



Lapley, Stretton
& Wheaton Aston
Parish Council

News & Views

Summer 2018

Welcome to the Summer Edition

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of £3,000 from The Staffordshire Police Commissioners People fund. This money will be used to install new fencing at Marston Field to prevent motorbikes being taken onto the Field which has been a big problem over the last few months.

A new bin has been installed at Primrose Close Play Park. Please help keep the park tidy by making use of it or taking your litter home. Last summer there was an issue with used water balloons littering the play area, if you do have fun with water balloons this summer then please tidy them up as you leave.

The Parish Council and residents of Lapley have been working together to improve Lapley Green. A landscape designer has come up with a design which both the Parish Council and residents of Lapley have approved. You can see the design on page 8 of News and Views.

We welcome PCSO Adrian Price back to our Parish. PCSO Price was a regular visitor up until about 8 years ago when he moved to cover Pattingham and Perton. We look forward to seeing both PCSO Price and PCSO Lloyd over the summer.

Cllr Noblett and Cllr Millington recently visited St Marys First School to award the first prize for the Parish Council Best Kept Village Poster Competition. Year 1 were awarded a variety of book sets for their class room for submitting the winning entry. You can see one of the wonderful posters submitted below. Well done all for taking part!

Finally, we would like to welcome our new Councillor Sue Whittingham. Sue has been co-opted to the ward of Wheaton Aston.

Due to staff holidays the office will be opening reduced hours over the summer.



Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery - For details of the next surgery please contact the MP office direct on 01785 252477 or at jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk

Citizens Advice South Staffordshire – This has now been taken over by the Citizens Advice Staffordshire South West. Contact 01902 897377

Lapley Green - The Details of the plans for Lapley Green have now been received from Landscape Architects on how to rejuvenate the area and can be viewed on the back page. Residents have been consulted and we are working together to finalise some aspects.

Voluntary Car Scheme - The Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme organises lifts for local villagers, usually the elderly or housebound, who have no transport of their own but need to get to doctors surgeries, clinics or hospital appointments. Could you help? Could you spare a few hours a week? You really can contribute as little or as much as you like, on whatever days of the week that suit you or simply subject to your availability at a given time. Please give it some thought – all travelling expenses are refunded and you may be surprised to find just how enjoyable it is. Please phone the office on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information. A voicemail service is in operation outside of office hours.

Potholes - The quickest way to get potholes/ damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000, email highways@staffordshire.gov.uk or download the "My Staffordshire" app, which lets you send in photos and locations straight from your phone.

Community Speed Watch Volunteers still needed! - Can you spare some time to help with the newly formed Community Speed Watch Group? Would you like to be a volunteer trained by Staffordshire Police? The training will last for about 2 hours, is free and will cover all elements of Community Speed Watch. If you are interested please email the Parish Clerk: office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you see it, report it! - If you see a crime in progress, call 999 immediately. Please also report any non-urgent crime including graffiti, damage and anti-social behaviour by calling the police on 101. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

Joint Police and Parish Council Surgery
The Parish Council will be holding a joint drop in surgery with PCSO Lloyd or PCSO Price and the Parish Clerk, ahead of each Parish Council meeting from 6.30pm. If you have any queries for either agency please turn up and we will do our best to assist.

Staffordshire Police Smart Alert - Get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at: www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk

Crime Prevention - There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website. For more information please visit www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention

Cybercrime - You can also find out more about cybercrime and how to report it on the Staffordshire Police website: www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime

Civil Weddings - The new Ceremonial Suite at the District Council Offices at Codsall has now been completed. The suite offers an elegant and relaxed setting for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies.

