

Pilsley

Parish Council

Welcome

Chairman's Report

We're into the build up to Christmas and everyone at the Council wishes all our residents heartfelt season's greetings - let's hope we can all enjoy the festivities!

On this note the Parish Council is contributing in an effort to lift spirits. This year, observant residents will have noticed that some of the lampposts have been adorned with decorations, which will be illuminated to coincide with the installation of Christmas trees on Church Street and Parkhouse Road recreation grounds. Just to explain, much as we would like, we can't put the illuminated decorations on all lamp standards – we can only use the metal ones. For reasons of construction, concrete posts cannot be used. Unfortunately, we have many concrete posts in the village, particularly on Station Road and Hardstoft Road. We're not being meanies and our plan in coming years is to make sure most metal posts on the main roads will have decorations installed and look at what we can do to brighten up those main roads through the village which can't be decorated in that way.



Traditionally, the Parish Council have hosted a Carol Concert in the Village Hall. This is open to all and this year will take place on Thursday, 21st December 2023 from 7.00pm. The music will be provided by Shirland Brass Band and refreshments will be provided by Pilsley Women's Institute. We are grateful for their help!

Now, just a couple of updates starting with speed reduction measures in the village, an issue which concerns many residents. Following re-calibration, the speed indicator devices on Parkhouse Road and Morton Road are fully operational and will be joined in the New Year by a third on Station Road. Also, the Village Speedwatch Team - all volunteers - have completed their training and certification and are now active at the roadside. They

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will be monitoring the behaviour of motorists passing through the village and reporting issues to the Police where necessary, in an effort to improve road safety. There have also been sightings of the Police mobile cameras operating in the village to support this. Please take note! We are, incidentally, aware of issues to do with the quality of the resurfacing of Hardstoft Road which took place in October and are working with the County Council to secure the return of the Contractors to remedy the faults which are very obvious.

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A long-term plan of the Parish Council has been to find space for and to develop a Pump Track for cyclists somewhere in the village. This is still work in progress and we are currently evaluating proposals. These will form part of a Consultation exercise we have

scheduled for the coming months. The consultation will be wide ranging to try to identify how the Parish Council can provide facilities and services in the village within our budgets but in a way that benefits residents. It will be the basis of a 3-year plan to take us up to the next election in 2027. Keep an eye out for the

consultation invitation – it will be published over the coming weeks and please let us have your views. The more people who respond the better picture we get of what's required to make Pilsley a better place!

I hope you are all able to have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

County Councillor's Report

Last September Derbyshire County Council announced that it needed to make £46m in saving before next April if it was to balance its books. It is one of the most important announcements that a council can make yet it came out of the blue. Indeed, on the very same day the Leader of the Council had told councillors that he had nothing important to tell them.

Whilst that announcement does not mean the council is about to go bankrupt, it does mean that if the savings are not made the council will have used up its reserves. It also means that unless the government substantially increases the grant it gives to the council in the next financial year your council tax will have to go up significantly, and even more cuts to services will have to happen if it is to avoid running out of money.

The Council Leader has said that he believes that the £46m can be saved by freezing recruitment, reducing overtime and postponing doing things. What that means locally is still unclear, but it does, for example, mean that the council is unlikely to replace the school crossing patrol at Pilsley School for some time. I have also been told by the Countryside Service that they may not be able to respond to all of the complaints I pass onto them.

I have supported a call for a special

council meeting where councillors can be told what all of this means for their communities, but we were told that we could not have that meeting for 7 weeks.

One issue that is progressing is the government's proposals to create a Mayor for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The legislation to allow this to happen was enacted in November and the council will have to vote on the proposal in December. I have always been sceptical of the benefit Derbyshire will get from the extra £38m of spending a Mayor will bring, especially given how much the office of a Mayor will cost. It has also been made clear that the Mayor can take over responsibility for police and fire services and even merge the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire services, something that I fear would be detrimental to the residents of our county. This means, however, that next May as well as electing a Police & Crime Commissioner you will also elect a Mayor.

On a more positive note, the Council recently published its highways capital programme for 2024-25 and I am pleased to say that the pavements of Queen Street and parts of Lansbury Avenue are included on the list for resurfacing at a cost of over £130,000. However, whilst the total highway repair budget for the year stands at just under £24m the backlog of work that needs doing across the county is estimated to be in excess of £1 billion which helps explain why there are so many problems with the roads and footpaths.

In October I brought the Managing Director of the County Council to Pilsley to show her some of the issues I keep raising on behalf of residents. In particular, I stressed how important it was to many residents that action was taken to improve the bus service but, sadly, she was unable to commit to do anything about it.

My contacts details can be found on the back page of this newsletter, please do get in touch if you would like to talk to me or need my help.

Mark Fletcher MP writes

I think it is incredibly important for MPs to keep in touch with their constituents. Every week I try visit a village in the constituency and knock on doors, so that residents have an opportunity to let me know their thoughts on national issues or raise any local concerns. Whether that's road safety, potholes, or access to GPs.

