularly hope you will read the draft summary plan and complete the response form, as your feedback will help shape the next iteration of the plan.

### **Dormington Bus stop**

This took far longer than expected with many more hoops to get through before it was finally installed, and I'm happy to report that its well-used, and the local people are very pleased.

### **Purchase of Maltings Green**

We were able to purchase the Maltings green from HC for £1, and working with the local community who obtained grants and donations for benches and play equipment, it is now it is a beautifully landscaped and maintained area for children to play in and adults to enjoy.

### **Mordiford Green**

We also listened to the community with regard to Mordiford Green, and it has been tidied up with new posts, and of course a Christmas tree, for which decoration by the local schools should be a regular event. Not forgetting Maud and the Dragon Trail. We hope to add some waste bins to this and to the Burial Ground too, and near to the Lime Kilns as regular users are seeing more dog faeces in the area.

### **Our contractors**

I want to thank the many contractors we use to help us with our works and undertakings, our lengths man Dave Campbell, and Environability, - but also our Footpaths officer, currently the Vice-chair. The ongoing work of working with landowners and contractors for maintaining and improving the PROW. The ongoing work of reporting, advocating and negotiating (with landowners, neighbouring Parish Councils, Herefordshire Council and its contractors), for improvements and repairs to our roads, signage, verges, hedges, drains and pavements.

I'd also like to thank my fellow councillors for their many inputs and support during my two years as Chair, which is coming to an end! And to our Clerk, who has done so much work for the NDP as well as taken on a small but very busy Parish Council.

Many thanks to members of the public who attended the meetings and supported the PC.

Julia Cotton

Chair.