

# Tattenhall & District Parish Council Annual Report 2021-2022

## Chairman's Report - Councillor Iain Keeping

At last the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are lifting even though the virus is still with us and further variants are likely to appear. The Parish Council has this year recommenced face-to-face meetings in public and we expect normal service to be maintained for the foreseeable future.

With the end of lock-down in the summer of 2021, the Parish Council resurrected an old village tradition of a Wakes' week parade through the village as part of the **Tattenhall Together Again** event in September. The event proved hugely popular and attendance surely included everyone in the village regardless of age. The donkey rides, brass band, children's activities, and stalls brought back memories of former, more relaxed times. The sense of freedom and relief was palpable. Thanks are due to all who were involved in organisation of the project, especially; the Events Working Group chaired by Lisa White; the many volunteers who had helped out before and on the day; Alison's Country Kitchen; The Spar; The Ice Cream Farm; Tattenhall Sport. Plus, Yvonne Keeping who had had the idea. There have been multiple requests for the event to become more permanent and this year the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take its place, I am sure with the same success.

The work towards creating a **Nature Park** has progressed. The Spinney Project, the first phase, is almost complete and already an important focus in the centre of the village. Feed-back to the council has been overwhelmingly positive. To see so many people delighting in this quiet area of woodland, wild flowers and bird song whether on scooters, in wheelchairs or just sitting, is vindication for the hard work in rescuing this previously neglected area. The additional aim of enhancing biodiversity by thinning top growth of trees, in order to allow more light into the area, can already be seen. Unfortunately, many of the aged willow trees are at risk of falling especially with increasing severity and frequency of storms. In addition, it seems the ash trees have die-back and will in coming years need to be replaced. The trees will be regularly surveyed, only those identified as unsafe will undergo remedial work or be replaced. Thanks are due to; FCC Communities Foundation, land-fill fund, whose grant enabled this part of the project; Horticon, the contractors; John Seiler, Cheshire West & Chester Council, landscape architect and project manager; Ann Wright, Parish Council Clerk, who has worked beyond her contracted hours to secure the grant, manage the tendering process, and ensure the timely completion.

Adjacent to the Spinney is a grassed area, loosely referred to as the 'triangle' which belongs to Cheshire West & Chester Council. Agreement has been secured to manage the area as a wild flower meadow and only the footpath borders will be cut in the future. Two new surfaced paths have been created allowing better disabled and all-weather access. In addition, CW&C have funded the re-creation of a 'pond' which is expected to dry out in the summer. There has already been representation to the Parish Council that a permanent pond be created and consideration will be given to this.

The Parish Council have now agreed, after consultation with the team leader, CW&C Green Infrastructure, a management plan for Glebe Meadow. The main change is that there will be two mowings per year, one in early summer the other in September, instead of just one. The meadow is a designated Local Wildlife Site and a rare example of unimproved grassland which the Parish Council has a duty to protect. Ecological surveys will be carried out this year and again in 3 years time to monitor the effect of the plan, to ensure that no harm is being done. For the first time, as part of the Nature Park plan, public access will be allowed, limited to a mown path with dogs on short leads. Public access to sites of this type is usual throughout the country especially when publicly owned. The Council is aware of concerns that biodiversity could be harmed, but this will be kept under review in light of the ecological surveys. The benefits of access on wellbeing and appreciation of this special, natural site will be at least as strong as those already experienced in the Spinney.

The Open Spaces Working Group have for some years wondered about the best use the field, owned and mowed by CW&C, behind Gorsefield. CW&C identified this, in 2011, as their most under-utilised area of land in West Cheshire with the best potential for improvement. The suggestion that it would make a good site for a **community orchard** was met with enthusiasm and the orchard has now been planted, at CW&C's expense, in February, with the help of a large number of community volunteers. The Orchard has been accepted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and will be named as The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Orchard. Inauguration will be part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Future management will involve

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## Chairman' Report continued

pruning and some mowing in early years to allow the trees to establish, but the grassed area will be managed to encourage wildflower growth. Plans are underway to encourage pollinators especially native bees (leaf-cutter, mason and masonry) initially. The Council are exploring the possibility of creating a footpath from the orchard through to Gifford Lea which would link the retirement village via Covert Rise to the Spinney, the Church and the village centre without exposure to traffic and its pollution on Frog Lane and the length of the High Street.

