

Issue No. 1
2020/2021



ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the whole of the Ashover Parish

Website: www.ashover-pc.gov.uk

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Parishioners,

May 2020 sees the close of a council year; one where we have all experienced unprecedented events.

The weather from September to February 2020 recorded the highest rainfall in Ashover on record and created its own problems locally on highways, footpaths and bridleways; recorded snow and frost levels were also at an all-time low.

Derbyshire County Councillor Barry Lewis informed the Parish Council that a major campaign to deal with problems such as pot-holes was being undertaken.

The main event affecting all our lives is the Covid-19 virus resulting in a "lockdown". This has put a huge strain on all our lives and livelihoods. As a Parish Council we congratulate the efforts taken by everyone in respecting the "social distancing" and "stay at home" directive from Central Government.

Ashover is well known for its community spirit and once again we have the proof.

Every effort has been made by our shops to provide essential food supplies along with the public houses offering take – away meals. The Post Office providing its normal service along with newspaper deliveriesThank you to all.

Our Parish Lengthman has continued his role and Sara, the Parish Clerk, has worked from home as usual. North East Derbyshire District Council, along with Derbyshire County Council, have done an excellent job in providing help and assistance where needed and the Parish Council has liaised with the authorities, providing information and placing news items and information on our website and Facebook page.

The Parish Council elections took place in May 2019 with two new councillors being elected, we welcomed both Helen Boffy and Mike Thomas; William Armitage retained both his Parish Council and District Council seats - congratulations.

The Parish Council began its business with several projects:-

1. New play area

2. A632 main road safety campaign
3. Climate change emergency planning
4. Proposed Demolition of garages at Malthouse Lane and Dovecotes

However, due to the current situation these items are 'on hold'. The V.E. Day celebrations and May Day had been fully planned and prepared, but again these had to be cancelled under Government guidance.

Items achieved include the professional cleaning of the War Memorial, poppy displays on the street lamps and a new seat at Littlemoor.

Two internal audits were undertaken by "Auditing Solutions Ltd" with no matters arising; this is a testament to the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer and the Finance Committee.

In conclusion may I extend my thanks to all the volunteers, working groups, clubs and societies, Christmas event organisers, May day organisers, Parish Council Members and especially Sara for her efficiency and commitment. I appreciate all the time and hard work that makes this Parish 'tick'.

Thank you and keep safe

Ed Willmot

Councillor Ed Willmot

Chairman

Ashover Parish Council

June 2020

Allotments

The allotments on Marsh Green are owned by the Parish Council and are presently rented by six residents.

Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd

The Ashover Community Medical Centre is owned by a community-based charitable trust and leased to the medical practice. It was through fundraising, the contributions of local businesses and securing external grants that the money was raised for the building work. Following the expiry of the previous lease in July 2016 negotiations have been ongoing and we are pleased to report a new lease was finalized in August 2019 to be in force for 15 years from July 2016. The current Covid-19 pandemic brings into clear focus the importance of NHS medical services in Ashover Parish.

The Directors/Trustees of the Medical Centre wish to take this opportunity to commend the Doctors and staff at the surgery for their tremendous efforts at this difficult time.

The rental income has been applied to the maintenance of the building and surrounding hedges, and the community itself has continued to benefit as well.

Recent grants agreed and paid are a £500 to Ashover school, to help the funding of the defibrillator. This adds to the other defibrillators around the Parish which the Trust has purchased for the safety of the community. Other grants have been made to Ashover football club, Ashover cricket club, Parish party and Mayday celebrations, Ashover Brownies, Woolley Show, Ashover OAPs and Lunch Club.

The Trust is very much “open for business”. Applications for new grants, particularly from new groups or individuals are always welcome. In the first instance speak to one of the Trustees, contact can be made on my telephone number – 01246 590356.

Philip Clark, Secretary.

Trustees – Jacquie Collins, Andrew King, Edward Willmot, Philip Clark.

Ashover Light Railway Society

(a registered charity)

It may be over half a century since Ashover boasted a railway service (linking Ashover with Clay Cross) but any internet search for “Ashover” will bring up mention of the railway. The ALRS promotes

the history of the railway and its role in the development of transport, quarrying etc. in the local area.

In the last twelve months the society's display and publicity stand has appeared at various local shows and events (but unfortunately not at the 2020 May Day event) to attract interest from local people who may have fond memories of the railway or who want to find out more about the railway.

Interest in the railway is not just confined to the local area, society members can be found across the globe.

The society is always interested to acquire photos and personal memories of the railway, and contact details are available from the society's website (alrs.org.uk).

Ashover Show 2020

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the 2020 Ashover Show has been cancelled. There will however, be a 'Virtual' Ashover Show, please visit <http://www.ashovershow.co.uk> for more details.

Ashover Show Secretary

Cemetery

The Ashover Parish Cemetery is a place used by many to remember their loved ones. It is a place of peace and tranquillity and the Burial Board are dedicated to maintaining the area in a manner that is sympathetic to the surroundings.

During the current pandemic of Coronavirus, we have kept the Cemetery open for both visitors and funerals. Funerals can take place with limited numbers. Social distancing should be maintained at all times.

The next available section in the Cemetery is being opened for burials. The regulations have been amended to maximise the efficiency of space used, by only allowing consecutive burials. No pre reservation of space is allowed in the new section.

A Tree Survey was undertaken in November 2018 and we continuously monitor our tree stocks for safety.

Woolley Moor Nurseries, a locally based contractor, has been awarded the contract after a formal quotation process. They will

undertake the general maintenance over the coming three years. Under a separate contract we continue to weed kill the paths and borders to maintain their functionality.

In addition Community Service has been utilised to assist in clearance of debris and raking of paths to prevent moss formation. Burial records for Ashover Cemetery are digitised and maintained by the Burial Clerk. Original paper records have been archived. Three memorials have been repaired and reinstated as part of an on-going programme to preserve the amenity of Ashover Cemetery. Smaller memorials are being stabilised for safety.

A 'Fees and Charges' list and other documentation for the cemetery may be found on the Parish Council's website at

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk>

Councillor Chris Miller

Chairman of the Ashover Parish Council Burial Board

Christmas Lights Switch-On 2019

This year the Ashover Christmas lights were switched on by the Rector, Ralph Lawrence, ably assisted by the children who visited, along with our very own Town Crier, Merrick Bull.

As the Town Crier, many thanks go to Merrick, as each year he wonderfully delivers a virtuoso performance. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Father Christmas, his elves and the helpers of this year's event, not least to Ashover Brass Band, who all helped to give the 'Christmassy' feeling to all who came and dutifully sang, as the excited children queued up to visit Father Christmas in his enchanting atmospheric grotto, in the Basset Rooms. Ashover Christmas lights switch-on was again a success, so a huge thank you once again goes to Ashover Parish Council for continuing to support this event and a special "thank you" goes to Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd who, annually, make a generous donation towards costs.

Councillors Helen Boffy and Lucy Hunter-Bott

Christmas Event Volunteer Group

Common Land

Your Council continues to monitor common land, carrying out maintenance where necessary. Parish Council approval has been given for some trees on common land, to be managed by the Tree Working Group.

Community Car Scheme

The scheme covering Chesterfield, Ashover and Amber Valley is supported by the NHS, Derby City and Derbyshire County Council, CT4TC Community Transport for Town and Country. For more information telephone the booking line on 01773 746652.

Communication

If you wish to report on events within the parish to the local press, this can be done via the “Grass Roots” section of ‘The Derbyshire Times’ by e-mailing:- grassroots@derbyshiretimes.co.uk.