South Staffs Community Lottery - Win up to £25,000 and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm and you can purchase lottery tickets by telephoning 01902 213777. or at www.southstaffscommunitylottery.co.uk

Additional Green bins - You can now book additional green bins and collection of bulky waste items on-line from "My Account" the Council's personalised service giving

residents on-line access to Council services 24/7

Fit For Sport - Looking for ways to keep your children active in the school holidays? Fit For Sport offer holiday clubs at Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, and Wombourne Leisure Centres. www.fitforsport.co.uk



Space 2018 has landed and will be orbiting between the 23rd July and 31st August! Space is all about giving young people aged 8-17 the opportunity to build on their skills, improve their fitness and get involved in some fun, positive activities. Visit their website for more information: www.staffordshirespace.co.uk

Are you a resident in South Staffordshire?
Do you need assistance with Digital Skills?

Do any of your friends or family want to know more about:

- Setting up an email address
- Connecting to the internet
- Your smart phone
- Your tablet
- Skype
- Staying safe on the internet
- Online shopping
- Your laptop

Why not come and have a cup of tea with us?
On the last Thursday of every month between 2pm and 4pm at the Council Offices.
Contact us to reserve a place on 01902 846000 or email info@sstaffs.gov.uk

Book your bulky waste collection online

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount

South Staffordshire Council

Bereavement Information Hub

The death of a loved one can have a life-altering effect. Everybody's experience of grief can be different and talking about it can help.

Bereavement Information Hubs are an informal family place to meet and talk to others who have experienced loss and grief.

Why not visit your local hub at
Periton Library
 Severn Drive
 Periton
 WV6 7GU

For more information email
compassion@communityfirst.org.uk
 or call 0300 303 4930

Second Friday of the month
 2-4pm

South Staffordshire Council
 Macclesfield
 South Staffordshire Care
 Community Care

South Staffs Leisure Centres - offer affordable memberships with the use of 4 leisure centres for 1 great price and a list of benefits including:

- 14 day advanced booking
 - Free public swimming*
 - No joining fees
 - No long term contracts
 - 12 months for the price of 11 if you pay in full*
- *(excludes privilege members)

Free member health checks and programmes available on request
 Discounts for students, apprentices, and corporates. More information about memberships can be found at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships

South Staffordshire Work Clubs -



If you are out of work, there are 7 Work Clubs throughout South Staffordshire to help you. Tel: Cllr Val Chapman 07718 911367 or email: v.chapman@sstaffs.gov.uk

There is plenty happening at St Mary's, Wheaton Aston and All Saints, Lapley this summer.

Throughout the school holidays, there will be free games and crafts for families and young people at our drop-in each Tuesday and Wednesday from 10-12am St Mary's. Everyone is welcome.

Diary Dates for July

Saturday 28th SACRED Brunch, St Mary's

Sunday 29th Benefice Service and Picnic, St Andrew's

Diary Dates for August

Wednesday 15th Service of Healing and Wholeness, St Mary's

Thursday 16th A Level Results Day, Church open for coffee and chat, St Mary's

Thursday 23rd GCSE Results Day, Church open for coffee and chat, St Mary's

- Please see noticeboards and Grapevine for more details, or contact Revd Rachel on 01785 840395
- Our normal Sunday and weekday services continue throughout the summer
- Please don't forget that St Mary's church garden is always open to enjoy, and that you are welcome to snip some herbs for dinner.

What's on at Your Brewood Community Managed Library August 2018

Unless specified there is no need to book the activities listed. All activities are for adults unless the activity specifies it is for children. **Tel: 01902 850087**

Summer Activities for Children

Summer Reading Challenge continues -Join the "Mischief Makers" from 14th July onwards. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six library books during the long summer holiday.

Coding Club (games, robotics & drones) Find out about these sessions and Book at info@schoolofcoding.co.uk for 7-14 yr olds, £25 per child, Thursday 2nd, 9th, and 16th August 9.30am-4pm

Craft & Play under 8 year olds, £2 per child, Tuesday 31st July and Tuesday 7th August Book in Library

Girls Pamper Party 5-10 yr olds, £10 per child. Book at Library

Teenage Makeover 10-15 yr olds £10 per person. Book at Library

Regular Activities:

Storytime – suitable for pre-school children. Free. Tuesdays. Every week, term-time only. 2.15-2.45pm

Reading Group. Read and talk about books. Books supplied by the Library. Free. First Thursday in month – 2nd August 3.15-4.15pm

Mindfulness and Meditation Sessions. £5 minimum donation. Booking required, please contact the Library on 01902 850087. Every Thursday 11-12noon

'Brewood Walk and Talk' – Free. A great way to get more exercise and improve your health. Part of the Health Watch Walk Scheme. For all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes early if it is your first walk. Car Parking at Library, meet outside the Library. Every Friday 10am.