In November, it was the turn of Pilsley, where I talked to about 30 residents on Peak Close, Reeves Avenue, and Willow Close.

A number of issues were raised such as the maintenance of the five-pits trail, the £24 million funding for the new emergency care centre at Chesterfield Royal, potholes, and access to NHS dentistry.

I also took up some casework regarding benefits and utility issues which my office is now dealing with.

The Bolsover Constituency is very

geographically dispersed. It runs from Barlborough & M1 Junction 30 in the North to Pinxton and Junction 28 in the South. And from Shirebrook and Langwith in the East to villages like Calow and Woolley Moor in the West. It covers four towns and 56 villages, it is incredibly difficult to cover every street, but I do try my best! And please rest assured if you haven't seen me at my recent session - hopefully I will see you on the doorstep soon, but if not please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to raise an issue or need some assistance – I am here

to help.

After speaking with residents, I had the opportunity to spend some time at the Pilsley War Memorial ahead of Remembrance Sunday, lay a cross, and pay my respects to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Armistice Day and the events around Remembrance are an incredibly emotional and moving time of year.

I've always considered my role representing constituents at these events a tremendous honour and the most humbling experience in my role as the Member of Parliament for Bolsover.

Finally, I am due meet with Pilsley Parish Council at the start of December and I look forward to updating you all in the next newsletter ...

Introducing Councillor Jean White

Co-opted to Pilsley Parish Council in June 2023, Cllr Jean White has lived in the village for 53 years and attended Pilsley Primary School in her youth.

A volunteer for the Pilsley Village Fete Group and the Pilsley Community Speedwatch Team, Jean enjoys working with and meeting new people, as well as contributing to the wellbeing and safety of the community through collaborative efforts and shared experiences.

Having previously worked in banking for 18 years, and then

for the Department for Work and Pensions for 20 years; Jean now enjoys spending her retirement actively enhancing the positive aspects of the village.

Jean has no political affiliations and hopes to spend her tenure working with the community to identify and develop clear goals and to support Pilsley Parish Council in achieving them.



Cllr Jean White

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice NE Derbyshire are providing an advice service for Pilsley residents.

This is free of charge and takes place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the village hall between 2pm and 4pm for residents to drop in and ask for advice.

St Mary's Church

Christmas is coming! It is so good to celebrate this very special time of year with the people of Pilsley.

The church and village have been celebrating the most popular festival in the world together for as long as there has been a Pilsley, when the original inhabitants would most likely have flocked to their original parish church at North Wingfield, out of whose parish St Mary's was created. St Mary's has been part of the Christmas of so many, individuals, couples and families, and we have a programme of services for us to engage with as we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



Pictured: Rev Richard Clark

People ask when to put up Christmas decorations, and when to take them down. Traditionally, decorations go up for Advent Sunday, which is 3rd December this year, and come down in the day before Epiphany, 6th January. People are putting up their decorations earlier and earlier nowadays. This is understandable as they are a bright addition to some of the darkest weeks of the year; and, of course, if you paid a lot of money for them to you want to get as much use from them as possible!

If you are putting fairy lights outside without an obviously Christmassy theme, you might want to keep them until Valentine's Day and add some sparkle to what is can feel to be a cold, damp and dreary time of year.

We begin Advent with a Christmas tree festival (1-4 December), and we look forward to welcoming Pilsley and Parkhouse Primary Schools for their Christmas presentations. We greatly value the link with our schools and look forward to welcoming children and their families again this year.

Christmas Services

Among our celebratory gatherings this year we have:

- Christingle and Carols at 4pm on 17th December.
- Midnight Holy Communion, starting at 11pm on Christmas Eve.
- Fun Family Praise on Christmas Morning at 9.30am - Why not bring, or wear, a present?

Carols on the Green

We also have our annual outdoor Carols on the Green, which we share with Pilsley Community Church, on the car park opposite St Mary's, on Saturday 23rd at 7pm. It's a great occasion with its own special atmosphere as we sing carols and remember Jesus as the reason for the season.

We look forward to seeing you!



Pilsley Community Football Club

Over recent years the club has been successful in securing tens of thousands of pounds of external grants to improve facilities at Pilsley Sports Ground, however, since forming almost 10 years ago our main aim has always been the creation of a brand new football pitch within the village. This would ensure we can provide great facilities for our growing number of teams for generations to come.

After almost 6 years years of hard work, and with the support of many local, regional and national organisations we have today taken ownership of a long term lease on land next to the existing pitch on the sports ground that will be converted to a FA approved, full sized football pitch.

All of the funding for this major investment is in place due to the massive support from the Football Foundation, Forge New Homes, Derbyshire County FA and North East Derbyshire District Council.

Work will start in the coming

weeks to convert the land into what will be one of the best pitches in the area and the club would like to thank J Pugh-Lewis Ltd for their help throughout the process.

The club would also like to Pilsley Parish Council, Pilsley Village Sports Association and Pilsley & Clay Cross CC for their ongoing support.

This is a major development for the club and with the delivery of this new pitch, along with the 10 year anniversary coming up in 2024, the club has an incredibly exciting future!