County/District Council Liaison Meetings

County/District/Parish Liaison meetings/events are held during the year, with presentations and liaison on various issues. Your Parish Council is represented at these meetings.

Cricket Club

Last year was probably the most challenging year in the history of Ashover CC. Only two seasons ago we were celebrating the fact that we had a young talented Saturday 1st XL and looked like we would have a successful team for many years to come. Unfortunately no one in our club realised that many of these players would finish their education at similar times which culminated with them applying and successfully winning positions in companies all over the country therefore making it impossible for them to play cricket at Ashover.

In spite of the loss of many players our Saturday 1st XL finished in a creditable position in Division 3N of the DCCL which is the highest position attained in the clubs recent history. However the knock on effect of losing many first team players absolutely decimated our Saturday 2XL and despite battling bravely they were unfortunately relegated at the end of the season.

Our Sunday XL which consists mainly of old hands and up and coming young players had a reasonable season finishing halfway in their section of the MDCL.

Our junior section was the most successful part of the club with our U12's & U13's both winning their respective leagues. Our very young U11 team held their own in their section and the U15's also finished in a creditable position in their league.

Our Friday night Kwik Cricket was again a huge success with 95 boys & girls registering for the programme. The 'Jewel in our Crown' was our ALL STARS programme which gave 57 children age 5/6 and 7 their first chance to sample the wonderful game of cricket and I am proud to announce that the club was awarded the BEST ALL STARS CENTRE in Derbyshire beating over 90 other centres. Great credit should be given to everyone involved with our Junior Cricket and we should not underestimate the amount of work involved in all the things that we do.

When the season finished we took stock regarding the position of the club and it was clear that we needed a large influx of players for the club to continue with 2 teams on a Saturday and 1 Sunday team. At this point we heard that Chesterfield Barbarians CC (who also had 2 Saturday Teams) were in a similar position regarding lack of players. After several telephone conversations the two clubs got together to discuss a possible merger. After lengthy discussions it was decided that to preserve senior cricket at both Ashover and Walton Dam the best way forward was for the two clubs to join together and so the new club Ashover Barbarians CC was formed. This was not an easy decision as both clubs had a proud history but it was clear to all concerned that this had to be done to keep both clubs alive.

It was our intention this year to run 2 Saturday sides at Ashover and a 3rd XL on Saturdays at Walton Dam as well of course as continuing with a Sunday XL at Ashover. We were also going to

continue with our excellent youth cricket programmes so the youngsters in our area will still enjoy All Stars, Kwik and hardball cricket at both Ashover & Walton Dam. However Covid 19 has put a huge spanner in the works for this season but be sure that when this horrendous situation passes (and it will) cricket will resume and we should look forward to seeing friends old & new on sunny days watching the great game of cricket.

Chairman

Ashover Barbarians Cricket Club

Defibrillators

Ashover Parish Council has installed six defibrillators at the following locations:-

Outside Uppertown Social Centre

Outside the medical centre in Ashover

In the red kiosk at Alton

In the red kiosk at Littlemoor

On the side of The Miners Arms, Milltown

On the side of The Kelstedge Inn, Kelstedge

If you need to use one of the defibrillators remember - In an emergency, Dial 999 and you will be given the code to the cabinet and further instructions.

If you would like to know more about how the defibrillators work, visit the parish council website and put 'defibrillator in use quick reference guide' into the search box at the top right-hand corner of the homepage or paste the following link into your browser:-

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/uploads/ipad-sp1-in-use-quick-reference-guide-a4-for-web.pdf>

District Councillor W Armitage (NEDDC)

I would first of all thank all of the Electorate of Ashover for electing me to represent them at both District and Parish Council. Indeed, I regard it as an honour and I will try, as always, to get the best deal for Ashover Parish.

At the time of writing we are still in the grips of Covid-19. The District Council Officers and Staff, under the guidance of the Leader, have been working hard and in some instances have gone beyond the call of duty in order to support the public. They have made over 6,825 welfare calls to people who have requested regular support during 'lockdown' and carried out many emergency repair jobs. Over 7,080 prescriptions have been delivered and over 100 food parcels have been delivered to vulnerable people. Over 5000 residents have registered with our Community Support Team who, in turn, are doing a tremendous job supporting our most vulnerable residents.

The District Council has paid out 85% of the £20 million allocated to support small businesses and to those in retail, leisure and hospitality; these businesses having been severely impacted by the pandemic. A donation of £1000 has been given to Ashgate Hospice so that they can purchase protective clothing, this was made possible as a result of an anonymous donation.

During the year I have succeeded in getting the double glazed windows replaced in the bungalows on Dovecotes, many of which were steamed up and no longer serviceable. At the same time, the windows in the flats on Malthouse Lane were also replaced, together with the windows and doors on the halls and landings and security locks were also fitted. The overall result was to make these properties much warmer and help the residents to keep warm and reduce heating bills. I would also like to have the rest of the Rykneld property's brought up to standard in this way. The problem with parking and the garages is still an ongoing issue, but rest assured I intend to get this resolved as soon as possible.

We still have an ongoing problem with the number of potholes and I was instrumental in getting Brownhills Lane in Alton repaired, after a resident brought to my attention the number of large potholes. The County Council have been given a large amount of money to remedy this, so please report any you see via the Derbyshire County Council 'Report a Road Fault' facility at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk> As far as planning is concerned, the new North East Derbyshire District Council Local Plan is at examination stage and approval was anticipated in August, but the pandemic has caused further delay.

I will, as I said in my election leaflet, be opposed to inappropriate planning applications .Where applications are approved, I will make sure that all of the conditions are complied with, including those regarding wildlife and respect for Tree Preservation Orders.

I would finally wish all of you to stay safe in these difficult times - they will not last forever

Regards

William Armitage

District and Parish Councillor for Ashover Ward

Donations/Grants

During 2019/20 your Parish Council donated £963.60 as follows:-

- Ashover Old Peoples Association - £50.00
- Ashover Lunch Club - £50.00
- Ashover Acorns - £50.00
- Ashover PCC (Room hire Christmas event) – 82.00
- Ashover Brass Band - £50.00
- May Day Carnival (APCC) - £200.00
- Church Clock & Graveyard Maintenance - £481.60

Employees

Your Parish Council employs two people: Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer/Burial Clerk (23 hours per week), Parish Lengthman and Sports Pavilion Caretaker (13 hours per week).

Footpaths and Bridleways Group

Work on Ashover footpaths and bridleways has continued with significant changes over the past year.

With cuts to the support provided by Derbyshire County Council, we have had to become more independent and hence more careful in every way we operate, making sure that what we do is legal and also in compliance with Health and Safety requirements. This was previously done through The Council, as was the planning of work schedules and such like.

Most materials are still provided through D.C.C., which has also provided our group with extra tools and safety equipment. The Council has also provided transport for materials to enable refurbishment of, for instance, the steps leading up from the local sewerage works and the steps leading down from Highoredish Picnic Site. We very much hope their support will continue.

A regular group of volunteers meets weekly to do work on Ashover Rights of Ways. Work includes repairing gates and stiles and cutting back vegetation from the line of paths and bridleways, including the path south from Highoredish.. The volunteers also work on the three, County Council owned sites: The Fabric, Highoredish and Eddlestowe Lot. This work has been supported by Tom Cartwright, who has the grant delegated through Ashover Parish Council to do work that requires mechanical help. His much valued work included: clearance of The Sheep Wash (Milltown); the descent from Highoredish to Roughclose Farm; Abraham's Lane from Milltown and Coffin Lane, Ashover.