Brewood Quilters — Third Tuesday afternoon in the month: 21st August - 2.30pm to 4pm.

August Opening Hours (NB. We close 1-2pm for lunch)

Weekly: Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday 5pm-7pm; Saturdays 9.30am-1pm

Your Council

| <u>WARD</u> | <u>COUNCILLOR</u> | <u>EMAIL</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Stretton | Mrs A Anderson | a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mrs B Cox | b.cox@wheatonastoparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mr P Elson | p.elson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Lapley | Mr M Fox | m.fox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Lapley | Mr M Griffiths | m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mrs W Millington | w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mr T Noblett (Chairman) | t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mr P Timson | p.timson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Stretton | Mr B Wells | b.wells@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Ms S Whittingham | s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Wheaton Aston | Mrs S Whittingham | sue.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Parish Council Clerk: | Mrs. Amy Watson | office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Assistant Clerk: | Mrs Karen Daker | assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |

Office Address Office F7, South Staffordshire Business Hub. South Staffordshire District Council
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE

Telephone 01902 842556

Website www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Also find us on Facebook and Twitter

Other Key Contacts

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Jeremy Lefroy MP | 01785 252477 | jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk |
| County Councillor Mark Sutton | 01902 851682 | mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk |
| District Councillor Roy Wright | 01902 745587 | r.wright@sstaffs.gov.uk |
| District Councillor Brian Cox | 01785 840482 | b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk |
| South Staffordshire Council | 01902 696000 | www.sstaffs.gov.uk |
| Staffordshire County Council | 0300 111 8000 | www.staffordshire.gov.uk |
| Police | 101 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency) | www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk |
| Crimestoppers | 0800 555 111 | www.crimestoppers-uk.org |
| Highways | 0300 111 8000 | highways@staffordshire.gov.uk |

Parish Council Meetings

Please see below for the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings held at Wheaton Aston Village Hall:

- 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December (Setting of the Precept)

All meetings begin at 7.30pm with public participation, where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the Parish Council and raise issues. After this they may stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for 2017 - 2018

At the beginning of the Parish Council year the Council had two vacancies available on the Parish Council and adverts were placed on the Council notice boards and on the Parish Facebook site. Four Parishioners applied for the two vacancies and on behalf of the Council I am pleased to announce that Winnie Millington and Anita Anderson were successful and they represent the Wheaton Aston and Stretton wards respectively. I would also like to welcome Karen Daker to the Parish council staff team as the Assistant Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council exists to serve the Parish and my chairman's report covers the following topics of maintenance, village improvement projects, events, funding village groups, legislation and other matters that have been dealt with by the Parish Council during the past year.

Maintenance throughout the Parish is an ongoing commitment particularly grass cutting. Grass cutting is required to keep our play areas, verges, cemeteries and churchyards and all open spaces in an acceptable condition and because of the effects of climate change the season for cutting extends further and further into the Autumn.

I would like to express on behalf of the Parish Council our thanks to our main grass cutting contractor Bloomin' Gardens and Landscapes Ltd for the co-operative and diligent way they carry out their work.

The many black and white finger posts, which are a distinctive feature of our Parish, are maintained with care by Mr R. Cox. Hedges are trimmed, moles are kept at bay and bulbs are planted, all important in their way to improve the look of our three villages.

