**APPENDIX A**

**Ingestre with Tixall Parish Council - Chairmans Annual Report**

**2023-24**

For the Parish Council during 2023-24 it has, in the main, been business as usual.

There have been some controversial matters that we have been involved in. In fact, we saw the year start off (in May 2023) with matters affecting Rights of Way within the Parish continuing to be a controversial topic of discussion and a concern for many residents. The Parish Council supported on this matter, to the best of its ability and engaged in discussion with Staffordshire County Councils’ (SCC) Legal Department and our County Cllr – John Francis. As things currently stand and to the very best of our knowledge, the matter regarding the inclusion of the Rights of Way that were under discussion, have not been added to the Definitive Map, which is due to a backlog, within SCC, caused by the coronavirus pandemic. It remains our understanding that once SCC make an Order to add the Rights of Way onto the Definitive Map, then interested parties will be informed and there will be an opportunity to lodge an appeal, should this be deemed necessary.

There have also been some controversial planning applications that we have been consulted on (further details below).

Since the Government took the decision to cancel the Phase 2a stretch of HS2, there has been little communications received from the HS2 Community Engagement team, but where information has been received, this has been added to the Parish website: [www.ingestrewithtixallparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.ingestrewithtixallparishcouncil.co.uk)

and included in the Parish Newsheet \*\*

\*\*Any residents who wish to receive an electronic copy of the Parish Newsheet, please provide your email address to one of your Cllrs or our Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council has continued to deliver its services to you and below is an outline of the things we have been working on (and in some cases will continue to work on) during the year:

* We saw the completion of the improvement works to the canal tow path at Tixall, as carried out by the Canal and River Trust, funded by a grant from HS2.
* A traffic solution to improve traffic flow, speeding and reduce accidents is now being put in place along Holdiford Road and we hope to see the benefits of this in the future. Inappropriate use of Holdiford Road, by HGV’s, has been brought to the attention of SCC and we will continue to monitor this.
* Speeding of traffic along Ingestre Park Road remains a matter of concern and we are currently considering what options might be available to us to help make this road safer for residents and motorists. This will be raised with SCC to see if their support can be secured.
* We are also looking into what options are available in relation to the fencing around Ingestre Community Garden, which we are aware needs to be addressed.
* As mentioned above, there were some controversial planning applications received during the year and we have listened to the concerns raised with us by parishioners, we have arranged extraordinary meetings as required, raised matters with our SBC Ward Cllr and provided relevant and appropriate feedback to the Planning Authority. The most controversial of these was the planning application for a solar farm in Tixall. We requested our SBC Ward Cllr to ‘call-in’ this application and during the Planning Committee hearing for this application, Cllr Mrs Beatty presented her objections, along with those of the Parish Council, to the Planning Committee. A decision on this application has been deferred to allow for more information to be gathered relating to flood risk management. The Parish Council will continue to monitor this application.
* More recently we have begun to discuss the condition of the road signs in Tixall with SCC. It is hoped these can be replaced where needed, as the Parish Council believes the speed limit through the village is not always clear for motorists
* We will continue to review our expenditure to ensure we maximise cost effectiveness

I wish to acknowledge the work of my fellow Parish Councillors, as well as our County Councillor – John Francis and our Borough Councillor – Frances Beatty for all their support.

In July 2023, we also welcomed another new Parish Cllr, representing Ingestre, Judy Eccleshall, which means that the Parish Council is now fully represented for both Tixall and Ingestre.