We have received much help and encouragement from The County Council Rights of Way Department. Back Lane Overton from Milltown through to Green End on the lane to Slack Hill has been confirmed as two bridleways, having previously been an unclassified byway. The bridleways are bisected by a part of Coffin Lane This means that motorised vehicles of any sort are legally forbidden to use them (of course, landowners and property owners have the access rights for vehicles). The Rights of Way officer has also resolved unlawful diversions of paths, such as that near Old Engine Farm off Holestonegate Road and organised clearance of fallen trees and fences such as those that led to the closure of the path round 'The Blue Lagoon'.

The officer has also ensured that, with the help of local members of The British Horse Society, a gate on the bridleway past the former Manor Inn at Press is now user friendly for horses and their riders. Thanks to the co-operation of the owner of Bunting Field, Uppertown, a legal diversion of the footpath means that it no longer goes through agricultural buildings! Fallen and life expired wooden finger posts are now being gradually replaced by long lasting metal ones.

Our thanks go to the many locals who help to keep our now 50 miles of rights of way open and safe by removing obstructions or reporting them and to the help and understanding of those who own the land through which the network passes. Thanks also to those in the two Ashover walking groups who walk the paths to good effect. Our thanks also go to the great majority of people who slow down and give a wide berth to walkers and riders, when they pass them on roads. We also thank dog owners for making sure that there is no dog mess on or near paths and to those who pick up litter for the benefit and safety of all.

Grit Bins

Your Parish Council owns and fills a total of 37 grit bins sited around the parish and undertakes winter maintenance of the Milken Lane Car Park. ***The salt is supplied for use on the highway adjacent the bin and if you witness large amounts being taken for personal use, please contact the Police.***

Grounds Maintenance

The maintenance contract with North East Derbyshire District Council continues and includes maintenance of the playing field, borders surrounding the car park, play area and tennis courts, statutory monthly and annual safety inspections. Pitch bookings administration continues to be undertaken by NEDDC. Your Parish Council approved a 5 year contract with NEDDC, commencing 2016/17 at £11,887.72 and thereafter subject to a cumulative 1.25 % increase year on year ending 31/03/2021.

Hard Courts

The hard courts adjacent Milken Lane Car Park are available for booking at certain times (minimum 10 bookings) by a club or organisation affiliated to a league. Details of Hire Charges are available from the Parish Clerk, on the courts' notice board and on the Parish Council website at <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk>

Litter Problem on Country Roads

Littering is a nationwide problem and 20 years of poster campaigns, TV adverts and voluntary agreements have had little effect on littering behaviour. Some of the problems caused by littering are:

- Damage to vehicle tyres.
- Harm to wildlife, farm animals and pets – the RSPCA receive on average 7,000 calls a year in relation to animals injured by litter.
- Drain blockages.
- Rat infestation.

In towns and cities the council is obliged to clear problem areas of litter but in rural areas councils don't have the resources to clear miles of country roads – research has shown that one mile of road can contain 147 items of litter. Where communities have taken the initiative and formed groups of volunteer litter pickers 'adopting' a section of road each to keep clear, this has had a big impact on reducing littering and gives the volunteers a real sense of purpose. Please take a look at the CPRE and Keep Britain Tidy websites.

Local Council Award Scheme

The Local Council Award Scheme exists to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential. All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving

their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

Your Parish Council achieved 'Quality' status under the new scheme in February 2017 and will seek re-accreditation in 2021.

Neighbourhood Plan

The 8th February 2018 saw the approval of the **Ashover Parish Neighbourhood Plan**, a copy of which can be found on the Parish Council homepage at <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk>

This represents a milestone for the Parish which gives the community a much greater say in how things will be shaped in the future, the most important of which is how and where development will take place within the Parish.

It covers other aspects of life in the Parish including, amongst other things, Jobs and Economy, Community Facilities and Shops, Design and Build Heritage, Environment and getting around the Parish.
Councillor Richard Fidler

NEDDC Local Plan 2014-2034

For up to date information on North East Derbyshire District Council's Draft Local Plan 2014-2034, please visit the NEDDC website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

Newsletters and Sharing Parish News

Your Parish Council issues four Newsletters per year, the first of which is the Annual Report of the Parish Council which is circulated to every household in the parish and published on the website. The other three Newsletters may be found on the website at

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk>

You'll find that Ashover Parish Council's web-site

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk>

is pretty much an information hub for what's going on around the parish. Apart from formal content such as information about the

Council, its meetings and Minutes, Planning (including the Neighbourhood Plan), there's also a Community section where you'll find News and a 'What's On' calendar showing up-coming events. It's through the News section that you'll see bulletins from Derbyshire County Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire Police etc.

On a more local level there's Amber News, a monthly publication by the churches of Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington which features pastoral news as well as information about community activities. Copies of Amber News can be found in the Post Office in Moor Road but you can also find the latest edition on the amber churches website <http://www.amberchurches.org/> Over the past year we have put more emphasis on developing our reach through social media, primarily through the parish council's Facebook page. Consistent with the medium, the content tends to be quite informal highlighting the activities going on around the parish. This could be clubs, coffee get-togethers and community events in the village.

The Covid-19 outbreak has of course been a difficult time for everyone and on our Facebook page we've been featuring a series of quarantine ideas such as a suggested time-table of activities for children, a link to free on-line theatre performances and some introductory yoga sessions by a local yogini.

We've also used our site as a shout-out to those local businesses who are continuing to serve the community throughout the shut-down.

Hopefully this will give you a flavour of where to find information about the parish and if you have any suggestions on ways in which we could improve what we offer we'll of course be pleased to receive them.

Councillor Mike Thomas

Oil Buying Scheme

Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) is a charity set up in 1924 to support rural communities in Derbyshire. One of their current projects is running a community bulk oil buying scheme.

Oil prices are extremely low at the moment which is good news for oil users. RAD can make cheap oil even cheaper through this bulk buying scheme.

The scheme is open to anyone using Kerosene²⁸ for their heating – households, businesses or community buildings.

There is NO registration or annual membership fee. The scheme is run online where members can register, order and pay for their oil.

If you are one of the 20% of rural Derbyshire that do not use a computer or have reliable access to the internet then you can manage your account through the Project Manager at RAD.

There is no obligation to buy your oil through the scheme, you can dip in and out of it depending on your needs. RAD will always be able to negotiate a better oil price than you would be able to arrange with a supplier in the same period due to the quantity they are negotiating with.

RAD orders oil once a month on behalf of their 'members' and negotiate with up to 8 oil suppliers for the best possible price.

For more information on the scheme please contact the Project Manager at RAD on 01629 592970 / 0845 313 8800, email

oil@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk or visit the RAD website

<http://www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/oil>

Rural Action Derbyshire, Town Hall, Bank Road,
Matlock, DE4 3NN. Charity No: 1061531.

Parish Appearance/Maintenance

The flowerbeds adjacent 'The Black Swan' and the public toilets are maintained under contract for the Parish Council. The Lengthman continues to pick litter around the parish with the help of volunteers and reports on fly tipping, carries out general maintenance on parish owned street furniture and undertakes health and safety inspections on Parish owned property and cleaning of the Public Conveniences on Moor Road, Ashover.

Parish Councils and Meetings

Parish councils and parish meetings work towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level. Their work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community;
- delivering services to meet local needs; and
- striving to improve quality of life in the community.

Through a range of powers, parish councils provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons, community transport schemes, crime reduction measures, footpaths, leisure facilities, local youth projects, open spaces, public lavatories, planning, street cleaning, street lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures, village greens and litter bins.

