

Chairperson's Overview of the Parish Council Year 2018-2019

Over the past year I have again held the privileged position of Chairperson of Coppull Parish Council and, together with fellow members of the Parish Council, have continued to make improvements to the area and amenities for the residents of Coppull, a position which I thoroughly enjoy and am passionate about.

These are a few examples of what the Parish Council is involved in:

- CIL money – a large amount of money has been received and a further amount is due in April. This money is from developments in the village. The Parish Council receives 10% of the total amount, Chorley Council receives the remaining 90%. Projects put forward are a Neighbourhood Plan and a new Village Hall.
- The Parish Council only raised the precept by just over £500 for the coming year. Full accounts and the Financial Statement can be viewed at the Parish Council offices. The Financial Statement will also be placed on the website, with the precept for next year.
- Springfield Leisure Park/Byron Crescent Play Area/Tansley Play Area – these areas continue to be maintained by the Parish Council. The play equipment is checked on a regular basis by the Lengthsman, Councillors and Chorley Council and repairs made as and when necessary. The landscaping on the Springfield Leisure Park is maintained to a high standard by the Parish Council's gardener and landscape contractor.
- Tansley Play Area – the old play surface had to be repaired as it was sinking. The play area still proves popular with local children.
- Byron Crescent Play Area – routine maintenance again to this play area. Chorley Council has made improvements to the estate, installing a small orchard and flower beds.
- Berry's Garden – the area has been kept tidy as part of the routine garden maintenance. The owl sculpture will need some work, as the bottom part has rotted.
- Memorial Garden – the garden is looked after extremely well by volunteer Bill Bailey, who also does numerous other "work" around the village on a voluntary basis.
- Jubilee Garden – A bench and children's mushroom table and chairs has been installed in the garden. The paths have been re-done and numerous bee friendly plants put in. A sculpture is to be put in and more plants with the money remaining from a grant from Chorley Council and the Parish Council.
- Volunteers – the Parish Council has a new volunteer who is helping with flower beds and generally tidying up and making improvements. There are a number of volunteers who help and also sponsors and the Parish Council is extremely grateful for this help.

- Speed Indicator Device – a SpID was obtained to help inform people of their speed around the village. This can only be placed on certain lampposts in the village and will be up and running shortly.
- Allotments – the allotments have gone from strength to strength and are extremely popular and well kept. The Allotment Association is also doing very well and has obtained grants to make further improvements.
- Christmas Lighting – this was again installed by the Chairman and Bill Bailey on the Memorial Garden, with help from other volunteers, on the Berry Garden and on Spendmore Lane near the railway bridge. Lighting has also been installed on the exterior of the Leisure Centre.
- New planters for the village – the new planters along Spendmore Lane have been installed. These are filled for winter and summer by Chorley Council, on contract for the Parish Council. Next year, the Parish Council is going to retrieve all the old bulbs prior to the summer and use them in other places.
- Nature Reserves – Chorley Council continues to look after the reserves in Coppull. An orchard and edible hedge was planted in the Hic-Bibi Nature Reserve, with funding from Chorley Council and the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the majority of the plants were dug up overnight, although some of them were later found dumped in the reserve. The volunteers who helped plant these were understandably upset, but will continue to help make improvements for the benefit of residents.
- The newsletter is produced four times per year and now has 16 full colour pages. This is an ideal way to keep residents informed of what is happening in their village and also to consult with residents, as it is hand delivered to every household.

I am a Trustee and Chairman of the Springfield Park Leisure Centre which continues to grow and improve. The Centre's Café is also doing extremely well with many parties being booked for children. These are themed parties involving trampolining and free running.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Parish Council and the Leisure Centre, for providing their time, effort and commitment in helping to make this village a better place for everyone to live. These include Susan, for her valuable advice and support, Nora my Vice-Chair, members of the Parish Council, the Lengthsmen, - Tony, Sven and Chris, Janice - the council cleaner, George - the gardener and all the volunteers. Also thanks to Pauline for managing the café very efficiently, Steve and Jordan who manage the Centre and all the staff. I hope everyone continues to work together for the benefit of residents.

The Parish Council's Annual Report is available from the Clerk or can be viewed on the website.