The Parish Council as you may be aware employs a Village Orderly, Mr Bissell. Mr Bissell completes many jobs throughout the year around the villages and along with Mrs Davies and Mrs Morris, our two Litter Pickers, improves the appearance of Parish. On behalf of the Parish Council I thank them for their efforts. Mr Cadman who, once again has supplied and maintained the floral display outside the Village hall to a high standard, I would like to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who take time off to plant bulbs, litter pick and the many small jobs they complete in the vicinity of their properties and in particular Mr Darrant for safety inspection of the Primrose Bank play equipment, and the Cobbles Community Action Group headed by Mrs Bailey for their time and effort in planting bulbs and shrubs in the area behind the church turning what was a dumping ground for cans and bottles into a pleasant landscaped area.

All three villages were entered in the annual Best Kept Village competition, run by Community Council of Staffordshire, but unfortunately none of the villages were recommended for any of the category prizes. Many thanks to the children of St Mary's School who produced posters for the Best Kept Village Competition which are displayed throughout the Villages during the competition period. Needless to say the posters were of a high standard and the Councillors who were part of the sub-committee that judged the posters had a very difficult task in choosing the winning posters.

Visits from the Neighbourhood Highway Teams, whilst not as frequent as in previous years, continue and they deal with an extended list of smaller non-safety related problems such as ditch regrading, fencing, weeding, painting and small environmental improvement schemes. If as residents of the Parish you notice a problem with reference to the highways, particularly potholes, please report the problem through the dedicated telephone number which can be obtained by looking at the Village News And Views under Key Contacts or let the Parish Council Manager be aware of the problem.

Several timber structures within Broadholes Lane Nature Play Park had partially rotted away during the years since the park has been opened and these have been replaced and the Willow Dome has been reshaped. The Parish Council decided to revamp the Primrose Bank Play Area and after consultation with both the school and the local residents came up with an agreed scheme that has improved and enhanced the play area. Marston Road Field has seen repairs to the Skate Park and replenishing the bark and sand

Once again loutish behaviour and petty vandalism is on the increase in Wheaton Aston and through this report I would ask all residents to report any anti-social behaviour you see to the Police and not to the Parish Council Manager. Dog Fouling is still causing concern and along with litter dropping is anti – social and is costing the Parish. I urge those minority of people who are guilty of such behaviour to please use the bins provided.

Groups of young people at times are gathering on the Village square and playing loud music annoying the local residents and obviously disturbing the peace. Vandalism at Marston Road Field is on the increase.

Fires have been lit on the Skate Park along with damage to the hardwood running surfaces, fencing has been pulled down, bolts have been loosened on the Youth Shelter, benches have been pulled and chopped up, broken glass has been placed just below the surface of the sand within the play builder equipment and so on. The litter problem is a disgrace.

The majority of young people that visit and play on the equipment treat the area and equipment with respect, as always it is the minority that cause the problems. The minority have over the last year added approximately £4,000 to the Precept. As I stated above please report any anti-social behaviour to the Police. The Parish Council are linking up with the Police and South Staffs Council in order to try and overcome the problems noted above.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Parishioners to please stay on the footpaths when crossing fields that are planted with crops and at all times keep your dogs on a lead when traversing fields with cattle and sheep grazing in the fields.

As we all know the Police are having a difficult time at the moment with all the reorganisation that is going on so we are fortunate to have PCSO Lloyd who works hard on our behalf to try and make the Villages a pleasant and safe place to live.

Another Bus shelter has been erected within the Village boundary on Ivetsy Road but the disappointing news the Council has to report is that following the County Bus review the Saturday Service to Penkridge and return and the "Dial Up" system is to discontinue. Many parishioners are dissatisfied with this outcome and have presented a petition to the County.

Speeding through Wheaton Aston has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and as a result of a presentation by the Police at the November Parish Council meeting a "Community Speedwatch Group" has been formed and is now on standby waiting to receive the necessary equipment and training.

Housing development in the Village has seen two major applications firstly on Ivetsy Road and secondly at Bridge Farm. The Parish Council understand that South Staffs Council have granted outline planning permission but no final application has been received by the Parish Council. As and when we receive the applications the Council will consult with the parishioners.

