

DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS REPORT - APRIL 2019

This has been another very busy year for Duffield Parish Council and we have put in place a number of improvements and events for the village to enjoy over the past 12 months.

Grants

The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to award financial grants to two Duffield Rangers groups.

The Council has continued to fund the publication of the "Duffield Good Neighbours Wheel", which brings together, in a single document, all the facilities available to the over 50s in the village. In addition, the Council is pleased to have supported the first Good Neighbours Community Week in March.

WWI Centenary Event

11th November 2018 marked a hundred years since Armistice Day, the end of World War I, and the Parish Council chose to mark this important occasion with a number of different activities on the day. These included the annual village Remembrance Parade, a tea dance, information boards, a WW1 quiz and a torchlit procession to Eyes Meadow culminating in the annual fireworks event. A special informative leaflet gave information about the history of WWI in the village, "There but Not There" silhouettes were displayed in the Parish Church and a special commemorative brazier was commissioned to be lit during the fireworks display.



Village welcome sign

The village sign on the A6 northbound, approaching Duffield from Allestree, had seen better days and the Parish Council replaced it with this new sign created by local Graphic Designer Alex Adkins. The new welcome sign looks even better this spring, following the planting of daffodil bulbs by the Duffield Community Association.



Eyes Meadow Car Park

The Council completed resurfacing work of the Car Park at Eyes Meadow as part of an ongoing programme of improvements, including alterations to the front and rear of the changing rooms which will be completed in 2019.



Cockpit Lane

The Council has resurfaced the remainder of Cockpit Lane, which runs alongside Appletree Medical Practice, meaning the path is now safer and Eyes Meadow more accessible for all, including wheelchair users.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Council has continued to coordinate efforts with other service providers to combat anti-social behaviour in Duffield and has sustained funding for security patrols in the village during school holidays and at weekends. The Parish Council has also funded a new streetlight at Wirksworth Road corner. As a result, there was a significant reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents requiring police attendance during 2018.

The DCA Carnival

The Council continues to support the hugely successful Duffield Community Association carnival. Last year saw another record attendance thanks to the hard work of the DCA volunteers – the fantastic weather may have helped! Let's hope for another day of sunshine this year.



The Eyes Have It Music Festival

The Parish Council was pleased to support the music festival again in July 2018.

Simon Clark's festival has proven to be a big success and in 2018 attracted some big names to perform in the beautiful setting of the Meadow. The festival will run again in 2019 from 5th – 7th July with Slade and Toploader headlining.

Duffield Arts Festival

The Parish Council was delighted to support Duffield's third arts festival in September 2018 organised by Jonathan Leach. The festival is going from strength to strength; in particular the Scarecrow trail saw some fantastic creations around the village which was very popular with local residents.



Seating Area at Eyes Meadow

A new natural seating area has been installed at Eyes Meadow for use by young people, schools and community groups.

Extreme Wheels Roadshow

The Parish Council funded activity sessions for young people in the school summer holidays, run by Extreme Wheels at Eyes Meadow, which were well received by youngsters and parents alike.



Donald Hawley Way Bridge

The Parish Council worked closely with Network Rail who carried out repairs to the damaged bridge on Donald Hawley Way. The bridge is now safer, with a raised parapet, and we hope will continue to provide vehicles with access to the Meadow for many years ahead.

THANKS.....

- To everyone in Duffield who continues to support the objectives of the Council, and especially the village volunteers: the many individuals who carry out litter picking, keep an eye out for elderly neighbours, run village clubs and organisations, help coach sports activities, or volunteer for the Carnival Committee; to members of the DCA, Women's Institute, uniformed organisations and others, our sincere thanks. You are the reason Duffield is such a fantastic community and such a great place to live.
- To my fellow Councillors for their tireless work on behalf of the community.

Particular thanks go to the Council staff:

- Kath Gruber, Parish Clerk, for her service to the village, giving her commitment and dedication to the ever-varied and often demanding role of Parish Clerk;
- Jackie Clements, Communications Assistant, for her dedication and enthusiasm for improved communications, web and social media;
- Michael Forkin, Village Warden, who continues to ensure that our village, grounds and Cemetery look their best;
- Chris Carter, who the Council thanks for his dedication and efficiency in managing the Council's finances over the past 10 years.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to our two new members of staff:

- Ryan Roberts, who joined the Council in November 2018 and is ably assisting the Village Warden with his work, and,
- Sarah Brooksby who was appointed Assistant Clerk in April 2019.

Cllr Ken Raynor, Chairman,
Duffield Parish Council