Review of the **Neighbourhood Plan** and Village Design Statement have progressed, albeit slowed by the restrictions of the pandemic. Policy changes are almost finalised ready for submission to CW&C before rewriting the final document. The Review Committee are hopeful that the proposed changes will not be enough to need another referendum. The transformation of the design statement to design code has been slow largely due to a resource issue, but this many now be resolved. The aim is that the Neighbourhood Plan and Design Code will be combined in a single document.

### Planning

Some of the planned housing developments are underway. The development of 30 houses adjacent to Grakle Croft and Chester Road has started, as has the construction of 4 houses on Burwardsley Road. There is no indication that the construction of 6 dwellings on the site at Rose Corner will commence in the near future. The only applications for new housing has been for 27 new units at Gifford Lea which would bring the total for the site to 177. The Parish Council are confident that the imposed minimum, for the entire Service Centre of Tattenhall, of 250 dwellings by 2030 has already been met and a total of over 300 will be completed by 2024. Meeting the target does not preclude new development nor is the possibility of a new target excluded. There is very little land available within the settlement boundary to accommodate a significant new allocation which would, of necessity, need to be on protected land or in open countryside. For this reason an up-to-date Neighbourhood Plan + Design Code is essential.

### Grants

The Council awarded grants totalling £3,725 to 10 organisations. Details are available to view on the Parish Council website in the minutes of the April 2022 Council Meeting.

### Community Building

The lack of availability of the Community Building at the Park School continues to be a concern to the Council. £220k went towards the building which should have been designed to be used by the whole community. The Council has asked the Ward Councillor to suggest a motion to CW&C full Council meeting to carry out a review of the situation.

### War Memorial

The War Memorial continues to be a problem not least because it appears to be leaning further. Advice has been taken from an expert team from Chester Cathedral, highly experienced in working with Cheshire sandstone. The plan to dismantle the cross prior to replacing the foundations has been deemed likely to cause irreparable damage. Also, removal and storage of the stones off-site would be difficult, costly and also high risk of significant damage.

For these reasons it has been suggested that the Memorial it is not dismantled but held in place while works are carried out underneath. A brief is now being developed for the project on this basis which will be used to appoint a consultant to carry out the repairs. Thanks are due to Chester Cathedral – Ted Comer (Clerk of Works), Tom Livingston (Stonemason), Naomi Watts- Kitto (Conservator),

The rolling program to replace the **Millennium Mile** posts has seen 5 new posts in position. More are planned for this year.

The Council has also started to explore the possibility of replacing stiles with kissing gates on **Public Rights of Way** in the Parish. The two initial choices are the paths to Manor Farm from Chester Road and to Dark Lane from Burwardsley Road.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors and public members of committees and working groups for the support you have given through another difficult year. I couldn't do this job without the expertise and hard work of Ann Wright, our Clerk, for which many thanks.

Dr Iain Keeping MD FRCP  
Chairman, Tattenhall & District Parish Council

## Accounts & Precept

Balance Brought Forward	121,056.00	
Precept 2021-2022	56,405	2% increase per Band D on previous year.
Other Income	16,813	Includes: £5020 Neighbourhood Plan Review Grant £4230 Spinney Arts Grant £3,502 VAT Refund £1,758 Welly walk Income £318 Gatesheath Allotments Rent £204 Tattenhall Book Sales
Staff Costs & Administration	16,853	Includes: £656 Insurance
Other Costs	109,575	Includes: £73,968 Projects Spinney Arts & Spinney £12,214 Grounds maintenance £5,315 Community Events/Tattenhall Together Again/ Christmas £847 Room Hire
Balance Carried Forward (2022-2023)	67,846	+ £63,063 Spinney Works Grant to be paid 2022-2023 Includes: £20,000 Asset Refurbishment & Maintenance

## Planning

Parish Councils do not decide planning applications however they can influence the decisions made by submitting comments or observations. Parish Councils have the statutory right to be notified of planning applications, Cheshire West and Chester deal with the Parish Councils in their area as 'statutory consultees'.

It should be noted that anyone can submit comments on planning applications not just Parish Councils or statutory consultees. You can find out more about commenting on planning applications including what are material factors when commenting on planning applications on the CW&C website under planning.

The Parish Council has been notified of 38 planning applications during the Council year from May 2021 until May 2022 of which 13 were for extensions and alterations to dwellings and another 13 were for trees works either for listed trees or trees in a conservation area.

2 applications related to a vehicle access and gates.

At the start of the year the Council was notified of the application for Bolesworth Estate for its Winter Wonderland which was approved.

