

Pilsley

Parish Council

Quality Award Submission

In our Summer 2018 Newsletter we reported that after having received the Foundation Award the Parish Council had resolved to proceed further on the road to achieving Quality Status by going for the next level which was the Local Council Quality Award.

We mentioned that this would be more onerous than the Foundation level and that the Council had therefore established a working group to

work through the required process with the Parish Clerk.

The working group has recently completed its task and the Council is happy that it now has sufficient evidence to meet the criteria which it needs to satisfy the awarding body, the National Association of Local Councils, that we have a strong case for obtaining the award.

The Parish Council is now in the process of putting the final touches to our application which will be submitted shortly.

Unveiling of Cyril's plaque

On Saturday 23 March at 10.00am, Pilsley will honour Cyril Leason one of its favourite sons, when a plaque which marks his outstanding achievement of organising the Hardwick Hall Road Race from 1981 to 2013 will be unveiled.

The unveiling ceremony will take place at the Five Pits Trail

car park on Hardstoft Road which has been chosen by Cyril as it adjoins the site of his former home.

The Parish Council is very pleased that the plaque and its stone plinth have both been made by local tradesmen, the plaque by Paul Gibbons of Chatsworth Signs and the plinth by Andrew Oldfield of the Fringe Workshop.

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The Council and the Hardwick 10K Organising Group are happy to play their part in honouring Cyril who has not only put Pilsley on the athletics map but has also brought so much pleasure to our residents over such a long period of time.

Everyone is welcome to attend the unveiling ceremony. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carol Concert success

Last year's annual carol concert on 12 December was a great success with an above average attendance.

The Shirland Brass Band was, as usual, in great form and included fine solo performances in both its junior and senior sections.

The Parish Council would very much like to thank Irene Lindley, Jill Tunnicliffe and Louise Bunting for giving their time to provide the well received refreshments. As the Council Chairman remarked when winding up the evening, these ladies are an asset to the Village and Pilsley is most fortunate to have them.

The event followed a format which has remained unchanged for some time now and regular attendees appear to be happy with it. However, the Council is always trying to improve on the things that it does and if, therefore, anyone has any suggested changes that they would like us to consider, we would be please to receive them.

On 22 December, St Mary's and Pilsley Methodist Churches held their annual carol singing event on the Church Street car park. The event was, as usual, well attended and enjoyed by those people present.

Annual Parish Meeting

Pilsley's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 13th May 2019 at 6.00 pm at the Sports Pavilion.

The meeting is an opportunity for residents to ask questions about how the Council has been run for the past year, to comment on its performance, and to make suggestions about possible improvements to the Village.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY.

Council unable to save bus service

The news that the Spira bus service running through Pilsley was to cease on 2nd March was received with regret by everyone who used it. It was particularly useful to people travelling to and from Clay Cross.

The Parish Council had hoped that it might be possible to save the service by joining with those Councils whose areas the bus ran through to raise enough money to subsidise it and therefore keep it operating.

Sadly, when Phillip Woodward our Parish Clerk contacted TM Travel who operate Spira bus services he was informed the annual subsidy which would be required to keep the service running was way beyond that which the Councils could afford. TH's Managing Director informed Phillip that they had examined all alternatives (i.e. shorter routes, different times, reduced level of service, etc) but were unable to make these work.

Yet another facility has been lost to our residents.

For those people who used this service there is an alternative, which is bus service 55. This service goes to Chesterfield via Clay Cross and runs via the Clay Cross bus station. However the return service from Clay Cross does NOT leave from the bus station but instead uses the bus stop on Market Street outside of Ladbrokes betting shop. Times of the service are shown on the timetables at the bus stops within the village and on the bus stop on Market Street.

Some useful service times to/from Clay Cross are shown below:

Pilsley Pear Tree Road	Lower Pilsley Parkhouse Road	Clay Cross Bus Station	Clay Cross Market Street	Lower Pilsley Parkhouse Road	Pilsley Pear Tree Road
1018	1021	1028	1120	1125	1128
1120	1123	1130	1222	1127	1130
1220	1225	1232	1327	1332	1335

Sports Pavilion up and running

As this article was being written our new sports pavilion was less than two weeks away from being completed and handed over to the Parish Council, which means that by the time that you read this the project should be completed.