Residents are welcome to attend and speak at Parish Council Meetings under the 'Public' section. Parish Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month (except August when no meeting is held) in The Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover and commence at 7.15pm. During the coronavirus pandemic, Parish Council Meetings have been held remotely at 6.00pm via the 'Zoom' platform and members of the public are invited to attend using the log-in details provided on the agenda. Public Speaking is invited for the first fifteen minutes of every meeting, when anyone from the parish may raise any issue with the Parish Council. A copy of the Agenda, together with notification of planning applications, Parish Clerk's Report, Minutes of the previous meeting and other information may be found on the Parish Council website:

<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk> and the main notice board on Moor Road. A summary of each meeting is published in 'The Derbyshire Times' "Grassroots" section and is also available on the Parish Council website along with other press releases.

Parish Council Surgeries

These are presently held at 7.00pm for fifteen minutes prior to every Parish Council Meeting. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and express any concerns they may have on parish issues to a Parish

Councillor and the Parish Clerk if they are unable, or do not wish, to attend and speak at the main meeting under 'Public Speaking'. Surgeries have not been held during the coronavirus pandemic, but members of the public have been invited to telephone questions etc. to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Hall

We would like to thank the local community, our regular hirers and trustees for their continued support over the last year.

We've had a busy year with our function rooms being chosen to hold a wide variety of events and regular classes, some of which you also may like to join yourself!

Monday's classes include a new Baby Boolies Sensory group for children up to 3 years. Our yoga instructors Jenny & Carrie Meadows have 3 classes on a Monday, including 1 daytime class. Karate with Mike Douglass also takes place on a Monday evening in the Amber Hall – which is great for all the family.

Tuesday's have seen the introduction of a fitness class for mums (and dads!) to bring their children along to with Helen Emmerson PT. Pilates with Liz is also on a Tuesday, and has literally gone from strength to strength with new members welcome at either of her 2 classes!

Wednesday morning's host 'Tots & Tinies playgroup' where parents and carers have a well-deserved cup of tea whilst the children have a wide variety of toys, organised activities and songs to keep them busy!

For the older children - we welcome Ashover Brownies to the hall on a Wednesday evening - This friendly group meet weekly at 6pm (term time) in our Amber Hall, followed by Guides at 7pm and often the Rangers at the same time.

New courses are being held by WEA (Workers' Educational Association) and Lynne Pope's Spanish Class and are fully underway, however please contact the hall for details of forthcoming new dates.

Other regular groups include Produce Club, Derbyshire Smallholders, Badminton, Indoor bowls, Parish Panto, Ashover Old People's Association and Ashover Young Farmers, along with local

artist Lily Hammond holding monthly Life Drawing Classes. Ashover Brass Band hold their weekly sessions on Sunday.

For those with a creative flair, Jonathan Moseley who is one of the UK's leading designers in the floral art world has many classes and workshops booked through the year.

All groups are currently looking for new members and everyone is welcome.

This year we hosted theatre events by High Tor Players and local children's theatre group Stage Stars.

We also held our second independent wedding fair at the hall which was a great success for both the hall and the local businesses that exhibited.

We have as always, had the pleasure of hosting many wonderful weddings, birthday and anniversary celebrations. The hall has also been a great base for local businesses to hold training and conferences.

We would be happy to provide you with further information on any of these existing groups, as well as offering advice and assistance with marketing should you wish to start a new class yourself.

We would also be happy to help you plan any party, wedding or other event. So contact us and come and have a look around at what we can offer.

Please take a look at our website <http://www.ashoverparishhall.com> or social media pages (Facebook & Instagram) which provides pricing and information on hiring the hall, a photo gallery for inspiration with your own event, with a new online calendar facility to check the availability of our function rooms.

Please look out over the coming year for some more great community events. To get in touch.....

Email info@ashoverparishhall.com

Website <http://www.ashoverparishhall.com>

Tel: 01246 590005

Manager

Ashover Parish Hall Events Centre

Parochial Church Council

The Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Ashover

Registered Charity Number 1174119

All Saints Church at Ashover holds a weekly service at 10.45 every Sunday morning (when there is a fifth Sunday in the month there is a United Benefice Service at Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley or Wessington), as well as additional church services to mark the main religious festivals and other local events. The average Sunday morning congregation is around 60, while at the Christmas Eve Family Carol Service the church is full. A meeting for prayer, "Sunday at Six", is held in the Bassett Rooms on the second Sunday of each month. In 2019, 4 baptisms, 5 weddings, 20 funeral services and 1 confirmation service were held in Ashover Church. The Ashover Celebration Choir has taken part in all the major Christian festivals and also led services in local churches. They have sung at various village celebrations over the Christmas period and by invitation at weddings.

Children's activities ("Allsorts") are held most Sundays to coincide with the Communion services. In addition, a pre-school group for parents and toddlers, Ashover Acorns, is held on two Thursday mornings a month in the Bassett Rooms, and Messy Church activities (SmARTies) are held on various occasions during the year.

A highlight of 2019 was the Flower Festival, held in the church over the August Bank Holiday weekend with the theme "Tales and Tributes", based around different features in the church building, with invaluable input from local historians Stuart and Sue Band including a guided tour of the church on the Saturday evening. A Scarecrow Trail in the village was also held over this weekend. During Advent, the church again organised a Posada celebration to reinforce the Christmas message. This starts on Advent Sunday and involves wooden figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey taking 8 different routes round the village, being hosted by families and businesses totalling approximately 150 venues, ending up at the public houses where they are collected and returned to church at the Christmas Eve family service in readiness for the birth of Jesus. As in previous years, the church has supported financially a number of overseas missions and relief agencies, as well as various local and national charities.

A number of church members regularly visit Grove Park and Grove House residents, many of whom are unable to attend church services, for worship, craft work, quizzes and reminiscing. Church members again played prominent roles in organising and participating in the May Day Carnival, the Pantomime, the Parish Party, the Village Coffee Shop, Film Time and Knit n' Natter, all of which were initiated by the church as means of outreach to the local community. All donations received at certain Village Coffee Shop sessions during the year are allocated to selected charities, the charities chosen in 2019 being Aquabox and Crisis at Christmas, for which a total of £664.46 was donated.

The Amber Churches website <http://www.amberchurches.org> for Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington Churches continues to provide information, news and a calendar of upcoming events. The Amber Churches also produce a monthly newsheet, *Amber News*, which is available free of charge in the churches, at the Post Office and some local shops, as well as being accessible on the Amber Churches website.

Work continued in 2019 on extending and refurbishing the Bassett Rooms to make them more user-friendly for the various church and community groups and clubs which meet there. During the year the roof was repaired, the rear wall was strengthened and repointed, the front steps were widened and considerable progress was made on landscaping the garden area behind the building; this landscaping and the refurbishment of the area in front of the building are scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2020.

Ashover PCC Secretary
All Saints Church, Ashover

Planning

Your Parish Council is one of several statutory consultees whose comments are sought by the District Council on planning applications. Unless applications are received after agenda issue, those to be considered by the Parish Council are listed on Appendix I which is published with the agenda and posted on the main notice board and on the website. Applicants are encouraged to address the Parish Council, either in person or in writing, when their

application is to be considered. Details of all applications, including associated documents, may be found on the District Council's website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

Play Area Project

Early in January 2020 the Parish Council announced plans to upgrade the facilities in the fenced playground behind the Medical Centre on the Milken Lane playing field and invited ideas from the likely users.

We've had some great feedback following both the Facebook post and from Ashover Primary School. This has since been turned into a design brief and we'll invite companies to tender their ideas once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.

