



The Gorge Parish Council (TGPC): Annual report of the Chair

It has been a year of change year for The Gorge Parish Council. We have had a change in clerk with Jayne Madeley leaving in October 2016 and Gavin Patience joining us in February 2017. We have sadly had 2 councillors resign due to ill health but new councillors have been co-opted and details of all of your councillors are on the back page, along with details of meeting dates.

We continue to support various community groups via our grants system, details of which are contained in the newsletter. Please look at the grants policy on our website or request a copy from the Clerk if you think your community group might be eligible for, and benefit from, a grant.

Apart from the usual representations TGPC make to various bodies on your behalf, such as helping to secure the traffic survey that was reported on at our public meeting in May, this year TGPC has been engaged in 2 large projects, Pride in Your High Street (PiYHS), and evaluating the Parish Environmental Team (PET) initiative. PiYHS is a scheme operated by TWC and from which TGPC was successful in procuring funding, to be matched by contributions from TGPC. This year has seen the clearance and replanting of the bank along the High Street done by contractors from TWC for nothing, courtesy of our public realm officer, and by volunteers from among the residents of The Gorge. We thank them all. TGPC has committed to the ongoing maintenance of this bed. Further information is in this newsletter.

PET provides parish councils with a dedicated environmental maintenance operative, an apprentice, and various

tools and a vehicle to enhance environmental works within the parish council boundary. It is a supplement to work that the local authority is obliged to do. We thoroughly evaluated the scheme and determined that we would benefit. Some of you will already have seen Ralph, our operative and seen the improvements made already. Please stop and say hello to him if you see him. There are some photographs later in this newsletter to show how effective the scheme is already. If you have an area in mind for a bit more TLC please contact Gavin, the clerk to have it put on the list for review.

I cannot detail everything we do in one short report but we are endeavouring to provide more information via the website, and remember that the public are able to come to all our meetings. We have a public session at the start should you wish to speak on a matter of interest or concern to you.

It is always unfair to give individual councillors a special mention as all of your councillors work hard and give their time voluntarily on your behalf, but it would be remiss of me not to thank Cllr Maureen Bragg for her extraordinary commitment these past months. Maureen took responsibility for our finances while we were without a clerk and has continued to help Gavin while he learns the ropes. It has been a massively time consuming and at times stressful business ensuring that everything is correct.

*Heather Oldershaw
Chair – The Gorge Parish Council
June 2017*

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News from TWC Highways

In support of our Pride in Your Community programme the Council will be investing an additional £45m, over the next three years, into improving the Borough's roads, pavements, street lights and highway structures.

The programme of works covering the full three years is currently being developed using information already shared by local ward members, Parish and Town Councils and residents, however we will continue to revise the programme based on feedback we receive over the coming months.

The list of schemes in Ironbridge Gorge Ward is shown in the table below.

Asset or Scheme Type	Location
Road Maintenance	Ironbridge Road (to Boundary)
Drainage improvements	Hill Top House, Ironbridge Road, Madeley
Footway Maintenance	Coalport High Street including Riverside Avenue
Footway Maintenance	Station Road
Road Maintenance	B4373 Madeley Road
Road Marking Refreshment Programme	Various Sites
Street Lighting LED Upgrades	Street Lights Across Ironbridge Gorge Ward
Bridges & Structures	Madeley Road Retaining Walls safety and structural repairs
Road Maintenance	The Wharfage, Tontine Hill, High Street, Ironbridge
Road Maintenance	B4373 Barnetts Leasows
Road Maintenance	Coalport High Street
Road Maintenance	The Lloyds Road

Grants given by the Parish Council 2016/17			
Village Hall Grants		Environmental services	
Coalbrookdale & Ironbridge Community Centre	£1,500.00	Walking leaflet	£560.00
Jackfield Hall	£750.00	Stowp School walks	£150.00
Coalport Hall	£750.00	Planters	£152.00
Churchyard maintenance		Lodge fields grant	£500.00
Friends of St Mary's Church Jackfield	£100.00	IMAP grant	£500.00
Coalbrookdale PCC	£400.00	Projects	
Grants		SIDS on roads in Gorge	£1,800.00
Brass Band Festival	£500.00		
Crucial Crew	£250.00		
Ironbridge Rowing Club	£125.00		
Ironbridge Coracle Trust	£400.00		
Coalbrookdale Scout Group	£500.00		
Walkers are Welcome	£40.00		
Ironbridge Walking Festival	£300.00		
Poppy wreaths	£72.00		

