

Parish Profile

Parliamentary Constituency: Kenilworth and Southam
County Council Ward: Cubbington & Leek Wootton
District Council Ward: Cubbington & Leek Wootton

Description of the Parish

The Parish includes the village of Leek Wootton and the communities at Hill Wootton, Chesford Grange, Guy's Cliffe, North Woodloes, plus outlying properties. The boundary extends from the River Avon in the east to the outskirts of Warwick and Kenilworth to south and north and the Wedgnock and Goodrest areas to the west. There is a total population of approximately 1,100, occupying some 400 properties.

Parish Electorate

845 names appear on the Register of Electors for 2019.

Parish Councillors

There are eight seats on the Parish Council. Councillors are elected every four years, and are volunteers. **There is currently one vacancy.** Councillors for 2020/21 are:

Chairman Cllr Richard Coates	Westside Hill Wootton Rd	856223	cllrcoates@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Vice Chairman Cllr Paul Eldridge	30 Hill Wootton Road	854347	cllreldridge@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Jim Kirkwood	34 Woodcote Lane	852444	cllrkirkwood@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Keith Knott	4 The Meadows	859725	cllrknott@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Joy Maisey	Stud Farm Hill Wootton	07827 778663	cllrmaisey@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Peter Tunkle	85 Warwick Road	511879	cllrtunkle@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Colin Smith	1 Home Farm	512815	cllrsmith@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk Helen Eldridge	1 Anchor Cottages Warwick Road	853841	clerk@leekwootton.org.uk clerk@lwandgc-parishcouncil.co.uk
Parliament Jeremy Wright MP	Jubilee House, Smalley Place, Kenilworth	853650	Jeremy.wright.mp@parliament.uk Jeremy@jeremywright.org.uk
County Council Cllr Wallace Redford	The Cottage, Main Street, Eathorpe	632384 / 07774 332160	CllrRedford@warwickshire.gov.uk
District Council Cllr Pam Redford	The Cottage, Main Street, Eathorpe	632384	Pam.Redford@warwickdc.gov.uk
District Council Cllr Trevor Wright	30 Courthouse Croft, Kenilworth	851184 / 07802 317489	Trevor.Wright@warwickdc.gov.uk

Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except in August and December, at the Village Hall. Dates and agendas are posted on notice boards, and published on the website.

The public are welcome to attend and an opportunity to put forward any matters of concern is provided.

For further information about the work of the Parish Council, please see our website:

www.leekwootton.org.uk



The Civil Parish of

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

Welcome to the annual report issued by Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe Parish Council to keep you, the Parish residents, informed about the work of the Parish Council.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2019/20

Cllr Richard Coates

This is an updated version of the report issued in April at the start of the pandemic

I never imagined I would be writing this report under such oppressive circumstances. The difficulties we all face are unprecedented, and we will need to confront them with resilience and resourcefulness. The Parish Council remains a point of contact for you all and will do everything it can to help our community through this Covid 19 crisis. The parish has a considerable number of elderly residents, some of whom may be considered vulnerable, and I urge everyone to act responsibly and look out for those around you who may be in need of help.

Small, grass roots, contact and care groups based in immediate neighbourhoods are the way forward to make sure everyone is covered.

**DON'T HOLD BACK
PLEASE ACT NOW**

Subsequently, the nature of the rest of this report will be in summary form and may seem somewhat trivial but here goes:

- **New Housing:** No further news to date on what is happening with

land already allocated for development in Police Headquarters. No sight yet of any building on the land at the entrance to The Warwickshire, which has been sold to a developer and has permission for five houses.

- **Walking in the Police owned woodland (The Lunch):** Residents who use these woods for exercise and dog walking are reminded that this is private property. The Police use the area for armed response and dog training.
- **The Recreation Ground car park redevelopment:** The plans for this redevelopment were at last starting to move ahead. The Parish Council was going to apply for a loan of £30,000 from the Public Works Loan Board, which together with a matched funding grant from Warwick District Council, would have enabled the

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project to get going this year. Unfortunately, but understandably in the current circumstances, the District Council has taken the decision to pool all its community grant funds into one central fund to help provide for the needy during the pandemic. This means that we will have to wait until the next financial year to make the grant application and consequently the project has been put on hold.

