



Chair's Annual Report for 2023 - 2024
Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May 2024

This is my first Annual Report as Chair of Lawley & Overdale Parish Council and what a pleasure it has been to work with my fellow Councillors and the Parish staff team over the past twelve months.

Our annual events programme including an Easter Trail, Summer Fest, the Lawley 5K Fun Run and our Christmas events in both Lawley and Overdale proved very popular with the residents.

I had the pleasure of attending the Beach Party in Overdale and what a fabulous afternoon it was. It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves especially as the event was free and open to all. It was my first visit to the Carpenter Family Centre and the sense of community spirit was greatly evident.



I had the honour of opening the Summer Fest event in July along with Arnold England, Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Council.

Despite the temperamental weather, there was so much for residents to see and do, and I am very much looking forward to attending this year.

As Chair, one of my duties was to lay a wreath at last year's Remembrance Service, a very poignant moment when members of the community joined together to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all those who defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. I was overwhelmed by the amount of people who attended that morning to pay their respects.



The Christmas lights switch on in Lawley, whilst very cold, was an excellent way to start the seasonal festivities and included performances from Dreamers Choir, Telford Concert Band, the local schools and Puddleducks nursery.

We have continued to work with our partners and have forged new relationships with the local schools, Lawley Bank Court, The Telford Hall and The Wrekin Housing Group, working on various initiatives for the benefit of the community and to bring different groups of people together.

Along, with my colleagues we have helped to purchase additional defibrillators for the Parish, supported environmental enhancements such as the planting of fruit bushes in the Lawley Community Garden and the installation of wildlife boxes and new benches in Princes End play area, along with ensuring a free full holiday activity programme for families.

The Parish Council has also helped various projects and groups by the means of match-funding. The wooden bollards on Lawley Village Green, having been in situ for nearly 30 years have now been replaced to secure the area and to retain its visual aesthetics.

The Bank Top Café at Dawley Baptist Church, which was established in 2013 continues to serve up to 40 meals every Friday for local residents. The funding will help the volunteers to continue to provide the much-needed service.



The Lawley & Overdale History Trail is now online and has been updated by the use of QR codes along the various sections of the trail. This will allow walkers to learn of the local history and new benches have been installed along the routes to enable them to rest should they need to.

Our Community Action Team continue to work across the Parish area, ensuring it remains clean and safe for the benefits of residents, something that is evidently clear not only from their efforts but also feedback from residents.

Last year the Parish Council awarded 14 community grants to local groups, totally nearly £6,500 and in doing so helped schools, sports associations and charities.

Councillor Luke Lewis

Chair of Lawley & Overdale Parish Council

Calendar of meetings and event

May 2023

13th May - Ward walk
16th May - Full Council meeting
25th May - meeting with the Clerk
28th May - Ward walk
31st May - Personnel Committee meeting

June 2023

11th June - Ward walk
17th June - Summer Beach Party in Overdale
19th June - Personnel Committee meeting
20th June - Full Council meeting
29th June - meeting with the Clerk

July 2023

8th July - Summer Fest in Lawley
12th July - Chair's Network Meeting
16th July - Ward walk
23rd July - Councillor surgery
27th July - meeting with the Clerk
30th July - Ward walk

August 2023

17th August - meeting with the Clerk
20th August - Councillor surgery

September 2023

5th August - Lawley Management Committee meeting
12th September - Full Council meeting
13th September - meeting with the Clerk
17th September - Councillor surgery
24th September - Lawley Bank Court

October 2023

1st October - Lawley Management Committee meeting – working group
10th October – Ketley Brooke residents meeting
17th October - meeting with the Clerk

November 2023

7th November - Lawley Management Committee meeting
12th November - Remembrance Service
14th November - Full Council meeting
15th November - Lawley Youth Forum
18th November - Councillor and staff development planning meeting
30th November - meeting with the Clerk

December 2023

- 1st December - Christmas lights switch on – Lawley
- 11th December - meeting with Telford & Wrekin Council to discuss the new community facility
- 10th December - Lawley Partnership Board
- 14th December - meeting with the Clerk

January 2024

- 4th January - Personnel Committee meeting
- 7th January - Ward Walk
- 16th January - Full Council meeting
- 25th January - meeting with the Clerk

February 2024

- 6th February - Lawley Partnership Board
- 6th February - Lawley Management Committee
- 8th February - meeting with the Clerk
- 24th February - Ward walk
- 29th February - meeting with the Clerk

March 2024

- 7th March - meeting with the Clerk
- 12th March - Full Council meeting
- 15th March - Free Friday night football in Lawley
- 21st March - meeting with the Clerk
- 23rd March - Ward walk

April 2024

- 9TH April – meeting with Puddleducks Nursery
- 17th April - meeting with the Clerk
- 22nd April - meeting with Telford & Wrekin Council and BVT