A community lottery scheme has been launched by South Staffs Council and its aim is to support the Voluntary and Community sector within South Staffs area. It is a weekly online lottery that takes place every Saturday night and prizes up to £25,000 can be won.

During the year the Council distributed grants to various organisations in the village, for example Wheaton Aston First Responders which ultimately benefit of the local residents.

Many organisations outside the Village receive grants from the Parish Council, for example The Samaritans, Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, Community Council of Staffordshire and Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme. All of these organisations benefit our Community. I would like to remind our parishioners that voluntary car scheme is at present short of drivers from this Parish and is looking for volunteers.

The Christmas lights switch on event was even bigger and better than last year. The families and individuals who attended were entertained by the excellent Cannock Citadel Band of the Salvation Army and the St Mary's First School Choir. Nick Collins, our MC for the evening did a great job of ensuring that the entertainment went smoothly and keeping the crowd informed of the programme of events. Santa's Grotto was very popular with the younger generation. Stalls, manned by the Local community groups, selling mulled wine mince pies, crafts, tombola, books etc were present around the Village green as well as in the Church and Village hall. I would like to thank the Christmas Lights Working Group and the Parish Council Manager for their hard work to make the switch on a success.

Our links with our Sister City Wheaton, Illinois maintained by the Cowley family were further strengthened by visit from Teri Ash, a member of Wheaton Council. A reception, hosted by the Parish Council, was held in the Hartley Arms during September and representatives from the church, parish societies and groups met and discussed a variety of mutual topics with Teri Ash.

Outside the Parish the vast potential development on the land bounded by Four Ashes, A449, A5 and M6 known as the Gailey Freight Hub is raising concern in the district. The Parish Council voted to join "The Collective of Parishes" to oppose the development.

During the year the Parish Councillors have had to review and adopt some 17 Policies ranging from Lone Workers Policy to Mobile Phone Policy, a time consuming exercise.

Once again our finances are in order and well managed, and the Internal Auditor has concluded that the Parish Council's system of internal controls are satisfactory. The External Auditor has also passed the 2016/17 accounts and states that there are no issues to raise for the Council to consider. The Auditor recommended the Parish Council for its use of the virement procedure.

Following an analysis of expenditure for year 2016/17 it was recommended by the Forward Planning and Finance Working Group and accepted by the Parish Council that the Precept be increased by 4.90% for year 2017/18 due both increased administration and maintenance costs and, unfortunately the on going vandalism costs. I congratulate Mrs Amy Watson our Parish Council Manager, for keeping the finances in such good order.

