



CRADLEY & STORRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish council newsletter contribution – October 2021

First off – thank you to everyone who came up to say hello to the councillors at our stand at the recent village event in the church grounds, and to everyone who has stopped by to talk to me at the village hall when I'm working there on Thursday afternoons. I'll be in the main hall every Thursday afternoon usually from about 2pm, so if you want to say something to (or about!) the parish council, please come and have a chat.

Every third Thursday (so starting on October 21st, then on November 18th) I'll be joined by our county councillor, Ellie Chowns, so if you've got something to say about the services we get from the county, that's the best day to come along.

The parish council met at its winter home in Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday 12th. The council approved the plans for the new sensory garden to be added to the Chapel Lane site. We hope this will provide a new place for all people to sit and meet and relax. We have applied for grant funding to help pay for the work – hopefully by next month's newsletter we'll know whether we've been successful – and we've already had some very generous offers of help and donations of trees for the project. Thank you.

The main topic for the meeting was the budget for next year. We need to set the precept (that part of your council tax that funds the parish council) by January. We will be publishing our draft budget next month for consultation and feedback, but at the moment the council plans include putting money towards road safety improvement, continuing to add and improve the facilities at Chapel Lane and Buryfields, and starting to set aside money for when we have to replace the equipment at those two sites. However, this is the time to speak up and let the council know what they should be spending your money on – so please do get in touch.

If you *really* want to have a voice in how the council spends your money, and help make sure it's as effective as it can be, have you thought about joining in? There are currently several vacancies for parish councillors, but if that sounds too daunting (it shouldn't!) then the parish council works through a number of groups that focus on particular areas and projects – and you don't need to be a councillor to take part. We'd especially like to hear from anyone who is interested in road safety or the parish environment, but we'd be very happy to talk to anyone who'd like to lend a hand.

The next council meeting is on Tuesday 9th November at 7.30pm at Storridge Village Hall – you are very welcome to come along and have your say. If you can't – then give me a call on 07591 299749, drop me an email at clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk, or come and see me on Thursday afternoons in Cradley Village Hall!

Phil Striplin
Clerk to Cradley and Storridge Parish Council