

TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL WISHES ALL RESIDENTS WITHIN OUR PARISH A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

After a 2-year period of Covid related inaction the Council feels we have moved forward with projects around the community some completed, some nearing completion and others just starting.

Jubilee Field and Allotments.

This area has been tidied up with the grass being cut so it appears to be the welcoming open space we all can enjoy. The hedges and brambles will be cut back shortly. There is a dead Elm and diseased Ash that will be coming down in December. However, we will be planting 3 Winter Berry and 3 Spring Cherry trees up through towards the dog leg which will give colour in the spring and autumn. Due to the recent weather the dog leg area has become once again very muddy. We will be placing wood chippings to assist. In the long run it is our desire to place a footpath in this area, quotes are being obtained.

The allotments area has become so popular that we have opened a new stretch of 8 allotments. If you are interested in taking a plot, please contact the Parish office.

Coombses Pond.

Negotiations with owners of Swiss Tulle have concluded with the Parish being able to purchase this area for a nominal amount. The legal formalities have commenced and hopefully we can take ownership by the spring. There are funds in place to rescue this area for the community to enjoy. Thanks to Swiss Tulle for allowing this to proceed.

Local Amenities.

We have placed an order for a bus shelter opposite Perry St Club, just awaiting highways to provide the authority for the concrete pad.

An order has been placed to replace the dog bins at Crossways Bus Shelter and Jubilee Field gateway with dual purpose waste/dog bins.

Flooding

Despite all the recent rain we are pleased to note that the flooding events at Forton and Coombses have not been repeated. Due to work of the Parish Councillors and residents, Highways department have undertaken drainage improvements and the owners of the leat and island, Swiss Tulle, have improved the flow of the water. Highways have promised to clear the drains on an annual basis.

Ongoing monitoring of the Brook is being undertaken by CARG (Chard Area Resilience Group) with an early warning system by volunteers. We have had some volunteer flood wardens come forward but training is required however we require further volunteers from non-flood risk areas to come forward please.

The concrete bases for the resilience shed have been done. Sheds will be built and filled shortly with equipment for our Flood Wardens.

Cemetery

The last 12 months have seen investment in the Cemetery with Rabbit proof fencing, an extension to the Garden of Remembrance and the resurfacing of the car park.

Planning

It was welcome news that Chard Junction Quarry appeal has been turned down and the additional quarry will not go ahead. Tatworth & Forton Parish Council wishes to thank David Bell, its representative at the Planning Inquiry, and also Beatrix Silvano of the Stop the Quarry Group for their considerable hard work in helping to achieve this result. Thanks also go to all the volunteers who helped with the gathering of data and attended the Inquiry.

As a Council we are consulted on planning applications and give a guidance of local opinion to an application, however the final decision is with the district planners but the views of the Parish Council and residents can influence that decision. Currently the 48-housing development north of Fore street that Council and residents oppose are still with the planners. The public can make comments on the SSDC planning portal up to 24th November.

Jubilee and Remembrance.

It was very pleasing to see so many from the Parish enjoy the events to mark the Queens Jubilee in June, and then in September to mark Queen Elizabeth's sad passing in the Parish Condolence book.

When Coronation of King Charles plans are released, we will discuss how the Parish can celebrate the event.

The Parish Council has supported the British Legion with the purchase of 4 fallen soldier silhouettes. As you drive/walk by please remember those who gave their lives for the freedom and privileges we enjoy.

Christmas

The Annual Christmas lunch for Parishioners who are living alone will be on the 7th December. Any names of residents who would like to attend please advise the Parish office.

We all appreciate the cost-of-living crisis and volunteers have set up a free food table at St John's Church, if in need, please visit and use facilities, if not please donate what you have spare.

2023 and beyond

The Council are purchasing 2 new defibrillators for the community, one at Perry St Club and the other at St Johns Church. Each organisation has fund-raised to provide the electricity feed needed. In addition, the Council has agreed to take over the management of the unit at Memorial Hall from the WI.

We are providing initial funding to help provide a community centre (warm hub) for parish residents. Discussions are at an early stage but we feel this would enhance the community providing a warm social place with hopefully a computer centre.

The Council through Active Learning and Skills are to establish a Winter/Autumn Youth club for 11-18's and a spring/summer "fun time" for ages 6 to 11. To commence on a Monday night at the Memorial Hall 20th Feb. Please look out for details over the next few months.

We are looking into setting up a Christmas Lights Committee to enhance the area for 2023.

HELP REQUIRED

There are numerous little jobs around the parish that a self-employed casual labourer can undertake. If interested please contact the Parish office.

We are going to continue our litter picking into 2023. Please come along and support us to enhance the lovely area we live in. Please look out for the dates.