



No Mans Heath & District Parish Council Annual Report 2025 -2026

Chairman's Annual Report

The economic climate continues to limit council budgets in Cheshire West and Chester which makes it hard for your Parish Council to persuade CW&C Council to complete 'discretionary' work in the Parish. The Parish Council has, however, been successful in raising the priority of some work and has also deployed its own resources to improve facilities in the area. These are highlighted below.

The Parish is the largest civil Parish in south west Cheshire extending from Larkton in the north to Tushingham in the south, and from Tilston in the west to the country boundary in the east. Although No Mans Heath village accommodates most of the population of the Parish a priority this year has been to improve facilities in Larkton, Edge, Hampton and Bickley.

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

Littlers Croft: *(led by Cllr Collings)* The Parish Council recently arranged the installation of much improved playground facilities at a cost of £42,000. The main games area is now being regularly mown to a satisfactory standard and the goal posts have been equipped with nets.

We are now planning the installation of outdoor gym equipment to further improve the facilities. We have obtained approval from CW&C (who own the site) and compiled a draft proposal and the next step will be to secure funding for those elements which the Council cannot fund.

Village Events: *(led by Cllr Collings)* working party, including both Parish Councillors and local residents, organised the ever popular Christmas event last December and this year hopes to organise a village fete in the summer and, of course, another Christmas event.

Accessible Footpaths: *(led by Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith)* your Parish Council is intending to eliminate all stiles on footpaths in the Parish to improve access to the local countryside. Stiles will be replaced by suitable gates – in most cases kissing gates.

All footpaths have been surveyed and all stiles and other obstacles identified and many stiles have already been replaced.

The Sandstone Trail is already stile free. The footpath from No Mans Heath (starting opposite the Wheatsheaf) to the Sandstone Trail below Robber Hill is almost complete, and the boggy section eliminated, with the kind assistance of Mr Simon Midwood. This route continues via Hetherson Green to the A49 at Bickley Moss and will be completed imminently with the help of the Cholmondeley Estate.



Some footpaths in Larkton are complete with footpaths in the north west corner of Edge next on the priority list.

Thanks are also due to United Utilities who have donated £10,000 to the project in recognition of the disturbance caused by the renovation of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct recently.

Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs)

The Parish Council maintains five CPADs which are available 24 hrs every day. These are at No Mans Heath Post Office, No Mans Heath BT building (opposite the Wheatsheaf), Hampton Telephone box (by the railway bridge), Bickley Coronation Hall and a new one at Edge Village Hall installed in May 26 and fully funded by the Parish Council (illustrated).



Larkton residents also have access to CPADs at Bickerton Village Hall and Bickerton Scout Hut on Goldford Lane.

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 continually presses CW&C to resolve our priority improvements and repairs

This is evidenced by the reconstruction of the No Mans Heath mini roundabouts sooner than planned, and the accompanying installation of Village entry signs organised by Cllr Collings.

Pot holes are also being repaired although not as quickly as we would like. The most effective way to get potholes repaired is for all residents to report potholes via the CW&C Report It on line process at <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it> It is likely that more reports produces faster responses.

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.

Leading on 'Highways' for the Council is a demanding and frustrating task and our special thanks are due to Cllr Harrop for performing this role.

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.

Police Liaison: *(led by Cllr Harrop)* following a meeting with the Chief Constable and PCC last year 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

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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

Contact the Council on 01948 770 678 or nomansheathanddistrictpc@hotmail.com