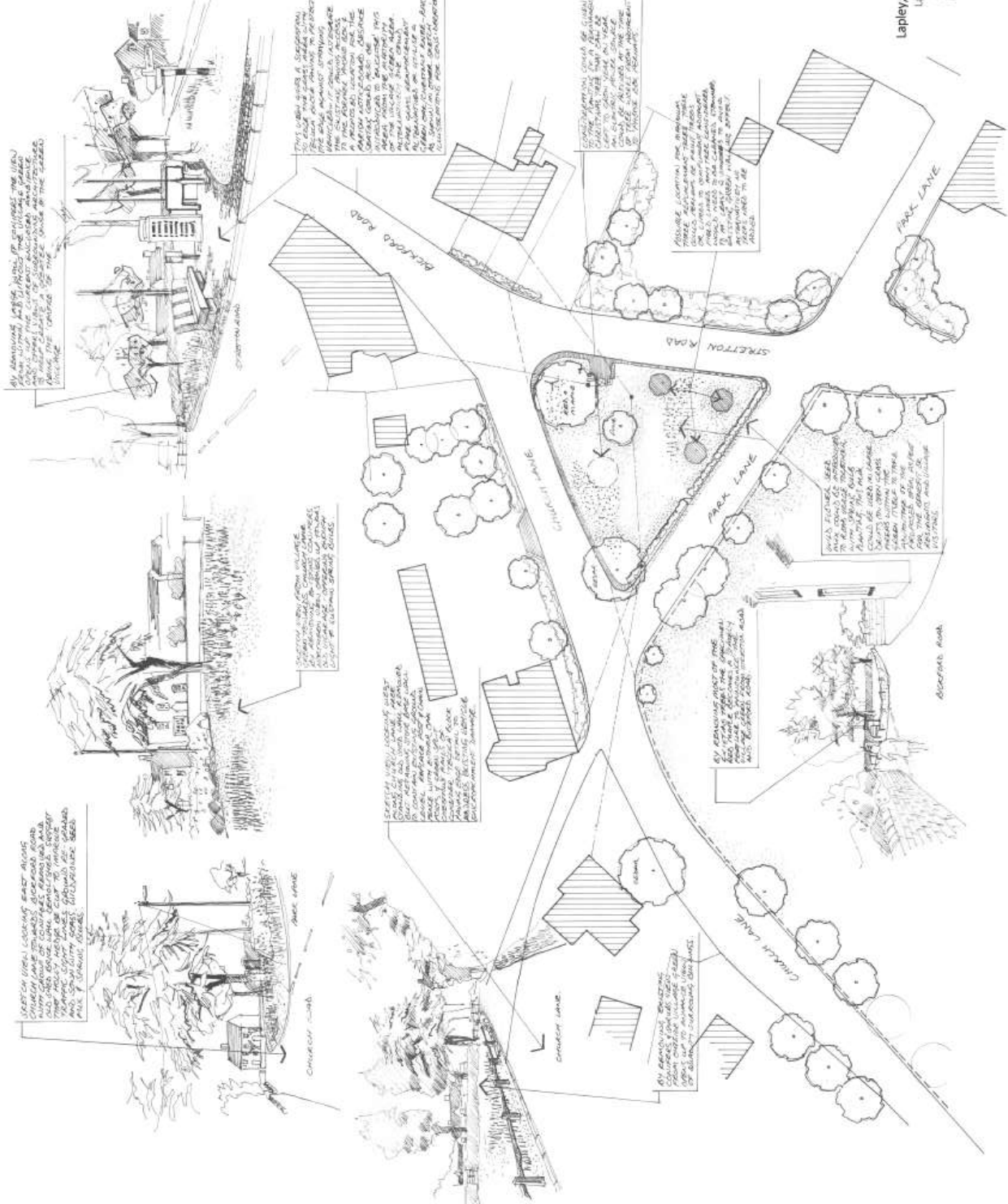
The ratio of attendances by the Parish Councillors at the Council Meeting has been very high which has enabled the various points on the agendas to be dealt with in an efficient matter. The public is always in attendance at the meetings and many points raised have found their way onto the agenda and have been acted upon by the Council.

I would like to remind the Parish that Parish Councillors attend not only the regular monthly Parish Council meetings but also some of the Working Group meetings, external meetings and training courses.

Finally, my thanks, as Chairman, to all the Councillors and the Parish Council Manager for the work they do on behalf of us all in representing our interests and welfare and my thanks also, on behalf of the Parish council, to Huw Jones, a diligent and hard working councillor, who has had to resign from the Parish Council due to a career change.

**Have a great summer from all at Lapley,
Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish
Council**

- EXISTING BUILDING
- EXISTING WALL
- EXISTING TREE
- EXISTING SHRUBS
- GRASS AREA
- SUGGESTED SPRING BEDS
- SUGGESTED TREE PLANTING
- OVER-HEAD POWER LINE
- EXISTING ESTATE FENCING
- SUGGESTED TYPICAL RAINING GUTTER
- SUGGESTED WILD FLOWER BEDS
- EXISTING ROADWAY MARKINGS TO BE REPAIRED AND RESTORED



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council
 Landscape Modification Proposals: May 2018
Lapley Village Green
 Scale: 1:250 (A3) 1:500 (A4)
 Drawing Number: LVS/LM/PROP/011 of 31