As well as the usual facilities to be found in a sports pavilion such as changing rooms, showers, kitchen etc, the building has a large room which might be useful for meeting/functions etc and which would be available for hire. Anyone interested in hiring the room should contact Phil Woodward the Parish Clerk. The Council does however wish to stress that it will not be competing for lettings with the Village Hall which has its own excellent facilities.

In advance of the opening of the Pavilion a Pilsley Sports Association comprised of representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs has been established to operate it. Officers of the Association include Mark Watts - Chairman, Paul Farnsworth - Vice-Chairman and Tristan Bowers - Secretary. A Treasurer is still required so if anyone is interested the Association would love to hear from you.

The Parish Council extends its best wishes to the Association for a long and prosperous future.

Don Foster Pilsley's supreme litter champion

One national newspaper is currently running a campaign to recruit people to clear the ever increasing amount of litter from Britain's streets and countryside and claims to have over one hundred thousand volunteers to date. They will, however, have to clear an awful amount of litter to get anywhere near Pilsley's Don Foster who has been voluntarily cleaning our streets for over twenty-five years now and shows no sign of slowing down.

Don, of Hazel Avenue, currently spends about fifteen hours per week on his voluntary work and never lets a little thing such as adverse weather conditions stand in his way. In addition to the massive amount of general waste which he collects, Don estimates that to date he has collected an absolutely staggering one quarter of a million aluminium/steel drinks cans, together with over 80,000 plastic bottles.

When Don gets home from picking up litter from our streets he diligently sifts through the rubbish and ensures that anything which can be recycled goes into his burgundy bin which is always full to capacity by collection day. For many years, until the price of scrap

metal plummeted, Don used to deliver his drinks cans to a recycling centre in Chesterfield to sell them with the proceeds going to a number of worthy causes including the lifeboats, an orphanage in Beirut Lebanon, and a charity for blind babies.

Words alone cannot express our gratitude to Don for his unselfish work on our behalf. Pilsley owes him the most massive debt. If there is anyone in this Country who has collected (and recycled) more than Don then we would like to see him or her. On a disappointing note, Don tells us that the amount of litter which he currently sees on our streets is, unfortunately, increasing rather than decreasing. One would like to think that the very sight of a man giving his time to tidying up our streets would encourage people to have more pride in their village but sadly this does not appear to be the case.

A more positive reaction to Don's work has been the fact that after seeing him out collecting, several other residents have become volunteers. We hope that this number will continue to increase.

Don, Pilsley thanks and salutes you. You are a true community hero and there will never be another one like you.

Pilsley Village Fete Group (PVFG) Events

A Night at the Races - Saturday 16 March 2019 at 7.30pm in Pilsley Village Hall

A great opportunity to enjoy all the thrills, spills and fun of going to the races without having to travel out of Pilsley! Even if you are not a gambler or racegoer, come along and join in the fun!!

The format for the evening is simple:

- There will be 10 races with 8 horses in each.
- Bets can be made on any horse in a race.
- Minimum stakes are £1 per bet - maximum stakes are unlimited!!
- Odds are calculated at the close of betting and winnings paid to punters on the

winning horse immediately at the end of the race.

- The races will be sponsored by local business and enterprises at £25 per race - the races will be named after the sponsors on the race card.
- You can become a horse owner in the first nine races at a cost of £2.50 per horse. Winning owners will win a bottle of wine in addition to whatever bet they have staked on the horse. Horses can be purchased in advance by contacting the persons below. Any horse not sold beforehand will be available for purchase during the race night.
- The final race will be an auction race and horses will be offered for bids on the night.

A licensed bar will be available on the night so there will no 'Bring Your Own'.

Tickets for the event are £5.00 each with a pie and pea supper included - a vegetarian pie option will be available.

Admission will be by ticket only and the event is limited to a maximum of 110 persons.

For tickets and horse purchase, contact Mike on 07802 368108 or Jill on 07726 591133.

Northern Soul Night/Tea Dance

These will take place in April and May 2019. Further details to follow so keep checking PVFG Facebook and Twitter.

Parish Council regrets Bowls Club closure

The Parish council was very sad to learn last November that Pilsley Bowls Club had decided, at its annual general meeting, to close down.

Jonathon Hayes, the Bowls Club Chairman, contacted the Council Chairman and the Parish Clerk to give them the news and to explain the reason for the Club's decision which was basically that with its declining membership it was not financially viable to continue.