Dale End Park Flower beds

We are sure that all residents will be delighted to see the stunning flower beds in all their glory at Dale End this year. They will be planted up by the end of June, weather permitting. Thanks are due to great co-operation between parish councillors and officers at T&W to ensure that they will not be left empty this summer.

Work will continue over the next few months between Telford and Wrekin Council, the parish council and the Friends of Dale End Park to design a new, more sustainable planting scheme for future years.

If you would like to be involved in supporting the development of the park and joining the Friends Group please contact Carolyn Healy on 01952 433932 or Carolyn@redkitenetwork.co.uk. Look out for Friends updates on the Community Facebook page and the notice boards in the park.

Upcoming Community Events

Ironbridge Rowing Regatta	24 & 25 June	Ironbridge Rowing Club, Dale End Park	www.ironbridgerowingclub.co.uk 01952 432798 (evenings only)
Ironbridge Brass Band Festival	15 & 16 July	The Museum of Iron	www.ironbridgebandfestival.co.uk
Glenn Miller Concert	22 July	MAWS Craft Centre	www.mawscraftcentre.co.uk/events.php
Ironbridge Coracle Regatta	29 August	Regatta Field, Dale End Park	www.coraclesociety.org 01952 275606
Secret Severn Art Trail	8 – 10 September	Various locations throughout the Gorge	www.secretsevern.co.uk
Apple Day	14 October	The Greenwood Trust	www.shropshireappletrust.co.uk
Christmas Lights Switch On	25 November	The Square, Ironbridge	http://thegorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Carols on the Bridge	24 December	The Iron Bridge	
Boxing Day Morris Dancing	26 December	The Iron Bridge	

There are many more events throughout the year. Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust both hold regular events. Check out these websites for more information or visit the tourist information centre inside the Museum of the Gorge, Ironbridge.

www.ironbridge.org.uk

www.severngorge.org.uk

Many of the pubs and cafes in the Gorge have regular activities and entertainment and there are lots of clubs and societies to suit most interests. So go on, get out there and enjoy yourself!

Gorge Film Club

In April and May we ran a pilot programme of four afternoon film screenings in the Community Centre on a once-a-fortnight basis. (Thank you to the Gorge Gardening Group for the use of your projection equipment). A new venture – we had no idea what the response might be! We needed about thirty attenders at each screening to cover the cost of royalties.

The programme was determined by the choices of local people: each film was selected and introduced by a different person. Drinks and biscuits were available, we sat round tables to watch, and anyone who chose to could hang around at the end to discuss the film.

70+ different people attended one film or more and three out of the four screenings reached or passed the break-even figure. We're very encouraged by this response.

We've collected comments about the choice of day and time for screenings with various other suggestions for improvements and over twenty films have been recommended for a future season. If you have any thoughts on how we might tweak the concept, or suggestions of a film you'd like to introduce, please email us on gorgefilmclub@gmail.com

Over the next few weeks we'll be discussing what changes we ought to make, with the intention of re-launching in the autumn.

Robert Petty & Janice Betteridge



Community Centres

There are four local community centres in the Gorge which are available for hire. There are also a range of events, classes, clubs and groups who regularly meet at these centres. Do have a look at their websites to find out what is happening locally.

Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Centre <http://cicca.org.uk/> Bookings: admin@cicca.org.uk

Coalport Village Hall <http://www.coalportvillagehall.co.uk/> Bookings: 01952 279808

Jackfield Village Hall Manager - 01952 884513, Bookings - 01952 883009

The Oaktree Centre, Lightmoor <http://www.oaktreecentre.org.uk/> Bookings: oaktreecentre@bvt.org.uk

Update from Borough Councillor Ironbridge Gorge: Nicola Lowery



To represent the Ironbridge Gorge as your Borough Councillor is a great honour and I would like to thank everyone that has been in touch from residents, community groups and businesses. This collaborative approach is essential to ensure that the views of our community are effectively represented and that investment continues to be made in our World Heritage Site.