- **Highways and Roads:** Issues still to be tackled include: the realignment of the road drains outside the old school in Warwick Road; the replacement of manholes and drains to alleviate flooding at Sunrise Cottage on Warwick Road; replacement of chevrons and signs at the skew railway bridge on Hill Wootton Road; work to improve drainage at the Saxon Mill; ongoing reporting of drainage overflows from the A46 on to Hill Wootton Road below; cutting of the hedge along the school fence at the golf club roundabout. Issues resolved include: pothole and drainage repair in Hill Wootton; hedge cutting up Woodcote Lane; footpath maintenance between Leek Wootton and Kenilworth; repairs to road signage in Leek Wootton; limiting of HGV vehicles on Warwick Road through Leek Wootton due to the new housing being built in Kenilworth.

I am also aware of many of your concerns over Police car speeding with blue lights and sirens through Leek Wootton and will be meeting the Police about this in due course.

- **Storms Ciara and Dennis:** My thanks go to all residents who took what action they could to clear up the damage left by these storms. The parish escaped relatively lightly, but there are still issues with trees and vegetation that have possibly worked loose or become weakened and the Council will be addressing these in due course. As usual I would encourage

residents to keep their own hedges, fences and verges in good order.

- **Councillors:** My sincere thanks to all the Parish Councillors who have put in so much hard work this past year. Being a volunteer on a Council such as ours is such a worthwhile experience, but it is important to have the right people on the team and I certainly feel we have that. Particular thanks must go to our fantastic Clerk, Helen Eldridge. Helen is at the heart of everything the Council does and her understanding of our parish and how it works is second to none. She provides structure and focus for the Council as well as being involved behind the scenes in so many other community activities.

That said I wish to remind you that there is a vacancy on the Council so if you are at all interested please get in touch with Helen for more information.

- **Community Groups:** The wholesale, Covid 19 cancellation of so many community meetings and gatherings for the next few months will hit people hard. If you do belong to such a group please try to keep in touch with your fellow members - online or even an old fashioned phone call? Community spirit will get us through in the end.

In the meantime, I wish you all well in these extraordinary times; stay alert and stay safe.

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

Helen Eldridge, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Parish Council's gross income in 2019/20 was £16,930 and expenditure was £14,229.

The precept income, which is the core income of the Parish Council, was £13,720, unchanged from the previous financial year.

As with the 2018/19 budget, the grounds maintenance contract created a saving, although the performance of the contractors was reconsidered at the end of their two year contract and the contract was awarded to another company, which commenced in March 2020 and, so far, the Council is pleased with the new contractors.

Unplanned expenditure in 2019/20 was due to a review of the Clerk's salary grade and hours and the purchase of new noticeboards for Leek Wootton and Hill Wootton, which are to be installed once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

One underspend on the budget was created due to a lack of applications to the LW&GC Community Grant Fund. In 2019/20 a grant was made to the Leek Wootton Link, which the Council supports to ensure it is delivered to every household in the parish to regularly share PC information. In an attempt to fully engage with grant recipients, the Council has stopped automatic payment of all legacy grants and no applications were received in 2019/20. The grant has been advertised to community groups and organisations, and an ongoing community engagement strategy will continue into 2020/21 and beyond to ensure organisations are aware of the opportunity to apply.

At the close of the financial year the COVID-19 crisis loomed and potential projects for the community to use some money for the community had, unfortunately, to be put on hold.

On 1 April 2019 there were two active project funds:

Battle's Over:

The Battle's Over project, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice on 11 November 2018, was closed when the balance of outstanding VAT was reclaimed.

LW&GC Parish Summer Fête:

The balance of the Fête Fund was nil on 1 April 2019, but remains active as it is an annual Community Engagement Event. Donations received for the 2019 Summer Fête totalled £280 and the PC contributed an additional £180.20 to cover the public address/sound system and modest donations to performers. At 31 March 2020 the balance of the fund was £25.

During 2019/20 the Council decided to replace the noticeboards, which are ageing severely, and a fund was established to purchase new ones:

Noticeboards:

From a nil balance, the Council applied to Warwick Rural West Community Forum for a grant and was successful, being awarded £1,500. The Council contributed an additional £452.30 and the noticeboards were purchased and have been delivered. Unfortunately, installation in Summer 2020 has been delayed by the COVID-19 restrictions. This fund was closed in January 2020.

The only other income to the funds was the refund of VAT, to which the Council is entitled.

In conclusion the Parish Council's income over expenditure for 2019/20 stands at £2,702 and along with the Council's reserve funds, the balance at 30 March 2020 was £8,027.