Dog Fouling

In recent months, Pilsley Parish Council have noticed an uptick in the amount of dog poo around our public spaces. As the dark nights draw in, we expect this issue to increase.

Dog fouling poses significant health risks, particularly to children, the details of which can be found on the Derbyshire County Council website.

North East Derbyshire District Council recognises it as a criminal offence under a Public Spaces Protection Order not to clean up your dog's waste. This is enforceable through £100 fixed penalty notices, and it is not an excuse to say you

did not witness your dog foul.

If you do not have the means to pick up, you may also receive a £100 fixed penalty notice.

If you witness a dog fouling offence occur, these can be reported via the North East Derbyshire District Council website.

Free dog bags are available and dog waste bins are located at the following locations throughout the village.

Dog Bin Locations

- MORTON ROAD PARK
- SITWELL GRANGE
- ROUSE STREET
- STATION ROAD
- FIVE PITS TRAIL X 3

- GREEN LANE
- GREEN LANE RUPERT STREET CORNER
- THE ACRES
- RUPERT STREET
- SEANOR LANE
- PARKHOUSE PARK
- LOCKO ROAD X 2
- SLACKS LANE
- HALLGATE LANE
- BROOM AVENUE
- QUEENSWAY
- PADLEY WOOD ROAD
- PEARTREE ROAD
- SAMSONS X 2
- CHURCH STREET
- CHURCH YARD
- BACK LANE.

Consultations

We want to hear from you!

Pilsley Parish Council wish to begin consulting residents on a variety of topics.

We would like to know what you think about the village.

What do you like? What can be improved?

Where should Pilsley Parish Council spend their resources?

With this in mind, we would like to invite you to our first consultation event. This will take place at the village hall on Saturday 13th of January 2024 between 11am and 1pm.

The topics to be discussed include the proposal for the new pump track and village decorations amongst others.

This will be the first of several consultations scheduled to take place throughout the coming months and are a fantastic opportunity to meet with councillors and have your voice heard.

Carol Concert



Pilsley Parish Council would like to invite you along to the annual carol concert which will be taking place on Thursday the 21st December at the village hall.

The music will be provided by the Shirland Brass Band with refreshments supplied by the WI.

It is sure to be a fantastic evening in our seasonal calendar.



Well Pharmacy

Well it's that time of year again and its the most busy time of year for us here at Well pharmacy and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our patients and customers over the past year for your support and understanding of the challenges and difficulties that all pharmacies are facing at this time.

As Christmas is just around the corner i would like to give our patients a polite reminder to look at what medication you have and to order in time for the coming holidays, this is one of our main challenges as our aim is to get your medication ready before the Christmas holidays.

Our opening times are as follows:

Friday 22nd December	9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 23rd December	Closed
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Wednesday 27th December	9.00am - 5.00pm
Thursday 28th December	9.00am - 6.00pm
Friday 29th December	9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 30th December	Closed
Sunday 31st December	Closed
Monday 1st January	Closed
Tuesday 2nd January	9.00am - 6.00pm

Once again THANK YOU to all our patients and form all of us here have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pilsley Cricket Club

Although it's the closed season for cricket, Pilsley and Clay Cross Cricket Club are busy getting ready for 2024.

With the fixtures for the senior teams already released – with the season starting on the 20th of April – winter nets have been booked at Tibshelf Secondary School, starting on Monday 29th January 8pm to 9pm.

Anyone wishing to join the sessions are welcome to come along and if you'd like any more information beforehand, please contact John Worthy on 07713 193912.

The Cricket Club held their annual presentation evening at the Sports Pavilion on Saturday 11th November 2023. John Worthy (Club Secretary) and Tristen Bowers (Club Captain) presented awards to Jack Warsop and Steve Eyre (1st and 2nd team batting award), Tris Bowers and Jason Clayton (bowling awards), James Aldis and Tom Hewitt (fielding awards). Players Player awards

were also presented to Jack Warsop and Jason Clayton, Captains Player of the Year to Gareth Hatton and Steve Wood

Awards were also presented to Cameron Lee (Most Improved Player) and the Junior Player of the Year award was shared between Ben Hough and Oscar Lowe. Gareth Hatton presented the Champagne Moment of the Season award to Jack Storer – for his bowling hat-trick during the season.

Mr and Mrs Lowe presented a certificate to the cricket club in recognition of the positive impact cricket has on mental health in young people.

Junior training will start in February 2024 at the Elm Centre, and anyone wanting to encourage their children to take up cricket are very welcome. Please contact John Worthy 07713 193912 for more information. We will also be launching a Women's Soft Ball team in 2024 and if you're interested in joining this team, please do get in contact.



From everyone at Pilsley Parish Council, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Councillors

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The House of Commons Answering Service

London SW1A 0AA
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Ask for MP by name.

Contacting Pilsley Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Council, the Parish Clerk is
Mrs Kath Gruber, Tel: 07595 515154

Email: clerk@pilsleyparishcouncil.org.uk

The Communications Officer is **Brett Marriott,**
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