It has been wonderful to meet with so many members of the community, get stuck into our environmental projects and to support on local issues and events in the Gorge. I continue to

encourage all of you to get in touch, no matter how big or small the idea, aspiration or concern. You can contact me by email on Nicola.lowery@telford.gov.uk or call me anytime on 07583041568. For those on social media, you can also find me on Twitter @Nic_Ironbridge and on Facebook @Nic.Ironbridge

Below is an update on some of the exciting projects I have been supporting on and key news in the Ironbridge Gorge:

AGA Rangemaster have recently announced that they intend to close the historic foundry and cease the manufacturing of castings at Coalbrookdale. There is a significant amount of history to this site and I hope the staff can be redeployed or retrained into other areas of the business. I will be working closely with AGA and The Gorge Parish Council to ensure the local community are kept informed and have the opportunity to contribute to future plans for this historic site. I remain optimistic that a future use can be found that positively enriches our communities and that continues this industrial legacy for generations to come.

Ironbridge Power Station demolition and the future of the site. Uniper have submitted an Application for prior notification to demolish Conveyors 6 and 7 and the accompanying Conveyor Tower of the former Ironbridge Power Station. The demolition work of conveyors and associated structures is intended to commence in Q3 2017 and it is anticipated that the demolition will take approximately 10 weeks. Demolition is necessary to permit safe demolition of the remaining main power station site and any future redevelopment. However, this is in advance of the main demolition phase which is subject to a current EIA Screening process.

The site is nearing completion of decommissioning and full demolition of the site is expected to commence in 2018 subject to Shropshire Council approval as the designated local planning authority.

A summit was held earlier this year and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to put forward their preferences for the site and concerns relating to impact on the local community and World Heritage Site. As part of the meeting I along with The Gorge Parish Council emphasized the preference for a public consultation, the need for a planning framework, the strategic importance of master planning and broad economic potential, which includes a heritage rail link.

Destination Telford & Visit Ironbridge Website: I continue to work closely with Telford & Wrekin Council, The Gorge Parish Council and stakeholders to strengthen the Destination offering and marketing for the Ironbridge Gorge. The Visit Ironbridge web site has been incorporated into the new Discover Telford website page and we continue to optimise and develop this to ensure this represents the diverse cultural offering and our vibrant business community in the Gorge.

Traffic Management in the Gorge: Following on from the extensive traffic surveys taken last year across the World Heritage Site, the Council continue to undertake background work and analysis of the data to inform a prioritised programme of work. This will ensure we focus on the key sites of concern in the Gorge, based on the evidence acquired from the surveys to ensure a more holistic approach to traffic management in the Gorge, which will inform a wider Access Strategy. Following on from representations, the Council have also commissioned a report to review HGV restriction signage and signage within the Gorge to our main car parks to ensure we proactively approach and review the challenges we face in the local area.

The Wharfage, Tontine Hill and High Street improvements:

I am delighted to confirm that following on from varying representations to improve the highway the Council have

completed carriageway maintenance scheme in Ironbridge to improve the condition of the existing carriageway surface on The Wharfage, Tontine Hill and High Street. Traffic monitors to assess speeds will be going down at the start of June and should this identify an increase in speed a decision will be made on installing speed cushions. In addition to this, design options are being explored to either refurbish or replace the railings along the Wharfage to again continue to invest and improve our public realm.

Lightmoor Village News

The new development of Lightmoor Village is now just over the half way mark, in terms of numbers of homes built.

Building and developing a new community holds many challenges, for those steering through the technical aspects of designs, planning requirements and infrastructure necessary to create a community from a blank page, and for residents who are, and have been living through the construction period.

There is a team of people behind the delivery of the village, Trustees who have overall responsibility for the governance of Bournville Village Trust, BVT Executive Team who are responsible for the day to day management, The Joint Venture, a partnership between the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and BVT who are responsible for delivery of development and BVT Stewardship Team, responsible for managing and maintaining the build environment and green spaces and community development.