The Club has been in existence for 35 years and had long been

regarded as a village institution although in recent times it had found difficulty in recruiting local people and, at the time of its closure, the vast majority of its members were not Pilsley residents. During the past 7 years or so the Council had tried to help the Club to recruit new members by promoting bowls in this Newsletter, but sadly without a great deal of success.

At the time of the Club's closure, the Council was in the process of helping it obtain funding to finance the provision of a number of shelters to enable its members

to watch games during inclement weather conditions and also to provide storage facilities. This was in response to the Club's concern that the new sports pavilion was not being erected on the footprint of the old one and that their present protection from bad weather would therefore be lost. The Council was also hoping that the Club would make full use of the new pavilion when it opened early in 2019.

Jonathon Hayes has, on behalf of the Club, thanked the Council for its support over the past 35 years.

County Councillor Kevin Gillott writes

This time of year is always when I write about the Council's budget, what it means for your council tax bill, and everyone else in Lower Pilsley and Pilsley who use the many services that the County Council provides. Setting the level of council tax is always the biggest decision a council makes each year because it determines everything else the council does. It's also the only decision a council can make about the size of its budget, because the rest of the money comes from the Government and local business rates, and the council has no control over these.

Last year it was a story of a large tax rise and cuts to local services and, twelve months on, history is repeating itself. The controlling councillors at County Hall in Matlock decided to increase their element of your bill by 3.9%, between £35 and £50 rise for most of you depending on the size of your home.

The reason for this increase is

that once again the amount of money the Government gives to the council to supplement funds raised from council tax payers and Derbyshire businesses is a fraction of what it used to be, less than £50M compared to over £200M before the start of austerity. Those annual cuts in the Government grant not only mean that the council has less money to spend, it means that your council tax now accounts for nearly two-thirds of the money the council spends, whereas previously it was about half of the council's budget.

As big as this year's increase is, he councillors who run the Council could have put it up by a further 1%, or an extra 15p to 20p per week, but decided not to do so. Had that decision been mine, I'd have supported that extra 1% rise. Not because I want to put up your taxes even more, or because I don't think that the council tax is too high already - because it is - but because I'm worried about the consequences to vital services. And as your councillor I have to make choices.

I'm particularly concerned about changes to the services that help young children. Fortunately, most of us will never use those services, but we all benefit when we help keep vulnerable and disabled children safe, have a youth service that gives children something to do and keeps them out of mischief, and a careers service that help them find a vocation. So important are some of these services that the Council is passing the cost of keeping them going onto schools, and as parents and teachers already know, their budgets are already hard pressed.

This year's budget also makes it harder for me to get things done when people approach me about problems, including those with the countryside, and why I'm not expecting the council to be able to do anything about the recent cuts to bus services, which I know left many people feeling isolated.

However, I will always try my hardest for the communities I represent, and so please do get in touch if you ever need my help.

Any ideas for the use of the Bowling Green?

On page 4 of this Newsletter we refer to the recent sad closure of Pilsley Bowls Club which had been in existence since 1983.

After hearing of the Club's closure the Parish Clerk contacted the Derbyshire Bowls Association to ask if it was aware of any bowls club which might be seeking a new home. Unfortunately the Association was unable to help us which was disappointing as the bowling green at Pilsley Sports Ground is regarded as one of the best of its kind in Derbyshire.

The Parish Council is now faced with the task of finding a future use for the green and, before any decision is made, we would very much welcome suggestions from members of the public.

As everyone is aware Pilsley has a flourishing junior football organisation and coaches children from the age of four years. One possibility might be to use the old bowling green as a training pitch for the youngsters but no decision will be made until we have undertaken a public consultation exercise.

Any suggestions received will receive due consideration but North East Derbyshire District Council's withdrawal of our £15,000 annual support grant means that we will be unlikely to be able to go for any project which might be costly to maintain.

Also the fact that the Council only holds the Sports Ground on trust, probably prevents it from considering the sale of the area (or any part of it).

