



# No Mans Heath & District Parish Council Annual Report 2024 - 2025

## *Chairman's Annual Report*

The economic climate continues to limit council budgets in Cheshire West and Chester which in turn restricts what work your Parish Council is able to persuade CW&C Council to undertake in the Parish. Once again, though, your Parish Council has been able to secure some action by CW&C Council and additional funds to resolve some of the most pressing issues which affect residents in their everyday lives. These are highlighted below.

During the year the Council co-opted Mr David Pegram onto the Council which now has no outstanding vacancies.

This year we have completed or progressed action in a number of important areas, including:

**Littlers Croft:** *(led by Cllr Collings)* Last year the Parish Council secured £41,900 funding (including £6,794 via crowdfunding) and the installation of a much improved playground was completed including:

- Another larger playframe appropriate for young teenagers
- A swing basket
- A rocker
- Improved surfacing to connect all the equipment

The main games area is now being regularly mown to a satisfactory standard and the goal posts have been equipped with nets.

It is now hoped to be able to obtain funding for the installation of outdoor gym equipment to further improve the facilities.

**Footpaths:** *(led by Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith)* your Parish Council has now embarked on a major project to replace all stiles on public footpaths in the Parish with kissing gates. The aim of the project is to make all footpaths "accessible to all", ensuring that everyone, including those with disabilities, older adults, or individuals with temporary limitations, can use our footpaths.

Priority is being given to footpaths which can be used as circular routes, especially the footpaths connecting to the Sandstone Trail. Eventually all stiles will be replaced with gates.

Agreements have been reached to enable work to start in May 2025 on footpaths in the No Mans Heath, Hampton and Edge areas.

**Highways:** *(led by Cllr Harrop)* your Council shares the concern of residents regarding the state of the roads in our area. Our Highways Steering Group has continued to managed to press CW&C to resolve our high priority improvements and repairs, most notably the No Mans Heath mini roundabouts which should be reconstructed in May.

The 20 mph speed limit in Witney Lane has finally been installed.

The Speed Watch initiative, run by the Parish Council, monitors speed in the area in order to direct Police effort to best effect. Any resident willing and able to help with this for a few hours from time to time would be very welcome.

Unfortunately progress with repairing potholes and the mini roundabout surface in No Mans Heath is slow. Prompt reporting of all road and signage faults by as many residents as possible direct to CW&C will be a great help in obtaining action to resolve these faults.

**Police Liaison:** *(led by Cllr Harrop)* following a meeting with the Chief Constable and PCC a regular 'cluster meeting' is held between the local police and parish council representatives to review and resolve local issues; these are proving to be very useful and productive

**Village Events:** *(led by Cllr Collings)* a working party has been established to enable the Parish Council to support the organisation, funding and insurance of events in the village, including the popular annual Christmas Event

**Summer Play Scheme:** this event will once again be organised and supported by the Parish Council in 2025

**Planters:** funded by the Parish Council, these have been installed and maintained at key sites around the local area; we are grateful to Tony Day and his team of volunteers for this.

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The Parish Council continues to be grateful to the "invisible" residents who support neighbours, friends, and the whole community. In particular those who keep our streets, green spaces and main roads clean through their individual efforts. When you see them please thank them from all of us.

We do rely on all residents to report issues such as potholes, road faults, fly tipping, litter, lack of grass cutting etc to Cheshire West & Chester Council as soon as they occur. When they are not rectified in a reasonable time the Parish Council can then take up the problem with CW&C. The easiest and most effective way to make reports is via the "Report It" page on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website home page.

***David Lithgow Smith, Chairman***