There are Trustee Open Forums held which are open to all residents and gives them the opportunity to discuss the management of Lightmoor Village and development, share concerns, and get answers to questions. The aim is to report progress made on issues raised at previous forums. These are attended by many of the representatives from Lightmoor, partner organisations and stakeholders.

The work of the BVT Community Team has played a major role in embedding the ethos of the 'Village' community with a full schedule of community involvement events, from Welcome Meeting for new residents, Estate Dates which gives residents the opportunity to meet members of the team and discuss issues they may have in their area, to community litter picks.

The Lightmoor Village Community Group is open to all residents to work with BVT and other professional or voluntary organisations, to support charities, to promote social activities, recreational facilities, protect the green spaces and the environment and to promote residents rights and maintenance of and improvements to Lightmoor Village.

If you are interested in any of these topics, this is the group for you!

There is a vast array of regular events held in the village, an active Youth Club, Tea & Tots for parents/carers, holiday activities for children and young people, organised trips and quizzes.

Spring and Summer events celebrating your community are held every year, Halloween fun for all the family and Christmas events galore!

Recently work has begun on Squatters Cottage on Woodlands Lane and it is hoped that this heritage building can be used in a positive way for the community in the future. In November worked continued to transform the Bath Spout area to create a suitable habitat to support wildlife and encourage residents to go and explore the areas on their doorstep.

*Cllr Jayne Greenaway Cllr Raj Mehta
Ward Members for Horsehay & Lightmoor*



The new Parish Environmental Team (PET)

The Gorge Parish Council has become the 13th local council in Telford and Wrekin to set up a Parish Environmental Team (PET) who carry out enhanced environmental maintenance above and beyond what is already done by the council's own maintenance teams. Typically, a PET includes a TWS Ltd employee, an apprentice and vehicle to service and maintain a specific parish area. Each team is equipped with a range of small powered equipment including a strimmer, hedge cutters spraying equipment and hand tools.

They follow a local works programme, which has been developed and agreed by the parish. The team not only maintains the area with a "pride of patch" responsibility but also report any local issues which they come across and cannot fix themselves.

A PET is dedicated to the Parish area and will also undertake other environmental improvement schemes to enhance the local area.

The Parish Council are particularly proud to be employing an apprentice for this work, in order to encourage more young people to consider a career in grounds maintenance.

Residents have already started to see an improvement in their environment and we would encourage them to contact the Parish Council Clerk or a councillor to let us know which areas they believe deserve a little extra maintenance.

You can see pictures of the work being done on our Parish Website and do say "hello" to Ralph if you see him in your local area.

Before



After



PET Van



Pride In Your High Street Projects

The Parish Council, working with our partners, is progressing our Pride in Your High Street projects.

The landscaping of the bank between High Street and Church Hill in Ironbridge has been completed thanks to the fantastic efforts of the Gorge Green Gang volunteers. Due to some delays in finalising our grant offer, the planting took place late in the season meaning that watering has been required. Access to water has been very kindly supplied by Cleo's Cocktail Bar and neighbouring residents on Church Hill.



The next project to be completed will be some additional way marking to encourage people to discover the shops, cafes and bars away from the 'honey pot' area close to the Iron Bridge. In particular, we aim to improve footfall along High Street and to Merrythought Retail Village.

Work is ongoing to develop information plaques for key buildings along the Wharfage, Tontine Hill and High Street, and develop the Ironbridge Gorge web pages within the Discover Telford website. Window displays are also being designed to be placed in empty shop windows. The final project is to provide a digital touch screen information panel in the centre of Ironbridge to allow people to easily find out about activities and events, places to visit, and

where to eat and stay.

Neighbourhood Watch in the West Mercia area has changed so as to enable more involvement from more schemes at the forum level. Instead of the 9 people voting we now have a scheme that utilises the Safer Neighbourhood Team areas. We also have an Executive Board that is made up of representatives of the forum and will discuss topics relevant to the West Mercia management and operation of the association. The Executive Board will meet at least 4 times each year between the AGM meetings and as required to address operational issues.

