

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
2019-20

This has been a busy year for the Parish council with several major issues to deal with.

Firstly we made aware that the Ulgham Meadows land was included in a plot of land being sold by Harworth estates, previously U. K. coal. With a deadline of only several weeks until the sale the council arranged a meeting with a representative of Harworth estates who agreed to remove the Meadows from the sale and offered the village first chance to buy. A figure was agreed and we, in conjunction with the UVA, put in a bid for funding from the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. As the asking price exceeded the maximum amount that could be bid for, the Parish Council agreed to make up the shortfall if the bid was successful. The bid was agreed by the Windfarm committee and the purchase of the meadows was concluded in the autumn. A meadows management committee was to be set up, but this is on hold due to present circumstances.

Many residents throughout the year had raised concerns about the continued closure of the Forge pub and whether it would be sold for development. The Parish Council took advice from the County Council on this matter and the advice given was that we should register the pub as a community asset as this would prevent development for five years. With the County Council's help on the legal matters we went ahead with the application which was successful. This was not a decision taken lightly as we were aware of the illness of the present owner.

The new owner of the field to the North East of the village applied for permission for a caravan site. Due to the small size of the site he did not need planning permission. However, the Parish Council raised serious concerns about the safety of the access. This concern was also raised by the Caravan Club who have put restrictions on the type of vehicles allowed on the site i.e. no caravans only camper vans and tents before they will grant a licence. This is an ongoing issue and discussions are continuing with the owner.

Lastly, but certainly not least, on the day after the March Parish council meeting the whole country went into lockdown. The Parish Council and the UVA then immediately asked for volunteers to help in any way possible for any vulnerable residents. The response was fantastic with a resident setting up a Facebook group, Ulgham Village Together and a weekly newsletter circulated giving details of local business willing to deliver goods to the village and giving updates from N. C. C. on matters such as waste collections, grass cutting and playground closures. Even though the Parish Council cannot hold open meetings at present, rest assured we continue to work via email on many issues. We have recently installed a new litter bin in the lay-by at the ford at Ulgham Grange and are presently looking at quotes to replace the speed sign at east end of the village.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped decorate the village for our VE Day celebrations. The village looked wonderful and the numerous street parties helped cheer everyone up.

Normally at this point I would name individuals for their work but this year I would like to thank everyone who has pulled together to help the village in this difficult time.

Keep safe and stay well.

Councillor Jim Scott

Chairman - UPC