



## Salford Priors Parish Council

### ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

#### **To receive the Parish Council's Annual Report presented by the Chairman:**

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing 1st April 2020 and ending 31st March 2021.

This will certainly be known as the time of Covid-19 as the effect of the virus has had an effect on every resident of this parish. The restrictions introduced by the Government affect how your Parish Council runs and has propelled us, and many other councils, into the world of Zoom meetings and finding different ways to communicate without putting ourselves at risk. After a certain amount of trepidation, I think we can say that we have embraced the new way of doing things and as a tool, I think virtual meetings will remain part of the way we do parish council business in the future.

The Council is aware of the effects that COVID 19 has had on our communities and is grateful for the efforts made by all those key workers, volunteers, and many others, who have contributed to help the residents of our Parish in these difficult times.

Once again, I wish to thank my fellow councillors for the amount of work they carry out to make sure your council runs smoothly and well. They don't just turn up once a month for a meeting but undertake a lot of background work attending working group meetings, representing the council on outside bodies, studying planning applications and carrying out various tasks around the parish. My thanks also go to Mrs Donna Bowles, our Parish Clerk, for continuing to run the Council's affairs with great professionalism, care and diligence, sometimes in difficult and challenging circumstances. Donna's advice, dedication and hard work ensures the smooth running of parish business and has been key to the success of the Council especially at a time when the world as we knew it turned upside down.

During the year two councillors resigned - Cllr Brian Seagrove in November and Cllr Karen Pattison in February. I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication especially Karen who served on the Parish Council for six years and four years as Chairman. One of these vacancies has been filled by Thomas Neal who was co-opted onto the Council in March 2021. The remaining vacancy is still open, but it is hoped to fill this vacancy in May 2021. Finally, I would like to thank County Councillor Mike Brain and District Councillor Bill Fleming for the support they have given to the Parish Council over the last year.

The Parish Council held nine Ordinary Meetings, one Budget Preparation Meeting and two Extra-Ordinary Meetings. The precept for the year 2021/2022 was set, for a third year running, at £65,000 that pays for the following services:

- Amenity and verge mowing
- Planters and flower displays
- Tree planting
- Playing field inspections and maintenance
- General improvements and maintenance in the parish
- Maintaining the extension of the churchyard at St Matthews Church
- Street lighting
- and the following facilities: allotments, TOPs building and the Parish Office.

The two largest items of expenditure in the Council's budget are the administration and running of the Parish Council, including the parish office, and the Amenity/Verge mowing contracts.

Various planning applications have been considered during the last twelve months that included extensions and improvements to existing homes, conversion of existing agricultural buildings into new dwellings, removal of trees, erection of signs and change of use.

The large-scale development of 68 properties off School Road, by CALA Homes, is nearing completion with 40 properties now completed and occupied.

The two dwellings at The Old Forge, Station Road, Salford Priors have been completed.

The extension to The Bell public house is nearing completion providing 5 additional en-suite bedrooms.

The Council carries out most of its important projects through working groups that make recommendations to the Parish Council. These groups are: Communications, Amenity, CIL/Section 106, Allotments, Streetlighting, Open Space and the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Leisure & Trails Group.

#### Communications Group

Effective communications within the parish is important and the group looks at how we achieve this. Our aim is to reach all residents in the parish via the Parish Council website, e - news, Facebook, Parish Council noticeboards, and Parish Council Newsletters. During this year two newsletters have been sent out to all residents together with a Parish Handbook.

#### Amenity Group

The Amenity/Verge Mowing Contract and the Summer/Winter Flower Display Contract for 2021 to 2024 have been tendered and the contracts were awarded to Limebridge Rural Services.

#### CIL/Section 106 Group

One advantage from having new developments in Salford Priors is that the parish receives funding called Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 to spend on projects within the parish.

With the CIL funding three projects have been identified:

Traffic Calming Measures  
Leisure Trails Development  
New village Green

All the latest information on these projects can be found in the recent Newsletter that was sent out to all homes a few weeks ago and can also be found on the Parish Council website. All updated information on these projects will be put on our website, social media and in future newsletters.

With the Section 106 funding new playground facilities are being installed that will provide a new skate park, pump track, outdoor gym, a trim trail with gym equipment and a new multi-purpose goal unit. This work has commenced and will be completed by the end of April. Section 106 funding has also enabled us to improve the Public Rights of Way in the parish and 44 new way marker posts have been erected throughout the parish.

#### Allotments

During Covid-19 lockdown demand for our allotments has increased to such an extent that not only have the twelve full sized plots been taken but additional half plots have been created and have proved to be very popular. To encourage the allotment holders the Parish Council has re-instated the Allotment Competition and it is hoped to hold the final judging day during National Allotment Week in August.

On a more negative note, we still receive many complaints regarding speeding, dog mess, litter and parking on grass verges and open spaces.

The Parish Council is supporting the Volunteer Speed Awareness Group and has purchased a speed gun to help with their efforts. Regarding dog mess, the Parish Council has provided dog waste bins at appropriate sites which are emptied on a weekly basis and has also installed a dog bag dispenser on School Road. During lockdown litter has become an increasing problem and litter pickers and bags have been provided at the Memorial Hall where volunteers are able to collect and litter pick in the parish.

As I stated earlier one of the most expensive costs the Parish Council incurs is maintaining the grassed areas and verges throughout the parish and it is very disappointing to see vehicles parking on these areas and verges and damaging them. I believe that the above areas of complaints should be treated with zero tolerance and I hope that residents of the parish support this view.

I would like to finish where I started with the uncertainty of Covid-19. The past year has been very challenging, but I believe that we as a community will survive and become stronger. The Parish Council will continue to operate and support the community and ask that you engage with us via the Clerk if you feel that we can help in any way.

Cllr Alan Green  
Chairman  
21st April 2021