We have also evaluated a suggestion that we look at creating a skate/bike park type facility for older children. Various options were discussed with a specialist but the cricket, football, tennis and play facilities we already have on the sports-field meant that unfortunately we were unable to find enough space to accommodate the new idea.

Councillors S Dronfield, L Hunter-Bott, M Thomas (Working Group)

Potholes, Pavements and other problems

Derbyshire County Council has a facility for reporting problems with potholes, pavements, flooding, gritting, street furniture etc. Visit the DCC homepage at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk> and click on 'report a road fault' etc. then follow the links to the online fault reporting form. After entering details, including an opportunity to upload a photo of the problem, you will be given a reference number, enabling you to keep track of action taken by DCC.

Primary School - Aspire & Achieve

Achieve

Safe

Positive

Independent

Respect

Enjoy

I write this article as we come to the end of our sixth week of lockdown due to the devastating Covid19 pandemic. Although our school has been closed to the majority of our pupils, we have continued to support Key Worker and vulnerable pupils in schools and provide home learning for our pupils in isolation.

Lockdown has given me the opportunity to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened at school in that last few months. Our pupils continue to amaze us each day with their curiosity, engagement and thirst for learning. Our outcomes at the end of the 2018/19 academic year highlighted that 92% of our Y6 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading writing and maths which is well above the national average of 65%.

This year the children have enjoyed learning in class and have had visits from two children's authors, Clay Cross Food Bank, The Derby Open Centre and several of our parents have worked with children on aspects of their science and engineering work life to give children a flavour of employment that they may wish to aspire to follow in their adult life. The children have also been on educational visits to the Pantomime, Derby Air Field, All Saints Church in Ashover and many sporting events at various local venues.

We have worked hard this year to try and develop links with the local community by sending our choir to sing to members of Ashover Luncheon Club and residents at Grove House as well as performing in a magical Christingle Concert for our parents at All Saints Church. Our wonderful Parent Teacher Association, Friends of Ashover School, have been supported by our parents to raise a huge amount of funding to support the school in funding extensive drainage repairs, resurfacing and remarking of the school playground. The children were wowed with the result when they returned to school in September and it has been a joy to observe their creative and cooperative play whilst using it.

This year Ashover Juniors Football Club have funded the installation of a defibrillator sited on the front of the school building. This is linked to the East Midlands Ambulance Service and the public can access this by calling 999 which will provide them with a code to

gain access to the unit. We know what a difference defibrillators can make in life threatening situations and are extremely thankful to have one on our school site.

We endeavour to continue to provide our pupils with a high quality education at our school. Please feel free to contact us should you have any queries at enquiries@ashover.derbyshire.sch.uk or 01246 590207.

Sue Myhill
Headteacher
Ashover Primary School

Public Conveniences

Following threat of closure by the District Council in 2008, the old stone public conveniences on Moor Road were taken over by the Parish Council and refurbished in 2013, including the redundant telephone kiosk in the small room at the front of the building, which was turned into an **Information Point** featuring parish news and attractions, maps and details of local walks. Ashover is believed to be one of the few parish councils to accept responsibility for upgrading and maintaining its public conveniences.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Dog mess is unfortunately an unpleasant aspect of dog ownership. It is every owner's duty to clean up after their dog – there is no excuse for leaving it behind.

North East Derbyshire District Council is committed to ensuring that dog owner's act in a responsible way.

Enforcement of the PSPO was due to begin in March but it has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. As well as introducing a number of new offences relating to dog control, the fine for failing to clear dog mess will be increased to £100.

Residents should be encouraged to report breaches of the PSPO to the council via 01246 231111 or by email to environmentalhealthadmin@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk and the dog wardens will investigate, issuing fines if necessary. There will be an

online form to report breaches put on the district council website in the near future.

PSPO – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What is a Public Space Protection Order? - A Public Space Protection Order, also known as a PSPO, is a power available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

An order can be used to control certain activities in a specified area if two conditions are met:

- that the activities have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on those in the locality
- that the effect is, or is likely to be, persistent and continuing nature and is or is likely to be such as to make those activities unreasonable and that restrictions are justified.

2) What does the PSPO for dog control actually mean for people living in or visiting North East Derbyshire District Council

The districtwide PSPO makes it an offence in NEDDC to

1. allow a dog to foul without picking it up
2. not have the means to pick up
3. fail to put a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer (e.g. by a council officer or Derbyshire Constabulary)
4. have more than 6 dogs in your control
5. allow dogs in designated play areas
6. allow dogs to be off leads whilst on roads, pavements, footways, pedestrianised areas, cemeteries and churchyards

3) Why are you implementing a Public Space Protection Order for dog control?

The Antisocial behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in more powers. The PSPO for dog management allows us to extend our powers and encourage responsible dog ownership. In turn, this will help make NEDDC an even cleaner, greener, healthier and safer place in which to play, live, work or visit by:

- reducing the number of dog fouling incidents across the district
- prevent incidents to enable powers to request dogs are placed on leads when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- making play areas safe and welcoming for children to enjoy
- improving the local community, environment and health and wellbeing for all.

Consultation - In addition, we carried out a public consultation prior to implementing the PSPO (6th September 2019 to 9th October 2019) and the majority of respondents, positively agreed with implementing the PSPO stating it will encourage responsible dog ownership.

4) How will the PSPO be enforced?

Authorised officers from North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire Police can enforce the Order.

A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100 will be issued if any of the PSPO conditions are breached. Failure to pay will lead to prosecution and being liable to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

5) When would you prosecute a dog owner rather than issue a Fixed Penalty Notice?

Prosecution might be appropriate for repeat offenders, or if the offence is so serious that it merits prosecution. For example: a dog owner that allows their dog to be dangerously out of control, despite being directed by an officer to put it on a lead, may risk prosecution, rather than being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. Failure to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice would result in prosecution.

6) Where does the requirement to pick up after my dog apply?

The PSPO states that a person in charge of the dog must “remove dog faeces from the land forthwith.” Land is defined as all land in the district which the public have access to.

It means you must pick up your dog’s foul outdoors in parks and on open spaces, on the footpath, highway, bridleways or any other area which someone else could reasonably be expected to access. This excludes your own private front or back garden but includes outdoor communal areas in a flat complex.

7) Why must I have the means to pick up?

Anyone walking a dog in a public place is obliged to remove the dog’s excrement if it fouls. This control requires dog owners to prove, if requested to do so, that they have a bag with them so are able to pick up if they need to do so. We strongly recommend that dog walkers always carry a stock of bags and have spares which they can share with other dog walkers.

8) Why might I have to put my dog on a lead if a council officer or police officer tells me to?

Requiring dogs to be kept on leads in designated areas likely reduces the risk of dog fouling occurring and ensures dog walkers keep their dogs under control for the safety of yourself, your dog and the safety of others.

The vast majority of parks and open spaces are free of restrictions and only if an authorised officer considers a dog, or dogs, to be out of control, or causing alarm or stress, will the owner of a dog be instructed to put and keep a dog on a lead

9) Why does the PSPO exclude dogs from defined play areas, Multi use Games area and designated sports areas

Health

The exclusion of dogs from certain sites, such as defined children's play areas is important in ensuring the health of children in what we consider to be a safe and welcoming environment in which children play.

Dog fouling can cause blindness from the disease toxocariasis, which is spread from animals to humans through infected dog foul.

Children should be free to play on the equipment without the fear of treading in or coming into contact with dog faeces.

Safety

Dogs taken into children's play areas may become aggressive if startled and we need to ensure the safety of children in play environments.

10) I am the only adult with my child/children and my dog. What will I do with my dog if I want to access the fenced off play area to assist my child/children on the play equipment?