More recently the Council received an application for a Phase 4 development of the Retirement Village, Gifford Lea, at the time of writing this application has not yet been decided.

You can keep up to date with planning by following our Facebook page @tattenhallanddistrictparishcouncil



## Tattenhall, Village of Culture

The Parish Council was fortunate to be awarded a grant for Spinney Arts Workshops on Saturday 12 February to run two Environmental Art workshops in the recently renovated Spinney. The first session in the morning was for young children accompanied by their parents. Tim Pugh the Environmental Artist encouraged the children to create their own designs with leaves, seeds, mosses and sticks etc that they found on the ground. The children created delightful patterns and pictures of, for example, a soldier, a bus, towers and a vase of flowers. The creations were left on the floor of the Spinney or on tree stumps and eventually blew away returning whence they came.



Unfortunately when the older children arrived in the afternoon the weather was so bad they had to work inside, at the Vault, St. Alban's Church. Tim had brought dried leaves and pebbles for them to decorate. The children's imaginations ran wild and not only did they decorate leaves and pebbles to take home but they left enough decorated leaves behind to create a large picture which is now framed and on show in the Green Room at the Barbour Institute.



During the months of February and March the Parish Council acquired more funding for further Spinney related workshops involving the arts. On 19 February a willow weaving workshop was held in the Barbour Institute with Sarah Hayes of Twigtwisters. Adults and children created large butterflies and dragonflies to hang in the Spinney. Everyone also took home a willow heart or bird feeder. It was an extremely popular event.

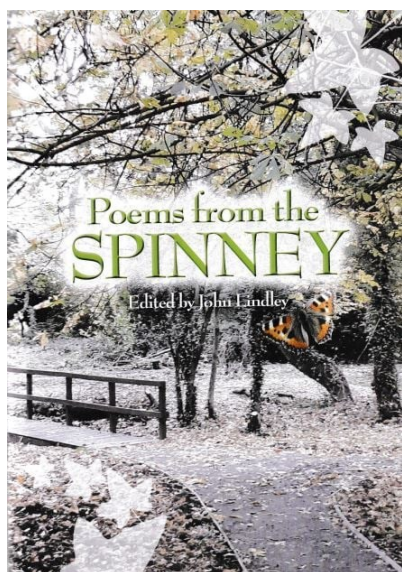
On 20 February a poetry workshop for adults was held in the Barbour Institute with John Lindley and award winning poet. The adults who attended all created a poem using the Spinney as inspiration and they were eventually combined in a book with photographs from some of the other workshops. One of the many comments was;

*"A great poetry workshop, so lucky to have this in Tattenhall - thanks."*

John Lindley also went into Tattenhall Park School to work with the top two classes. Their two poems were also included in the book along with several poems created at the Opal Club. Pam Moyle, a local poet, went to work with members of the Opal Club and thoroughly enjoyed her visit. Subsequently the Opal Club created some Easter decorations to hang on two trees in the Spinney. The Spinney Poems books were later sold in the Post Office in aid of the Ukraine appeal.

The Children at Sandy Bears really enjoy their Forest School sessions which they are now able to have in the Spinney. It was arranged that a music specialist would visit the nursery on two occasions and create a song for the children about the Spinney. The children really enjoyed taking part. Two art workshops were held at the Tattenhall Centre on 5 and 6 March. Jon Clayton, artist in residence, presented a multi-media technique using the Spinney for inspiration. The first workshop was





with older children. They all produced a canvas and were very proud of their results. The second workshop was for adults and one particular artist was so thrilled with her finished picture she invited all her friends to the later exhibition.

The willow woven butterflies and dragonflies were hung in the Spinney in preparation for the Spinney exhibition which was held in the Barbour Institute on Sunday 13 March. Villagers were invited to see the giant insects on the way to the exhibition. On arrival at the Barbour a video of the children from Sandy Bears singing their song was being shown. The paintings were all on show and the Poetry book was on sale. Some of the poets read their poems and they were very well received as were the paintings. Jon Clayton kindly donated some of his Spinney sketches and they were sold in aid of the Ukraine appeal. The amount donated to the Appeal so far as a result of these workshops is over £370.

## The Return of Christmas 2021

Covid restrictions had eased by December and so the Parish Council's Christmas events could go ahead as usual.

Our younger children aged 0-5 (reception) had a great time dancing and playing games with 'Diddy Dance' followed by a special visit from Santa giving Christmas gifts. There were a lot of happy smiling faces as they left.

