

Waters Upton Parish Council

Chairman's Report July 2019

Since our last meeting I have been on holiday in Croatia for 2 weeks, and so have not been able to attend some meetings. However, I believe that some of my fellow councillors have been able to attend, and their reports will be presented separately.

I did attend the meeting of the Wrekin Area Committee of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils on 23 July 2019. The most interesting presentation related to the development of Integrated Health and Social Care by Julie Smith, on the Telford and Wrekin Integrated Partnership Board. This involves representatives of the acute Hospital Trust, GPs, Council and Social Care. The main thrust of their approach seems to be reducing the pressure on hospitals by a variety of methods. There is a focus on prevention, including initiatives on smoking and obesity, and developing digitally enabled care. Social services and health teams are developing ways of working together to support people in their own homes. They are trying to develop initiatives such as community meals, and befriending schemes to avoid social isolation.

The Board are aiming to support healthy lifestyles, and have introduced community blood pressure testing, and Health and Wellbeing Champions in specific localities. Mental wellbeing is also being supported, and they are hoping to open an Independent Living Centre. They have developed a Live Well Telford website / app.

The initiative has been linked with the setting up of Primary Care Networks (PCNs). This is a nationwide project which involves groups of GPs working together in a locality, covering around 30-50,000 patients. Telford has four PCNs, and the clinical directors of each have a place on the Integrated Health and Social Care Board. There are already Multidisciplinary Team Meetings arranged with three of the Telford practices, and social workers are trying to undertake "drop in" clinics in the local community.

There have been two recent "brainstorming" sessions held recently to gain ideas on admission avoidance. They are also trying to set up a "single point of contact" for all health and social care problems so that they can be triaged to the most appropriate team to deal with them.

The representatives of the Board were interested to hear any suggestions as to how the project can be advanced, and they are keen to set up social worker sessions in local communities in association with existing health or social sessions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bryan P Rothwell". The script is cursive and fluid.

Dr Bryan Rothwell

Chairman, Waters Upton Parish Council