We look forward to receiving your suggestions.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Pilsley Primary School - Science Fair Special

For the last four years, we have held Science Fairs to promote our children's interest in science as a subject. We invite parents to stay after school and their children demonstrate the experiments and learning they have undertaken in class. Our theme this year was "The Human Body"

Year 1

We focussed on the five senses and did practical experiments on each of these. We undertook a taste and smell test where children and parents had to guess the taste and smell and the children recorded their answers. We also explored sound and looked at different ways of producing sound. We had the "Feel Challenge" and had to use describing words as we explored different textures. One of the favourite 'vision' experiments was the Blindfold Challenge where they had to build a tower by touch alone.

Year 2

The children had a wonderful time sharing their work from our Autumn Term Science topic on 'Healthy Humans'. The activities they shared encompassed a range of health issues that we face including Health Eating, Physical Fitness and Mental Health

One of the Learning Stations had children explaining the Food Pyramid and how we use it to ensure we eat a balanced diet. Parents were encouraged to sort food into healthy and unhealthy plates and

lunchboxes as well as designing their own healthy plates and lunchboxes.

Another Learning Station showed the physical changes that happen to our bodies during exercise. Children shared their investigation on this and there was a challenge to see how many star jumps they could complete in 1 minute. They could then listen to their heart beating using a stethoscope.

The final Learning Station was about Positive Thoughts = Healthy Minds. Children asked for ideas to add to the display on how we can relax and to say something nice about someone reinforcing positive thoughts.

Year 3

We used a diagram of the circulatory system (heart, lungs, limbs and head) on the floor with the children pretending to be "blood" for their parents. They moved from the heart to the lungs, back to the heart, to the limbs and back to the heart. We also showed when blood was oxygenated and deoxygenated with blue and red paper demonstrations. We named bones by putting labels onto model skeletons, wherever possible using the proper names for them.

We also had a large "Eatwell" plate showing the different food groups and portions to eat, with lots of food items to be sorted into the correct group.

Finally, we used a Venn diagram to sort photos of animals into endoskeleton/ exoskeleton.

Year 4/5

We were looking at the importance of water to the human body. We explored how vital water is to our survival and how the body uses water. We also looked at the importance of having clean water to drink and wash with. This included how diseases are caused by drinking dirty water and that some people in our world do not have the clean water that we get so easily. We looked at how water is cleaned before it gets to our taps. We related this to investigations we have been doing on filtering- separating sand from water - and how these processes are used so that we have clean water.

Year 6

We had a great time learning all about the healthy heart and lungs! We re-enacted the circulatory system and produced a video that was on show during the fair. Year 6 even made fake lungs that demonstrated how the diaphragm works. We produced and discussed posters about the nutritional values of some of our favourite foods. Many parents were as surprised as the Year 6's by just how much they had learnt.

Competitions

We always hold competitions that promote scientific learning during the fairs. In previous years children and parents have worked together to make balloon rockets, catapults and balloon buggies that have competed against each other. This year, for a little twist, we had the 'Organ Challenge'. This was a race

against the clock to collect and place all the organs in the human body on to a 'body map' (we did use 'soft toy' versions). There were hearts and lungs everywhere but lots of learning too!

Park House Primary School

It is my privilege to introduce myself as the new Head Teacher at Park House Primary School. The pupils, families and staff have all made me very welcome since joining them in January. It was lovely meeting parents at the 'cuppa and cake' session in January which was well attended by our families.

January and February has been a very busy time at Park House. We have had a number of sporting successes of which we are very proud with our football team reaching the semi-final round of the Derby County tournament and only

losing one match which resulted in us being knocked out of the tournament. We have also had some teams attending some cluster school tournaments in team building and fencing. Our 'A' Team won all their fencing matches and 'B' lost by only 0.5 points!

We have had some visitors in school to enhance the curriculum with the Wonderdome giving an amazing astronomy experience for Year 1 and Year 5. We have also had the Zoologist coming in to talk to Year 6 as part of their Darwin topic and the Animal Man coming in to see Reception and Year 1.

Leading up to Christmas our school choir performed fantastically well and reached the finals of the Intu Choir competition held at the Intu Shopping Centre in Derby. Our Year 3 and Year 4's are preparing for the upcoming performance in April at the Clay Cross Methodist Church.

We will also be taking part again in the Winding Wheel performance in October this year.

We have raised just over £200 for the NSPCC by wearing our own clothes for their 'Number Day' in January. Thank you to our families for supporting this charity. We are hoping to arrange for the NSPCC to come back in June/July to run some workshops with our pupils on keeping safe.

