

Curbar Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 2nd May 2024

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting which is not a Parish Council Meeting! Although it usually falls to the Parish Council to organise it. The meeting gives residents of Curbar the opportunity to raise any issues and where appropriate these can be fed into the parish council process.

The last 12 months has been a period of smooth running of the council and I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our clerk Pip Gilbert for all their help and support in running the Parish Council.

The playing field has seen substantial investment with the installation of play equipment and the complete resurfacing of the area beneath the swings in the recent past. The council are now looking to make further investment and suggestions would be welcome. Dog fouling continues to be an issue especially as this is an area in which children play. There is a litter bin available, and should be emptied by DDDC.

The defibrillator and cabinet are operational and are checked regularly. The council was able to provide suitable training in the use of the defibrillator, led by a resident of the village, Consultant Dr Richard Hopkins. About 30 attended the two defib training sessions in the Wesleyan Chapel. A key lesson was the importance of starting CPR straight away if someone has had a heart attack, while getting someone else in the house or a neighbour to run for the defib.

The parish council is aware of the concern of residents over the speed of traffic through the village. A Speed Indicated Device (SID) has been installed on Bar Road and early data shows there are few vehicles exceeding the speed limit, and many are travelling below the threshold needed to trigger the display. Previous initiatives have included 20 plenty signage, children's posters in the village and community speed watch, and council has started to work with the school again to produce replacement children's posters.

The grass verges in the village have previously been strimmed by DDDC, even when several have been covered by spring and summer flowers. This last year has been the first year that an agreed number of areas were not cut until the autumn, after the flowers have seeded.

The problems of parking at Curbar Gap resulted in a DCC provisionally installing double yellow lines. These have been made permanent this year. In addition, some modification has been carried out which is designed to stop the nose to tail parking along the straight part of Clodhall Lane which made coming over the Curbar Gap difficult. DCC Parking Services do actively monitor and enforce the double yellow lines, including parking on the grass behind the double yellow lines which is still an offence.

Curbar Parish Council is a statutory consultee in respect of planning applications, and during the last year approximately twelve applications were referred to the Council for comment. Also, the government is in the early stages of addressing the issue of holiday let's, so watch this space.

The Annual Christmas Tree was again sourced from the National Trust at Longshaw, and this year was hung with a set of LED bulbs, which were found to be very reliable. The tree brings a bright focal point to the village at Christmas, and receives many positive comments.

Snow clearing and gritting is carried out by Harry White from Calver, who provides an excellent and reliable service, in close liaison with the Parish Council's snow warden, Caralyn Denver.

The Parish Council is working well and I would like to thank the clerk and my fellow councillors for all their help and support. However, I will be stepping down as chair of the Parish Council at the council meeting following this meeting, although I will remain as a councillor. I wish my successor all the best, and I have every confidence in the continued smooth running of the Council for the benefit of the village.

Martyn Games

Chair Curbar Parish Council.