**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 concern, for many residents. The Parish Council supported on this matter, to the best of its ability and engaged in discussion with Staffordshire County Council, 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. It remains our understanding that once SCC make an Order to add the Rights of Way onto the Definitive Map, then there will be an opportunity to appeal this decision.

planning applications that we have been consulted on (further details below) and we were able to enjoy some celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, which were a great success. We have continued to address local issues as/when they arise and are continually overseeing HS2 activities within the Parish.

We are only too aware of the concern of many parishioners of the state of our roads within the Parish, which we have been regularly reporting to SCC. As a Parish Council, we recently met with Highways Officers from SCC and our SCC County Cllr John Francis, primarily to discuss HS2 but we also took the opportunity to raise our dissatisfaction about the condition of the village roads and the haphazard approach that is taken towards the repairs. At present, we are keeping our fingers crossed for an improved approach.

The Parish Council has continued to deliver its services to you and below is an outline of the things we have been working on during this year:

* We work with HS2, in order to improve communications for the Parish, there has been a recent change in personnel and whilst HS2 transition through what this means, we have been informed of the interim arrangements that are in place, which, so far seem to be working well
* We continue to review and update Parish Council Policy documents, as legally required
* We have worked with the Canal and River Trust to ensure the improvement works to Canal Towpath go ahead. The necessary Agreements have all been agreed and signed by HS2, the Parish Council and CRT. This project has been overseen by Cllr Bostock. Our Parish Clerk has overseen the signing of the Agreements by all parties, has ensured the safe receipt of the grant from HS2 (£106,000). The Parish Council acts as the custodian for this grant and will release the money to CRT, in stages, with the final amount being paid upon satisfactory completion of the project.
* We have worked with SCC in respect of possible traffic solutions along Holdiford Road – which have been agreed and should be happening shortly. Inappropriate use of Holdiford Road, by HGV’s, has been brought to the attention of HS2 and SCC and we will continue to monitor this
* We have made an application to the HS2 Phase 2a Road Safety Fund, which is being managed by SCC, for improvements to Ingestre Park Road and at our recent meeting with SCC (mentioned in the introduction to my Report) we have raised the provision of a permanent safe traffic solution to Hoo Mill crossroads, along with our concerns for any road widening scheme in Tixall. However, in light of the recent Government decision to pause HS2 Phase 2a, it is likely that many schemes will be delayed
* We have tried to secure funding for maintenance work/tree labelling at Ingestre Community Garden, which Cllr Lees has actively pursued. Sadly, we have not been successful yet, however, our Parish Clerk and Cllr Lees will continue to explore this
* Rights of way within the Parish – you may recall that significant work was carried out last year by Cllr Lees and as a Parish Council we continue to do our best to oversee what is happening to these, as we are aware of their importance to the Parish
* 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
* 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.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I confirm that Nicholas Bostock took the decision standdown as Parish Cllr – his knowledge, expertise and support for the Parish Council will be very much missed. Nicholas has been a member of the Parish Council for 40years+.

In addition, Nicola Woodhouse also decided to stand down, having served for over 5 years as a Parish Cllr.

We will miss them both and wish them all the very best for the future.

I would like to welcome our new Parish Cllr, representing Tixall, Keith Palmer. We hope to fill the vacancy for Ingestre by co-option.