We have some other fun events being planned by the fabulous PTFA group with a disco, monthly tuck shop and Easter Fair coming up shortly.

I would like to give special thanks to Gill Scoffings who is our school crossing patrol and does an amazing job at keeping our families safe coming and leaving school.

Mrs S Kavanagh

District Council not interested in resolving parking problems

Last Year we reported in this Newsletter that the Parish council had contacted North East Derbyshire District Council to register its concern about the car parking problems on Queensway and Padley Wood Road and to request that off road parking spaces be provided on part of the available land in both areas.

Parish Councillors attended a meeting in summer 2018 with a District Council representative who noted out concerns and promised that they would

be considered.

Sadly, it appears that our pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

So far as Queensway is concerned, although Rykneld Homes supported our request, the District Council has refused it on the basis that two of the three sites which we suggested include houses which are not in its ownership and in its opinion the development of the third site would not resolve the problem. The District Council has suggested that residents should consider making use of the available plots on the nearby garage site.

With regard to Padley Wood Road, we had said that parking could be provided either on the large grassed area or in front of some of the bungalows. The District Council has refused to develop the grassed area as it is considered to be a potential future development site, and the bungalows area has been refused on the basis that "it would create a precedent for similar developments in the area".

In the meantime the number of cars on our roads grows and the parking situation gets worse.

St. Mary's Church news

Little Lambs. Carers and Toddler Group every Tuesday morning in term-time only. Starts at 9.00 am in St. Mary's Church for story and song, then continues 9.30-11.00 am In St. Mary's Centre for playtime, crafts and refreshments. All very welcome.

Pop-In. Every Thursday 8.30-11.00 am in St. Mary's Centre for refreshments and second-hand stalls. Come and grab a bacon butty and a cuppa and meet new and old friends.

The Lighthouse. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month 3.15-5.00 pm. Activities, story, singing and a meal together for all the family.

Sunday Services

1st Sunday of Month	8.30 am Short said Holy Communion Service 10.00 am All-age informal service (50 mins)
2nd Sunday of Month	10.00 am Holy Communion Service with Junior Church
3rd Sunday of Month	8.30 am Short said Holy Communion Service 10.00 am Morning Worship with Junior Church
4th Sunday of Month	10.00 am Holy Communion Service with Junior Church

Special Events

Sunday 31st March	10.00 am Mother's Day Service - an all age informal service.
Good Friday 19th April	10.00-12.00pm Family Activity Morning. Easter crafts and activities for all the family. Children - don't forget to bring an grown-up with you! 2.00-3.00 pm A reflective, quiet service
Easter Day 21st April	8.30 am Short said Holy Communion Service 10.00 am Easter Holy Day Communion Service - an All-age celebration. Come and join us celebrating the Risen Jesus!

Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees which the Parish Council provided for the third consecutive year on the Village Green and Parkhouse Green were generally well received by the public, some of whom helped by placing their own decorations on them.

We did receive some criticism on Facebook from some people who felt that the solar lights did not come up to standard even though we did our best by putting several sets of lights on the trees.

As everyone is aware in order to get better lights we need to run an electricity supply to the

trees and the cost of this is not cheap. The Parish Clerk is presently looking into how much this is likely to cost us and if we think that we can afford it during the next financial year then we will go for it.

In the meantime, the Council has decided that in order to reduce the long term cost of providing Christmas trees we should plant our own even if it might take them a year or two to grow to the required height.

Two eight foot rooted trees were due to be planted in early February but we were unable to proceed with this when we learned to our horror that the

civil engineering company undertaking road works on Church Street had illegally set up a base camp/dumping site on the Village Green (when we contacted them they claimed that they thought the land belonged to Derbyshire County Council which had given them a permit to use bits of land such as this when they are working near to them).

The Council made a compensation claim and the company has agreed that, in addition to reinstating the land to its previous condition (which it claims it always does), it will meet the cost of the two new trees.

PCSO Kate Hodnett writes on crime prevention

Pilsley has seen a slight rise in the number of daytime house burglaries. Kate has forwarded a Derbyshire Constabulary advice note, which we have previously put in full in this Newsletter. The following is an abbreviation of its contents.

