

Silverdale Parish Council

New Councillors & By-Elections

Following Parish Council elections in May, a number of new councillors were elected for the first time.

Cllr. A. Rout, Cllr. P. Rout, Cllr. S Snell, Cllr. A. Hughes, Cllr. R Braithwaite were all successful in securing election to the Parish Council and Cllr. C. Spence, Cllr. G Snell, Cllr. M. Nadin, Cllr. T. O'Neill and Cllr. E Braithwaite were all re-elected.

We also saw former Councillors leave the Parish Council via both retirement and unsuccessful re-election campaigns. We would like to thank those Councillors for the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that they showed for the work that the Parish Council does.

Silverdale - unlike every other Parish in the Borough - had fully-contested elections, suggesting that the number of residents in our village keen to work for the betterment of our community is not insignificant.

Sadly, Cllr. R. Braithwaite and Cllr. M. Nadin were, after a couple of months, unable to continue with their places on the Council and the subsequent by-elections were won by Cllr. H. Adamczuk and Cllr. S. Durber.

The by-elections costs around £6500 to hold but, much like the main elections in May, these by-elections were contested by 5 candidates in total – suggesting that the work that the Parish Council does is piquing the interest of local residents

The Old Mining Wheel

Work is being led by Cllr. A. Rout to ensure that the wheel which adorned the old Silverdale Colliery entrance is returned to a position of prominence within the village. Cllr. Rout is working with Groundworks – the group who run the Country Park – on a funding bid to

have the wheel erected within the Country Park, and a space created which can be used as an outdoor classroom so that the village's children can learn about their local heritage.

Silverdale Library

Staffordshire County Council is still committed to seeing Silverdale Library run by volunteers rather than employed staff. Their first attempt to recruit volunteers was not successful and so a second attempt is currently underway. Our library no longer has a dedicated member of staff and, instead, is being operated by a member of a pool of staff on a rota basis. The County Council has said that this will last for only 1 year by which point the Library will need to be run by volunteers. The Parish Council remains concerned about the impact that this will have on the village as well as the capacity that the village has to provide sufficient volunteers.

Dementia Friendly Village

This year Silverdale Parish Council agreed to work towards Silverdale becoming a "Dementia Friendly Village". Recognising the increasing age of residents and the support that allows those with dementia to spend more time in their own homes means that local shops and service providers will have customers who are living with dementia. The dementia friend programme trains people on the best ways they can support people with dementia in their local communities. 6 Parish Councillors have received the training and we will be working to deliver the training to those in our village who can help those with dementia.

Miners' Monument

The Parish Council is continuing to work with the Borough Council on a project which will see a full restoration of the Miners' Monument at the entrance to the village. After many years, it is in need of some TLC.

Allotments

After much discussion with the Allotment Associations and the Borough Council, the Parish Council has a full lease for both the Acre and Park Road allotment sites. The two allotment associations – who sublet the sites from the Parish Council – have gone from strength to strength and the dedicated gardeners and vegetable growers have taken responsibility for the sites and they are now running exceedingly well.

Parish Council Community Grants

To support the work that is done by Silverdale by local community groups, the Parish Council has a £2000 fund to make small grants. In the last year, some of the small grants have been given to:

- Silverdale Academy – for their World Learning Zone
- Silverdale Scouts – as a contribution towards refurbishment of their building
- Silverdale Bethel Centre – provision of an external “strong box” for a defibrillator
- St Luke’s School – Kindles for their “Kindle Corner” initiative in their library

Grit Bins

The Parish Council has arranged for new grit bins to be installed in parts of the village where the County Council was unable to provide one. This should help residents get around the village in the frosty weather with greater ease and more safely.

New Website & Village Magazine

The Parish Council has finally finished with the construction of a new website which will allow residents to keep up to date with all of the work that we are doing. However, we are aware that not all residents have access to the internet, so we have reinstated the village newsletter. Thanks to sponsorship by local businesses this has not cost the Parish Council any money.

Parish Budget

The Parish Council has **frozen** the Parish portion of the local Council Tax this year but has also committed to spending local money on new bus shelters, new and improved Christmas lights for the Parade, and more work on keeping the village clean and tidy.

Chris Spence (Chair)

Gareth Snell (Vice Chair)