



Parishes Together Agenda
(Checkley, Draycott & Forsbrook) Working Group

Meeting Overview - Friday 29th January 2021, 7pm on Zoom

SMDC Chairman Cllr. K Flunder(Checkley/ Forsbrook	SPCA Vice Chairman Cllr. Tony Holmes (Forsbrook)
Dist. Cllr Alan Hulme (Checkley/ Draycott)	Cllr Kate Bradshaw (Draycott)
Cllr. Stephanie Akerman (Checkley)	Cllr. Emma Myatt (Draycott)
Dist. Cllr Ian Herdman (Forsbrook)	Dawn Plant (Forsbrook Clerk)
Sian Morgan-Owen (Checkley Clerk)	Denise Wheat (Draycott Clerk)
1 member of the public	

- Welcome:** Chairman Flunder welcomed everyone the meeting. Last meeting was in January 2020 due to Covid.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Sean McLaughlin (Draycott), Cllr. Peter Jones (Forsbrook)
- Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Flunder – Chair of Neighbourhood Plan working group, Checkley, Cllr Akerman – Member of Checkley Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Cllr. Flunder reminded everyone to abide by normal Council protocol during the meeting.
- A521 / Blythe Vale Update:** The three Councils worked together to keep the A521 from being closed completely after a lot of public pressure from the consultation sessions. David Williams is looking at the possibility of putting more road signage on the corner where the road turns into Blythe Bridge.
Cllr. Flunder asked each of the Clerks if they have any Highways issues. Checkley Clerk reported that most of their issues at the moment were in Hollington. Forsbook Clerk reported potholes which have all been reported and are awaiting repair. Draycott Clerk reported the potholes by Blythe Park and Draycott has several flooding issues – Draycott pond/lake by Fords Farm. The pavements are covered in mud from the splash back. SMDC and County seem under a lot of pressure, but nothing seems to be getting done. Communication was discussed between the Councils and Cllr Flunder suggested that all Highways issues should be past via Cllr Deaville so he is aware of all jobs in progress. Cllr. Myatt reported that SMDC street cleansing have been out but they don't go all the way along the level. The flood and the bank giving way was discussed on Cheadle Road and there was an update that this is the Environment Agency responsibility.
- Gateway Signs:** Cllr. Holmes reminded everyone about the previous discussion about Gateways to help remind drivers to slow down. DP mentioned the Glasdon company who are recommended to supply this kind of signage. In future this section will be renamed Highways
- Forsbrook Community Asset Update:** Phase 2 has now begun – a community group needs to be set up. More information will be released soon in a Media release. A car park consultation was also discussed in the main towns and parishes. It was suggested that one District representative should attend on behalf of each Parish so everyone is informed.
- Masterplan Update:** Access into the villages of Blythe Bridge and Draycott from Blythe Vale was discussed. The pavement coming to an end is because of a safety issue as the route is too narrow as it joins the road into Blythe Bridge and the crossing of the main road for pedestrians was discussed and accessibility. Cllr Bradshaw suggested a path for residents of Blythe Fields so that they can walk into Draycott and use Draycott facilities. Cllr. Flunder suggested it should be put on the Green Agenda – to look at a new route for cycle access. Cllr. Holmes said this had already been looked into and had not been successful. More houses will make this a bigger concern. So to take forward to improve the links from Blythe Vale into the villages.



- 8. Neighbourhood Plan Updates:** Forsbrook are not moving forward with their NP, they need to reinvigorate a new committee. Draycott Clerk reported that because of Covid everything has come to a halt, but the Aecom revised report has just arrived. Cllr. Myatt reported that her husband the Chairman of the Draycott NP Committee has decided to step down due to work commitments. Other people in the village will hopefully take the lead. Checkley are currently in the last stages of their consultation for the Growth Strategy and ready to complete Regulation 14, to go to referendum by Spring 2022. Cllr. Holmes mentioned the SMDC Local Plan and how we could use that to help form the NP.
- 9. Saturday Surgeries:** Cllr. Flunder mentioned starting Councillor Drop-in Sessions again using Zoom break out rooms.
- 10. Cheadle Development Plan:** The Stakeholders Group have met for their first meeting. Cllr. Holmes had heard it went well and had a positive outcome. It was a focus group rather than an open meeting. Checkley have written into see if more Councillors from the surrounding villages could be involved as we all represent the residents that use those facilities. Cllr. Flunder suggested the Parishes get involved. It is concerning the Leisure Centre, the Hospital, the High Street and the Car Park.
- 11. Grants:** This was to see if we could help each other to apply for different Grants. SPCA are a good source of information for Grant opportunities. There is a £1000 grant available from each of the County Councillors for Climate Change projects working with young people, youth groups or schools. The deadline have been extended to the deadline to the 26th February. Cllr Initiative Grants have been rolled over as groups have been closed and may need their funding after the lockdown. Cllr. Herdman mentioned Cllr. Porters Orchard project. Cllr. Myatt also attended the Parish Assembly and said that they have many more trees to distribute.
- 12. Open Floor (max. 30 mins):** Checkley Parish Council have now adopted a Climate Change Strategy on their Website. Checkley are looking at getting some disability/ inclusivity funding to put in a path on the Playground that children can ride bikes would be accessible to wheelchairs users and mobility scooters and possibly a sensory garden.

Cllr. Hulme mentioned about the three tiers of the Council and how we could look at ways to bring the three levels into a better synergy to work together on more issues.

Cllr. Myatt mentioned that Draycott does still need a playground and could this be back on Draycott's Agenda. Checkley do not have a caretaker for their parks. The Lengthsman could do the checks etc.. Cllr. Myatt asked if a Council can purchase land? Cllr. Flunder discussed how a Neighbourhood Planning can incorporate this. Asset management was discussed and making lists of all the assets in a village. Cllr Myatt said it is all Green Belt or Farm Land. Checkley Councillors mentioned how they bought the land for their Cemetery. Put on the next Agenda under Community Buildings / Playgrounds / Development of Assets.

The member of the public mentioned the Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust and Heritage Weekend. Parish Councils could use this as a way to explore the District and the Parish Councils could take the lead in developing Heritage Trails. Cllr. Akerman reported that Checkley are discussing Heritage Trails. Checkley Parish has a group called Churches Together who work as a team to host religious themed events in the Parish.

Cllr. Herdman mentioned the SMDC Climate Sub Committees. Energy 3rd Feb, Industry and Agriculture 4th Feb, Transport 8th Feb.

Cllr. Bradshaw has found an initiative for a Bereavement service from Support Staffordshire. There have been a lot of deaths and people out there do need signposting to the help that is available. Cllr. Flunder asked for the aftermath of Covid to be on the next Agenda.

Cllr. Holmes wanted to mention the Police and Fire Commission, but he lost connection to the meeting at that point.

Next Meeting (Forsbrook to host): Monday 22nd March at 7pm

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