Our older children aged 6 - 11 had a special Christmas film show and were served with drinks, ice cream and popcorn. Santa paid another visit at the end of the film, again delivering Christmas gifts. As the children were collected, they joined families on the Mill Field for hot chocolate, mulled wine and sweet treats. Big thanks to Alison's country Kitchen for providing the mince pies!!

Santa made a final appearance to switch on the lights on the huge Mill field tree.

### A GREAT START TO CHRISTMAS IN TATTENHALL!



Free tickets to these parties have always been allocated on a first come first served basis. That arrangement may be changed this year, tickets collected may require a deposit (to be returned as the child arrives at the party). This will hopefully ease the problem of children not showing up on the day while other children on the waiting list miss out.

This year also saw the introduction of our **Snowman Trail** with six jolly snowmen hidden amongst our Christmas lights and decorations on the High street. Each snowman had a hidden letter that made a Christmas word. A Chocolate treat was then awarded to the children when their form was received by Thom Morton owner of the Spa. Many thanks to Thom and his staff for their support.



## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Orchard



Working with Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Parish Council has planted a Community Orchard on land off Gorsefield.

The Orchard which is known as The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Orchard has been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy was planted by volunteers on the 24th February.

The Orchard contains 40 trees of various species including plums, apples, pears and quince. There are also some hazelnut trees and a walnut tree.

We are currently working on setting up a page on the Council's website providing more details about the Orchard, including a plan identifying the different trees, and have been in discussions with Inspired Villages to create an access from the Gifford Lea Site into the Orchard.

The intention is that the Orchard which been kept as natural as possible as such it is only planned to mow it twice a year other than strimming around the trees as required and possibly a mowing a path.

In the next couple of weeks we are also planning to install the Willow Crown which was created by volunteers in a workshop run by Sarah Gallagher Hayes of Twigtwisters



## War Memorial Update

As I am sure you are all aware the War Memorial remains fenced off due to subsidence issues.

The original plan had been to look at dismantling the Memorial to allow works to be carried out to create a platform which it would sit on. However following a meeting with representatives of Chester Cathedral it has become clear this is not going to be an option as it is believed that dismantling is likely to result in the Memorial shattering.

As such we are now looking to scope a scheme which involves the Memorial being supported and held in place while works take place underneath it. It is hoped once a scheme has been agreed and prices can be obtained to undertake the works we will be able to apply for grant funding to undertake the repairs.

More information will be posted as the project progresses on our Facebook page or

<https://tattenhallpc.co.uk/tattenhall-war-memorial>



## 2023 Election Year

Next May, 2023 will see all out elections for Tattenhall and District Parish Council which means all Councillors will step down and will need to stand for election.

The Council has 15 seats and if 15 or fewer people stand to be on the Council they will be classed as elected without voting being held. However if 16 or more people stand to fill the seats then voting will take place.

### Why be a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall, Vicar of Dibley style.

Tattenhall & District Parish Council is a very active Parish Council which undertakes a range of activities some of which you will have read about in this Report.

Some of the things we do:

Own land including Barnfields, Glebe Meadow & The Spinney as well as The Park Play Area. Consider planning applications and submit comments to Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C).

Try to influence CW&C decision which impact out area and take part in consultations.

Organise Community events including Christmas Parties and recent Jubilee Jamboree.

Try to address issues and concerns raised by residents.

**CALLING ALL  
COMMUNITY HEROES**



**Your Parish Council  
NEEDS YOU!**

**MAKE A CHANGE  
BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

**It's all about making a difference and seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make!**

If you would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor for Tattenhall contact the Clerk or any of the Parish Councillor's or join us at one of our meetings.

### Who can stand for election?

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
  - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
  - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
  - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
  - d. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

## Meeting Dates 2022-2023

Monday 4th July 2022  
Monday 5th September 2022  
Monday 7th November 2022

Monday 9th January 2023  
Monday 6th March 2023  
May 2022 TBC (Due to elections)

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every other month beginning in May each year, from 7.30pm in the Barbour Institute, the agenda is published a week before the meeting and can be found on the Council's website and is displayed on the Council's notice board on the High Street.

The Council calls extraordinary meetings as required, and the agendas for these are published in the same way as schedule meetings.

All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and include public participation.

## Your Parish Councillors

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### Andy Scarratt

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### Vacancy



For more information contact the Clerk:

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Email: [clerk@tattenhallpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tattenhallpc.co.uk) Visit: <https://tattenhallpc.co.uk>