Dogs can be securely tied to fences, provided they do not pose a health and safety risk to other children and members of the public. Any dog foul must be picked up and securely disposed of in a suitable bin.

11) I use an assistance dog – will the PSPO criteria apply to me?

The PSPO does not apply to a person who is registered as blind or to disabled persons who uses a trained assistance dog.

12) When will the PSPO be implemented and enforced from?

The PSPO for dog control will be implemented and enforced from 1 February 2020

13) Are other councils implementing PSPOs for dog management?

Yes, many other local government authorities have already implemented PSPOs for dog management, including neighbouring councils such as Chesterfield Borough Council.

14) Is the PSPO for dog management information published or advertised so people know about it?

Yes, we will let people know about the PSPO through a range of media including:

- *information available on the Council's website: www.northern-derbyshire.gov.uk/*
- *press releases will be issued to the media*
- *information will be published on the Council's Twitter account*
- *posters and postcards will be displayed in the Council's public buildings (libraries, leisure centres and Housing offices?)*
- *signage will be erected at the play areas, Mugas and designated sports area where the PSPO will impact*
- *information will be included in the Council's resident magazine 'The News'. This magazine is distributed to every household in the district.*

Ashover Parish Council has provided 11 dogs bins sited around the parish and these are located as follows:-

Ashover – Moor Road, Church Street, Narrowleys Lane, Dovecotes entrance to field, Cricket Pavilion, Milken Lane car park, The Fabrick, Cemetery.

Overton – near right of way.

Kelstedge – Westedge Close.

Littlemoor – adjacent bus shelter.

Rights of Way

These are ultimately controlled and maintained by Derbyshire County Council. The Parish Council undertakes minor works via its Minor Maintenance Agreement (MMA) with DCC. If you wish to report any issues relating to rights of way there is an online facility at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/prow> Furthermore, you can view the entire rights of way network by visiting the Council's website and

searching for 'Mapping Portal' where visitors can view a wealth of information, including Rights of Way. Information relating to Modification Orders may be viewed here

<https://www.apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>

During 2019/2020 your Parish Council used its total Minor Maintenance budget of £675 on minor maintenance to rights of way around the parish (path nos. 23,48,77,134,135,145,151,153).

Scams

Derbyshire Police has issued the following advice on how to better protect yourself against unwanted calls:-

Be sceptical

Take your time

Know who you are dealing with

Protect your financial information

If you want assistance in finding out if it is a scam contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

If you want to cut the junk contact:-

Mailings - 0845 703 4599 or www.mpsonline.org.uk (Registration is free)

Telephone Calls - 0845 070 0707 or www.tpsonline.org.uk (Registration is free). You can also contact your telephone company to block callers who withhold their number.

Text/SMS - 0845 070 0707 or www.tpsonline.org.uk. If you then receive a message you don't want you can reply with the word STOP.

Email - if you would like advice go to www.getsafeonline.org

If it looks too good to be true, it probably is

Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards and Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire are working together to highlight the problems of scams and fraud, through Derbyshire Scam Watch.

Scams affect the lives of millions of people across the UK. People who are scammed often experience

shame and social isolation as a result.

Scams come in many forms; uninvited contact is received by email, letter, and many of these sorts of scams but some of the most common are fake lotteries, deceptive prize draws or sweepstakes, clairvoyants, computer scams, and romance scams. The criminals attempt to trick people with flashy, official looking documents or websites, or convincing telephone sales patter, with the aim of persuading them to send a processing or administration fee, pay postal or insurance costs, buy an overvalued product or make a premium rate phone call. Doorstep Scams are crimes carried out by bogus callers, rogue traders and unscrupulous sales people who call, often uninvited, at people's home under the guise of legitimate business or trade.

Derbyshire Scam Watch is urging members of the public to be aware of the issues and to be alert if they feel friends or relatives are vulnerable to such frauds. Trading Standards nationally are promoting a campaign called 'Friends Against Scams'. This includes 30 minute online learning package will help people to learn more about the issues.

If you like would like to talk to someone about scams then please contact scamwatch@nedcab.org.uk

You can report your suspicions about any scam to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506

Report fraud and internet crime to Action Fraud –

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

To learn more about scams and become a 'Friend against Scams' – go to



Speed Awareness

In 2014, eleven parish councils in the North East Derbyshire area clubbed together to provide a speed camera for police to use in a joint bid to make local roads safer.

Ashover, Brampton, Heath and Holmewood, Morton, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Shirland and Higham, Stretton, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Tupton and Wingerworth parish councils have all contributed to the campaign and provided funding for the camera and its maintenance. The camera is deployed, on average, once a week in one of the partnership parishes. Police Officers using the device informed councils that it is an excellent tool in tackling the issues of speeding in our areas.

To contact your local Safer Neighbourhood policing team call 101, or visit the website <http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/>

Your Parish Council is campaigning to make the A632 through Kelstedge safer and Kelstedge residents have volunteered for the Community Speed Watch initiative. A public meeting had been arranged with Lee Rowley MP to highlight speeding issues at Kelstedge, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Street Furniture/Property

A rolling programme continues to operate for the maintenance of parish owned street furniture, including parish seats, bus shelters and notice boards and parish owned property. Where possible, the maintenance work is carried out by the Parish Lengthman as part of his duties and other work, such as vegetation strimming around some seats, is carried out under contract. Risk assessments and inspections have been undertaken in accordance with legal requirements.

Subscriptions

Your Parish Council continues to subscribe to the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) and the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) on an annual basis. DALC offers free legal and professional advice on all aspects of parish and town council business backed up by experts at NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and regular information circulars. Likewise ICCM also offers free advice to its members and regular newsletters.

Tennis Chesterfield Coaching Report 2019/2020

Ashover Parish Courts

Tennis Chesterfield have been running tennis coaching sessions every Tuesday evening from 4-8pm during school term time. The classes are organised for a range of ages from toddlers to teenagers to adults. Although originally planned to just take place from April to October 2019, the success of the programme and continuing demand for coaching meant that the sessions continued through the winter months to March 2020. Tennis Chesterfield were able to access the Parish hall with some of their younger players during the winter months. Below is the average number of players that took part in tennis in each age group at Ashover Parish Courts:

Summer Period (April-October 2019)

Tots Tennis – Age 3-5: **6 players**

Mini Tennis Red – Age 6-8: **6 players**

Mini Tennis Orange/Green – Age 9-10: **8 players**

Full Ball – Age 11-16: **4 players**

Adult Tennis Age 16+: **8 players**

Winter period: November 2019 – March 2020

Tots Tennis – Age 3-5: **4 players**

Mini Tennis Red – Age 6-8: **2 players**

Mini Tennis Orange/Green – Age 9-10: **8 players**

Full Ball – Age 11-16: **5 players**

Adult Tennis Age 16+: **4 players**

Tennis Chesterfield also ran tennis and multi-sport holiday camps in 2019 – 1 week during the Easter Holidays and 2 weeks during the summer holidays. The camps were highly successful and played a big role in inspiring more junior players to join the weekly coaching programme at Ashover Parish Courts. Attendance over the 3 camps was around 20 per day, the camps offered a great way of giving children an outdoor activity alongside friends.

To push engagement even further in Ashover, Tennis Chesterfield implemented a schools tennis roadshow in February/March 2020. This involved providing free tennis sessions for every class in a number of local schools with a follow-up offering of a free taster session at Ashover Parish courts. The schools visited by Tennis Chesterfield were:

- Stretton Handley Primary School
- Lea Primary School
- Wessington Primary School

This initiative had already resulted in 6 new sign ups to the programme, and session were still due to be delivered at Ashover Primary School, when unfortunately Tennis Chesterfield suspended their operations on 19th March 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Tennis Chesterfield is committed to returning as soon as Government and LTA guidelines permit this and will put in place the necessary precautions required.

