



Chairman's Report for 2021-22 Annual Parish Meeting on 5th May 2022

I have pleasure in presenting my first annual report as Chairman for Lawley and Overdale Parish Council for 2021-22.

My appointment in May 2021 coincided with the relaxation of some Covid restrictions. Full Council face to face meetings commenced again June 2021, but with many other meetings where public were not allowed to attend, taking place in the legal entity of virtual meetings.

I would like to place on record, my appreciation of our Parish Council staffs efforts and flexibility over the last 12 months. It has not been easy for them given the need to, in the main, work from home, this due to inability to ensure safe working distance between staff and customers at the office, in line with Government Covid recommendations.

A restricted office opening has operated since April 2021, with rotas to suit the needs of Parish office operation.

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors, for their support and encouragement in my role as Chairman.

I would now like to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights of the activities in Lawley and Overdale Parish over the past year.

Events

Lawley 5K Fun Run

It has been pleasing as Chair to attend a number of events as representative of the Parish Council. We saw the return of the Lawley 5K Fun Run, a popular annual event we organise in partnership with Bournville Village Trust and the Lawley Running Club. The event was a great success and raised almost £1,000 – which the Parish Council match funded. This enabled Telford Mind and West Mercia Search and Rescue, two fantastic charities that provided their much-needed services throughout the pandemic, both to receive £1,000 each.



Act of Remembrance

In November, we were proud to host the Community Act of Remembrance, in-person for the first time since 2019, at Lawley War Memorial. A greatly improved and enlarged pedestrian area, along with increased planting only helped to enhance this service. Touching tributes to the fallen were made, and we were pleased to see so many residents attend.

Armed Forces Covenant Day was another pleasurable experience. This endorsed the Parish signing up to the covenant giving our commitment to support service personnel in their pursuit of assistance in employment, care etc, following a return to civvies.



Christmas Fayres

Moving forward to December, we hosted two big Christmas Fayres – one in Overdale, the other in Lawley. We also supported Great Dawley Town Council's Christmas event in Dawley Bank, assisting with funding and hosting one of the Parish's famous tombolas. The Lawley Fayre in particular was a huge success, enjoyed by many and wonderfully organised by the Parish staff. Once more, Telford Mind received a generous donation from the proceeds of these events.



Easter Events

We have just finished hosting our Fun Science sessions for children during the Easter holidays. We also held two Easter trail events, in which children followed clues that led them from the Community Garden all the way to Lawley Village Green – where a free Easter treat awaited them. Feedback from both of these events has been extremely positive.



Forthcoming Events

4th June – Partnership Event - Queen Jubilee Farmstead/Bryce Way
5th June – Queen Platinum Jubilee Party, Overdale
27th June – PSA Testing Event, Lawley Community Centre
2nd July – Summer Fest – Family Fun Day with live entertainment and activities
10th September – Lawley 5K Fun Run
11th November – Act of Remembrance
10th December – Christmas Fayre Overdale
17th December – Christmas Fayre Lawley

Community Green Spaces

Work is still progressing on a number of our parish green spaces.

St Saviour Close/St Helier Drive

Following a survey of residents and with assistance of Green Guarantee funding, a new bench was erected on the green space off St Saviour Close and St Helier Drive in June. An area of planting was also completed with very positive comments from residents. In addition to this through working with Telford & Wrekin Council a path has been made through the area, which now allows wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters to gain access to this green space.



Lawley Village Green

As part of this year's Queen Platinum Jubilee celebration, we have ensured that we have had one of the official jubilee trees planted on the Village Green. To mark this unique occasion, it has one of the official Jubilee plaques around it.



Old Park Green Space

The pond area, the jewel in the crown, the beautiful amenity area where we have been looking to make further improvements by adding benches to another area. Due to us recently being successful in applying for Veolia Enviro-grant, we are currently engaging with Old Park residents to enhance this area with some additional nesting boxes and replacement of 2 benches.

Partnership Working

Marlborough Way to Ironbridge Way

One of the most widely used public footpaths in the parish, leading from Marlborough Way and joining to Ironbridge Way, has received a “sizeable makeover”. The section in question regularly suffered from muddy conditions and standing water whenever it rained. Some nearby steps had also eroded, making them difficult to climb and potentially dangerous. In cooperation with the Community Action Team (CAT), the footpath has now been raised and resurfaced to prevent future flooding. Additionally, the steps have been revamped and are safer to use now.

This scheme was delivered in cooperation with Telford & Wrekin Council rights of way officer and our CAT community liaison officer, after discussions late last year identified it as an area for possible improvement.



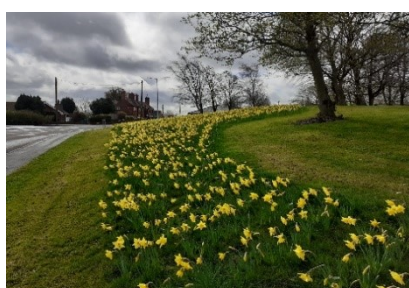
Cedar Close – Dropped Kerbs

Another example of Partnership working with Telford & Wrekin Council for the benefit of Overdale residents, who had contacted the Parish regarding the lack of accessibility for those with mobility issues.



Dawley Bank

It was lovely to see the daffodils on Cemetery Road in Dawley Bank. This is another example of Partnership working this time with Balfour Beatty and it certainly helps to make this area look lovely.



Environment

I would like to thank Rob Patterson, our Parish Environmental Team operative. He is forever roaming the parish, tidying, sweeping, repairing, maintaining, sweeping, gardening and much more. The Parish looks as tidy as it does thanks to his efforts.

Our new Community Liaison Officer, Chris Hallam works alongside both the Parish Council and Idverde and has been in place since May 2021. Chris works very closely with Rob Patterson, our Community Environmental Operative, with regular reports of work undertaken forwarded to our Clerk. Chris has been instrumental on a number of pieces of work that have been completed over the past year.

Highways

Hopefully, some new traffic enforcement cameras will be appearing in the Parish soon, helping to make the roads safer for everybody. We continue to consult with Highways and have pushed for the completion of the traffic signal co-ordination scheme for months now and it looks like that may materialise soon, making the traffic lights flow a little easier for everybody.

Community Centre

The proposed Community Centre is a project worthy of mention. Much time by staff and a working group of Councillors has been committed. Fingers crossed, we can get that missing entity into the electorate's consideration.

Essentially, the year has generally been an enjoyable one. None of us knows what 2022-2023 holds for the Parish. So, the hard work and commitment has to continue.

Thank you

Councillor John Yorke

Chairman