Inside your home. Do not leave valuables on display and store keys (including car keys) out of sight; check all doors are locked (even if you are at home); take photographs of valuables and also make a note of serial numbers or marks and mark your property with either a UV pen or Smart water; hide wallets and ID cards, personal

letters with bank details. If going out leave lights on or consider the use of timers and leave a radio/TV on.

Outside your home. Install good outside lighting; if possible install a burglar alarm or CCTV; keep items which could be used for climbing locked away. If going out make sure that you lock all doors and windows.

Be a good neighbour and check on your neighbour's property if they are away as burglars look for the best house to target so report anything suspicious on 101.

Buildings such as sheds, garages and outbuildings are also very easy targets so in order to make them more

secure if you leave high value objects in these buildings mark them with either a UV pen or Smart water or engrave them with your postcode and house number. Fit good quality locks to doors using secure hinges with coach bolts and screws. Keep side gates locked and fit motion sensors and secure lighting and CCTV if possible.

Derbyshire Police also have the Derbyshire Alert Message System which is a free service and allows the police to tell you what issues are happening in your area. This service is available via a free email or phone call. Do not forget that you can call your local police on non-emergency matters on 101.

Litter problem does not go away

On page 3 of this Newsletter there is an article about Don Foster Pilsley's long serving litter collection volunteer who has done (and continues to do) an incredible job in picking up litter from our streets for twenty-five years now.

Sadly, despite the sterling work undertaken by Don, by Kevin Smart our General Operative, and by several other volunteers, the problem of litter continues to haunt us and is certainly not improving.

As the Parish Council spends some of your council tax on employing Kevin, many people quite naturally assume that

litter collection is a parish function. However it is not and never has been. Street cleaning, as it is known, is the responsibility of North East Derbyshire District Council (as is dog fouling), but in spite of taking away our £15,000 support grant and forcing us to increase our parish precept, we never see any district council employees collecting litter in Pilsley. Perhaps we should be knocking on the doors of our district councillors Geoff Butler, Andrew Cooper and Ann Holmes and asking them why this is the case.

We will continue to do our best to keep our streets relatively litter free and it is a fact that litter louts make up only a very small percentage

of our population. If everybody threw down litter we would, no doubt, soon be knee deep in it.

As with dog fouling, offenders can receive a £50 fixed penalty fine and this can increase up to £1,000 if the matter goes to court. However, in order to get a conviction we need people to sign a form to certify that they have witnessed an offence and know who the offender is.

Anyone who witnesses litter being thrown down and is prepared to sign a statement can obtain a form from any member of the Parish Council or from the Parish Clerk.

Lets fight and beat the litter louts.

Police & Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa writes

Last year I came to Pilsley as part of my commitment to visit all 383 communities in Derbyshire. I joined the local Safer Neighbourhood team at one of their regular "Cuppa with a Copper" events in the St. Mary's Centre, and had the opportunity to hear what people in Pilsley think of their local police.

As with so many of my visits, there was high praise for the local police officers followed swiftly by a request for more of them. Having a visible police presence in communities across Derbyshire is something I strongly believe in. It's why, unlike some Police & Crime Commissioners, I've always made it a red line that despite the cuts to police numbers, we keep out Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

But there has been no escaping the consequences of Government funding cuts, nor of the impact they have had on my budget and on police numbers. In 2010, before the cuts started, we spent £169M on policing in Derbyshire and employed approximately 2,100 police officers. This year we still spend £169M on policing, so when you take inflation and other costs into account, that amounts to a £40M cut to the police budget.

Inevitably, when you lose that amount of money it means fewer police officers and at the start of the year the number was down to less than 1,700. That's nearly 450 fewer officers

policing our county. We've also seen big cuts in the number of civilian staff, including PCSOs, and it's meant that we could no longer afford to keep open many of our police stations.

At the same time, the council tax payers amongst you have seen large increases in your bills. That's because policing is paid for by a mixture of Government grant and your council tax. As the Government cut the grant for policing, it also said that it expected Police & Crime Commissioners to put up your council tax to make up some of the difference. That's why, in April, you'll see a 12.5% increase in the police element of your council tax. It was a hard decision for me to ask you to pay more, but without the increase, the Force would have been looking at even deeper cuts.