If you are interested in joining the coaching programme then please feel free to give Jonny a call on 07759816466 or email Jonny on jonny@tennischesterfield.co.uk and he will be able to offer you a FREE taster!

Tennis Club

For full details of how to join please contact Ashover Tennis Club via email: ashovertennis@btinternet.co.uk.

Further details about the club can be found on the Ashover Tennis Club website: <http://ashovertennisclub.btck.co.uk>

Tree Working Group

(a working group of Ashover Parish Council)

As our 5th birthday approaches the tree group's enthusiasm for promoting and protecting our natural heritage is undiminished.

May Day 2019

This event gave us the opportunity to share a stall with our friends and fellow collaborators in the Footpaths group. Our displays attracted interest from passers-by who stopped to chat, some wanting to get involved in our activities. In fact, we gained two new members and following one resignation due to ill health our complement now stands at nine.

Milltown Conservation Area.

At the time of last year's annual report this initiative was at an early stage of preparation. This beautiful area, covering Cockerspring Wood, Stars Wood, Milltown Quarry and Overton, has a rich natural heritage – quarries, trees, flowers/fauna, archaeology and industry and our objective is to protect it from development.

To begin with we submitted an application to NEDDC for a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to cover the area and Ashover Parish Council confirmed their support. Unfortunately, the application, with supporting map, was initially refused but following the intervention of the leader of Derbyshire County Council our case is being reconsidered.

Initial feedback from NEDDC suggested they had concerns about the likely cost of progressing the application but we have demonstrated how this could be carried out cost-effectively. The outcome is awaited, meanwhile we are engaging with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust to seek their involvement.

Tree Charter & planting activity

Last year there were a number of national campaigns to encourage tree planting. The schemes were run by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust, the latter being part of the Tree Charter initiative which the parish council signed up to.

On offer were young saplings of a variety of trees including field maple, hornbeam, silver birch, dog rose, rowan and wild cherry. In addition, there was the option of 'whips' for hedging.

Unfortunately, we don't have much parish land available but we have planted specimens of field maple, rowan, wild cherry and dog rose in the common woodland on Hill Top Road. Hedging has also been planted by the tree group near Ravensnest to help break up arable land and improve habitat for wildlife.

Working party

Most of our working party activity during the year has been devoted to:

- Ashover show field (opposite health centre). The show's committee welcomed our offer to clear ivy along the walls and remove self-seeded trees along the field boundaries from the Black Swan around the corner up towards Far Hill.
- Hill Top road common woodland. The focus has been on thinning out, including use of chain-saws for clearing some of the bigger self-seeded sycamore trees to open up the canopy

We have some new targets in the months ahead. We need to restore the rather battered revetment we built a few years ago on a bend in the river just before the Miners Arms. It's been remarkably resilient in coping with recent heavy flooding but now needs some TLC.

We're also planning to work alongside a trust in Alton who are restoring a nature reserve previously managed by Ogston Bird Club.

Planning

New planning applications are shared with our group, giving us the opportunity to comment on how proposals might risk damage to trees on or near the subject site. Particular concerns arise where the intended location of buildings is too close to tree canopies or where inadequate allowance has been made for root protection areas (RPAs) to ensure any excavation work avoids the risk to a tree's long-term survival.

A recent example of our involvement has been the Narrowleys Lane development where the protection of TPO designated trees has fallen short of the commitments made.

Working alongside our Footpath group colleagues we have also shared concern about the prolonged closure of a permissive footpath at Jetting Street. Whilst this is within the landowner's rights the original planning application documents indicated there would be no impact on the footpath's availability to the public. The good news is the landowner has agreed to respond with a proposal once works adjacent to the footpath boundary have been completed.

Collaboration

It's always enjoyable for us to get together with other groups and work towards common goals. We collaborate closely with the Footpaths Group, helping them with local projects and we're looking to forge closer links with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

The year ahead...

...promises more of the same with continuing focus on the activities described.

If you'd like to join our group, you'd be very welcome! (Mike Thomas 01246 591733)

Tree Group

April 2020

Tree Warden

My role as Tree Warden this year has taken a variety of forms:

- Working with the tree group on a practical task or discussing a problem.
- Expressing an opinion on trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders to the Parish Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.
- Advising what charities are making trees and hedging available for planting schemes.
- Planting trees wherever possible and appropriate.
- Campaigning to increase the amount of woodland protected by Tree Preservation Orders within the parish. Only a miniscule amount of our woodland is protected and the rest is vulnerable.

We have a problem with ash dieback and need to think of replacing ash with other species if needed.

Forming a tree bank seems like a good idea. We have been doing this for a few years for various species but it could be expanded. If you have small saplings in your garden which you don't want, pot them up and give them to me and I will try to grow them on to re-plant elsewhere. We can keep local rootstocks going~ who knows, we might find some ash that don't get ash dieback!

Linda Stephenson

Ashover Parish Tree Warden

bryanstepho@btinternet.com [Tel 07757 691834](tel:07757691834) or [01246 591949](tel:01246591949)

Trusted Trader Scheme

(Derbyshire County Council)

Finding a company that you can trust to do some work for you can be a bit daunting – how can you be sure that you won't get ripped off? What if things go wrong? How do you choose between lots of different companies? These sorts of dilemmas were a driving force behind the setting up by Derbyshire County Council of the Trusted Trader scheme to help local people find traders and businesses that do a good job at a fair price and provide good customer service.

That was back in 2008 and the popular scheme has gone from strength to strength. These days there are nearly 17,000 searches each month on the Trusted Trader website,

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tt> by people looking for reliable companies to use. Another ringing endorsement for the scheme was a recent survey which gathered feedback from more than 16,000 people who had used a Trusted Trader and an impressive 94% said they were very satisfied with the service they received.

So people can have lots of confidence when employing one of the 1,200 traders who are part of the scheme. In the very unlikely event of someone having a problem with one of the traders then help is at hand. Derbyshire County Council trading standards officers can get involved in any queries involving Trusted Traders and seek to resolve them.

The scheme particularly helps to protect older and vulnerable adults by making it easier for them to use Trusted Traders rather than rogue traders who typically cold-call and use high pressure sales

techniques. A recent development has been the inclusion of Financial Advisors who specialise in providing financial advice for people in later life and can help with matters like care fees, pensions and investments.

Find out more about all aspects of Trusted Trader at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tt> or call 01629 536148. Enquiries are also welcome from businesses interested in signing up to the scheme – membership brings lots of benefits and costs only £70 - £100 per year.

Uppertown Social Centre

The Centre provides a first class facility for social activities for the people of Ashover and surrounding areas. It has comfortable and up to date facilities for parties, birthdays, weddings and other special occasions but is equally suited to conferences, training sessions or meetings.

Facilities include:

- Licensed bar
- Fully fitted kitchen for outside caterer or hirer use
- Function room for up to 120 people
- Car parking for 25 cars (this area can be used to erect a marquee)

The Centre is run on a not for profit basis as a charity, which would not be possible without the committee of local people and a group of willing volunteers.

For information on events visit <http://www.uppertown.org> or telephone 07966 154798.

