

The parish council met on Tuesday 9th February. At the meeting we decided to go ahead with more improvements to Buryfields and Chapel Lane recreation areas, installing more benches and tables, and funding volunteers to develop and maintain the BMX track at Chapel Lane. This is in addition to the new fence that will soon be installed around the Buryfields play equipment.

We've had some great feedback to David Kingston's appeal for ideas for how to improve the village environment. Quite a few of you have focused on the need to improve walking and cycling routes, particularly to and from the school. If you have any ideas – however big or small – please let us know.

The council is continuing to support its declaration of a climate emergency last year, including supporting the BBC Countryfile *Plant Britain* campaign (<https://www.plantbritain.co.uk/>)

We must give a very big thank you to the wonderful people who have volunteered to take on emptying the dog bins in the parish. We've now been able to re-open all but one of the bins – if you'd be able to help share the work, please let the clerk know. Free bin bags and rubber gloves are provided!

I have now been the clerk to the Cradley and Storrige Parish Council for nearly a year, and I've been struck by the interest people take in what the council does (and doesn't) do. Did you know that there are still some vacancies on the council, and the council can co-opt volunteers to join? It's a great way to make a difference to the area. If you'd like to find out what would be involved – as they say on the TV adverts, there's no obligation and no salesman will call! – please contact the clerk or any of the councillors.

Phil Striplin
Clerk to Cradley and Storrige Parish Council