Instead, my budget this year finally lets me do something to boost frontline policing and employ extra police officers. Over the course of the next few months the Chief Constable will be able to:

- Start recruiting 120 additional officers and staff
- Increase police visibility
- Improve road safety
- Provide greater support to vulnerable people, including those in mental health crisis
- Improve investigative policing

Where these extra officers are based is a matter for the Chief Constable, not me, but I have

been clear with the Chief that I expect the investment to be felt by all our communities and I know some will be based in the villages and communities of North East Derbyshire. As welcome as these new officers are, and they'll certainly make a difference, it still leaves the Force over 300 officers plus several hundred civilian staff below the 2010 levels.

That's why the police continue to need your help in fighting crime and why I'd urge you to report any crime or suspicious incident you see. It's why I continue to work closely with Neighbourhood Watch, why I'm boosting the Community Speedwatch campaign, and why I have a grant scheme to help local groups that are doing something to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their community. You can find out more by visiting my website (derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk) or by signing up to receive Derbyshire Alert (derbyshirealert.co.uk)

Later this year I hope to be able to pay another visit to your village and see your newly built sports pavilion. I've heard what a wonderful facility it is and was pleased to be able to help by using some of the money seized from Derbyshire criminals to help support your Parish Council with its request for funding, and put something back into the community.

Finally, my door is always open. If you have something you wish to discuss with me, please get in touch, all the contact details are on my website.

Local Elections - 2 May 2019

Local elections are taking place on 2 May 2019 for the following bodies:

- NEDDC elections (3 councillors for Pilsley & Morton Ward)
- Pilsley parish council elections (11 parish councillors)

For those who may be interested in standing as a candidate in the forthcoming local elections, further information can be found via the following web link -

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/I-am-a/candidate-or-agent>.

The timetable below describes the key dates ahead of the actual polling day on 2 May 2019.

Event	Working days before polling day	Actual date in 2019
Publication of Notice of Election	25 days before polling day	Not later than Tuesday 26 March
Delivery of nomination papers to Returning Officer.	From the date stated on the Notice of Election up to 4pm on the nineteenth working day before polling day.	From the date stated on the Notice of Election up to 4pm on Wednesday 3 April.
Deadline for withdrawal of nomination	19 days before polling day (4pm)	4pm on Wednesday 3 April.
Publication of statement of persons nominated for election day.	Not later than 18 days (4pm) before polling day.	Not later than 4pm on Thursday 4 April.
Deadline for receiving applications for voter registration.	12 days before polling day.	Friday 12 April.
Deadline for receiving new postal vote and postal proxy applications, and for changes to existing postal or proxy votes.	11 days (5pm) before polling day.	5pm on Monday 15 April.
Deadline for receiving new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxies).	6 days (5pm) before polling day.	5pm on Wednesday 24 April.
Publication of notice of poll	Not later than 6 days before polling day	Not later than Wednesday 24 April.
Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents.	5 days before polling day.	Thursday 25 April.
First date that electors can apply for a replacement for lost postal vote.	4 days before polling day.	Friday 26 April.
Polling Day	0	Thursday 2 May.
Last time that electors can apply for a replacement for spoilt or lost postal votes.	0 (5pm on polling day)	5pm on Thursday 2 May. 5pm on Thursday 2 May.
Deadline for emergency proxy applications.	0 (5pm on polling day)	5pm on Thursday 2 May.

NB: The counting of days in the above table disregards Saturdays, Sundays, Good Friday, Easter Monday, bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

Your Councillors

Chairman of the Council

Pete Stevenson
49 Hallgate Lane,
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S45 8HN
Tel: 01773 872557

Vice Chairman of the Council

Mike Shaw
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Tel: 01773 590833

Neil Allsop,
Sharman,
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Andrew Cooper
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Julia Hardy
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Seanor Lane, Lower
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Anne Holmes
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Geoff McNeice
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Barrie Timmons
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Your County Councillor

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North Wingfield
S42 5HQ
Tel: 07786 702230

Your Member of Parliament

Mr. Dennis Skinner
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Alfreton
DE55 3NF
or

**The House of Commons
Answering Service**
Tel: 02072 195107

District Councillors

Geoff Butler
Rutland,
48 Chesterfield Road,
North Wingfield
S42 5LE
Tel: 01246 851389

Andrew Cooper
Anne Holmes

Contacting Pilsley Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Council the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer is:

Phillip Woodward Tel: 07565 158 963

Email: clerk@pilsleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Pilsley-Parish-Council