Waste Recycling: Derbyshire County Council

Household Waste Recycling Centres (or Civic Amenity Sites) are provided by the county council for the disposal of waste produced from households which is either too large or too bulky to be accepted by the normal district council weekly collection. Your nearest site is located at Stonegravels, Sheffield Road, Chesterfield which has full recycling facilities. The site is open seven days a

week from 8.30am – 6.00pm (closed 25/26 December and 1 January).
Derbyshire County Council
(01629) 580000

Website

Your Parish Council's website is <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk> and is the gateway into the parish council and numerous local services, from there you can also find links to other organisations including North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.

The site contains, along with many other things, items of news, advice of road closures in the parish, links to leisure facilities, you can even have a look at your Parish Councillors and Parish Council staff. There are links to your Local Councillor, District Councillor and Member of Parliament.

There are calendars for council meetings and events and leisure activities taking place in the Parish.

There are forms to report problems and issues within the Parish, there is an A-Z link where there is a whole raft of information about the Parish, County and District Councils.

Why not have a look at it at <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk> you can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

FINANCIAL REPORT PRECEPT 2020/2021

At the Parish Council meeting held on 15 October 2019, consideration was given to the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the precept application for 2020/21. The Finance Committee had deliberated each code and cost centre in the accounting system, recognising the need to limit expenditure as far as possible due to current restraints and economic climate and taking into account a realistic income figure. The 12 to 16 year Capital Assets Renewal Programme continued to be included in the precept sum and this would be revised to reflect ongoing capital expenditure and to include new capital purchases. Members recognised the requirement to retain six months precept reserves at all times, whilst being aware of access to earmarked reserves.

No further Tax Support Grant Funding was anticipated from NEDDC. The Precept figure for **2019/2020** was £79,305.00 including Tax Support Grant Funding of £578.00.

Having deliberated the budget for the Financial Year **2020/2021**, an anticipated realistic income figure of **£13,920.00** set against an anticipated expenditure figure of **£95,752.00** produced an annual **Precept figure for 2020/2021 of £81,832.00**. This represents a **£2,527.00** increase (approx. 3%) on the previous year due to lack of a support grant, increased costs for parish maintenance generally, inclusion of an ongoing budget for election costs and budgets for the Neighbourhood Plan Review and VE Day celebrations. Due to the recent increase in dwellings and proposed growth, it was anticipated that the increase would be spread over more properties and therefore should have a lesser impact on individual households. In April 2020, NEDDC confirmed that the Parish would receive a final support grant payment of £578.26 for 2020/2021.

Anticipated Figures

Cost Centre	Expenditure £	Income £	Expenditure £	Income £
	2019/2020	2019/2020	2020/2021	2020/2021
Administration	42064	3023	40066	2820
Section 137	600	0	800	0
Pavilion and Courts	3084	840	3710	1040
Public Toilets	2100	0	2200	0
Capital Projects	10395	0	10365	0
Allotments	100	60	100	60
Cemetery	9590	9000	10150	10000
Parish Maintenance	24295	0	28361	0
TOTALS	92228	12923	95752	13920
PRECEPT	2019/2020	£79,305	2020/2021	£81,832

**Summary Receipts & Payments Year Ended 31 March 2020
(Awaiting External Audit)**

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019		YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020
	Receipts	
72267.49	Precept Received	78727.00
474.25	Interest Received	658.67
72741.74	Total	79385.67
	Operating Income	
8058.56	Administration	5963.30
1703.00	Pavilion	1803.45
60.00	Allotments	60.00
12580.00	Cemetery	21835.00
10321.32	VAT	3159.73
105464.62	Total Receipts	112207.15
	Running Costs	
30485.77	Administration	31529.18
841.50	Section 137	282.00
3404.13	Pavilion	3602.78
3573.66	Toilets	3172.78
9942.62	Capital Projects	2751.09
145.00	Allotments	400.00
10158.01	Cemetery	10277.02
26633.02	Parish Upkeep	30744.41
8999.05	VAT on Payments	8059.90
94182.76	Total Payments	90819.16

**Summary Receipts & Payments Year Ended 31 March 2020
(Awaiting External Audit)**

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019	Receipts & Payments Summary	YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020
92404.37	Opening Balance	103686.23
105464.62	Add Total Receipts	112207.15
197868.99		215893.38
94182.76	Less Total Payments	90819.16
103686.23	Closing Balance	125074.22
	Cumulative Funds represented by	
68442.46	Current/Reserve Account	49482.75
35243.77	National Savings Account	75591.47
103686.23		125074.22

For information and help on the following services, please call the appropriate authority (details at the bottom of the page) or visit <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk> and click on the A-Z of services :-

Bulk Waste Collection Service **NEDDC**
Bus Shelters **APC**
Car Park (Milken Lane) **APC**
Cemetery (Ashover) **APC**
Council Tax **NEDDC**
Common Land **APC**
Dog Waste Bins **APC**
Dog Wardens **NEDDC**
Education **DCC**
Energy Advice Centre **NEDDC**
Environmental Health **NEDDC**
Fly Tipping **NEDDC**
Grit Bins **APC/DCC**
Highways **DCC**
Housing **NEDDC**
Libraries **DCC**
Licensing **NEDDC**
Parish Seats **APC**
Pest Control **NEDDC**
Planning Permission **NEDDC**
Play Area (Ashover) **APC**
Playing Field/Hard Courts (Ashover) **APC**
Potholes **DCC**
Public Toilets **APC**
Recycling (inc. blue box/bag scheme) **NEDDC**
Refuse Collection **NEDDC**
Reg. of Births, Deaths, Marriages **DCC**
Register of Electors **NEDDC**
Rights of Way (footpaths/bridleways) **DCC**
Social Services **DCC**
Street Cleaning **NEDDC**
Street Lighting Repairs **DCC**
Trading Standards **DCC**
War Memorial **APC**

NEDDC North East Derbyshire District Council, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6NG Tel. 01246 231111

DCC Derbyshire County Council County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG Tel. 01629 580000 & 08456 058 058 (helpline)

APC Ashover Parish Council, The Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover, Chesterfield S45 0BA Tel. 01246 863018

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCILLORS

ELECTED 02 MAY 2019

- **William Armitage** (01246)590486
Green Bank, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Helen Boffy** (07515 280707)
Langford House Narrowleys Lane Ashover S45 0AU
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Nigel Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** 07976 733607
Marshbrook, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0HW
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BU
- **Mike Thomas** (01246) 591733
Touchstone Chapel Hill Ashover S45 0AT
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BZ

District Councillor - William Armitage (01246)590486

Green Bank, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER

County Councillor – Barry Lewis (01773) 830871

2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

- **Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk:** Sara Atkinson (01246) 863018
E-Mail: parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

INFORMATION AND HELP

Derbyshire County Council – 01629 533190

North East Derbyshire District Council - 01246 231111

Citizens Advice Bureau Advice line- 03444 111 444

Lee Rowley MP Parliamentary

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 219 4197

Email: lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency

Office of Lee Rowley MP, Eckington Business Centre, Market Street, Eckington, Derbyshire, S21 4JH

Tel: 01246439222

Email: lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk

Web & Social media



Twitter: @lee4ned

Emergency services

Always dial 999 in case of an emergency

Derbyshire Police: 101 (calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information) **Please note:** You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue - Administrative and fire safety enquiries: 01332 771221

Power and supplies

Electricity: Central Networks (Emergency) 0800 056 8090

Gas (emergency) 0800 111 999

Severn Trent Water (emergency) 0800 783 4444

Flood Warnings Service 0345 988 1188

BT Fault Line 0800 800 151

Hospitals/medical

NHS 111 is a service to make it easier for you to access local NHS healthcare services in England. You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Royal Derby Hospital 01332 340131 - Main switchboard

Chesterfield Royal Hospital 01246 277271

Buxton Hospital 01298 214000