Ironbridge & Colbrookdale NHW needs people to help run it. We have a Facebook page, Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale WHS NHW, where all updates and news can be publicised and we also have a website which is <http://icnhw.webs.com> where you can email to join.

The Lightmoor scheme also needs active members to join – the Facebook page is Lightmoor village NHW.

I am also looking to resurrect the Telford & Wrekin NHW association in the coming months where all the schemes across the borough can meet at least four times a year to discuss the new setup and strategic future proofing of the West Mercia NHW and problems or if schemes need help and advice.

Richard Soame, Forum Rep for Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire

Parish Notice Boards

Did you know that the parish notice boards are unlocked and available for you to display your notices about upcoming community events and activities? You can find the notice boards at the side of the public toilets, next to the Tea Emporium in Ironbridge; on the Community Centre wall next to the bus stop and post box in Coalbrookdale; Calcutts Green in Jackfield; and Riverside Avenue in Coalport. There will also be a new notice board in Lightmoor very soon.

Just a couple of things to remember when posting notices. Information posted must be relevant to and for the benefit of the local community. Please no advertising for private businesses. Make sure not to obscure the Parish Council meeting notices. Once your notice is no longer relevant please make sure to remove it.



Council Contacts, Meeting Dates

Councillors of The Gorge Parish Council 2017

Coalport & Jackfield Ward:

Cllr Tony Hobson	01952 580555	19 Reynolds Wharf, High Street, Coalport Telford TF8 7HU
Cllr Avon Horden	01952 883192	16 Canalside Hight St, Coalport, TF8 7HS

Ironbridge Ward:

Cllr Maureen Bragg	01952 433937	1 Church Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford TF8 7NS
Cllr Carolyn Healy	01952 433932	27 Church Road, Coalbrookdale TF8 7NT
Cllr Heather Oldershaw	01952 432476	Winterwood, 12 Chapel Road, Ironbridge Telford TF8 7QX

Lightmoor Ward:

Cllr Jake Bennett	07795 262 621	
Cllr Paul Rhoden	01952 503829	31 Harding Wood, Lightmoor Village Telford TF4 3TT
Cllr Andrew White	01952 630460 / 07920 853 952	1 Harding Wood, Lightmoor Village, Telford TF4 3TT

Clerk: Gavin Patience

Office: Unit C22 Maws Craft Centre Jackfield Telford TF8 7LS. Tel. 01952 883192.

(the Clerk attends the Offices , part time Tuesdays – Thursdays; surgery hours are 4-6pm on Tuesdays and by appointment)

Email: clerk@thegorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk Web: <http://thegorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Borough Councillors:

Cllr. Nic Lowery:	nicola.lowery@telford.gov.uk	07583 041 568	(Ironbridge Gorge)
Cllr Rajash Mehta:	rajash.mehta@telford.gov.uk	07970 374 126	(Horsehay & Lightmoor)
Cllr. Jayne Greenaway:	jayne.greenaway@telford.gov.uk	01952 380199	(Horsehay & Lightmoor)

Dates of Meetings for the next 12 months 2017-18

2017

20th June	Full Council
4th July	Planning
18th July	Full Council
<i>No meetings scheduled for August</i>	
5th September	Planning
19th September	Full Council
3rd October	Planning
17th October	Full Council
7th November	Planning
21st November	Full Council
5th December	Planning
19th December	Full Planning

Note: Planning meetings will start at 6pm and last no more than an hour.

Full Council meetings start at 7pm and finish by 9pm.

2018

2nd January	Planning
16th January	Full Council
6th February	Planning
20th February	Full Council
6th March	Planning
20th March	Full Council
3rd April	Planning
17th April	Full Council
1st May	Planning
15th May	Full Council and AGM

The Gorge Community Facebook Group

Our Parish covers a large and diverse area and Facebook is helping communication for those online.

There's also a growing group on Facebook that aims to help everyone get to know what's going on in each of those places and across The Gorge.

'The Ironbridge Gorge Community' at www.facebook.com/groups/ironbridgegorge is open to all residents and businesses in the Gorge to share their news. Please encourage your neighbours to join and help build this community online.

