

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Newsletter July 2026 No 188

* *

Stuart Parker MBE – We were saddened to hear of the passing of Councillor Stuart Parker in April. Stuart was a dedicated Conservative Councillor who served Cheshire West and Chester from its very beginning in 2008. He represented the village as part of the Gowy ward for many years as well as serving as Sheriff of Chester from 2018 to 2019. He played a major role in the creation of Storyhouse and the Northgate regeneration scheme and this dedication to local government was recognised when he was awarded the MBE in 2022. Stuart regularly attended our Parish Council meetings and he was always generous with his time, advice and support. His contribution will not be forgotten.

Summary of Chair’s report: This year has been one of significant activity, challenge and progress within the village. The issues raised by residents, the actions taken by community groups and the potential developments affecting our area have all shaped a busy and productive period.

Environmental Concerns and anti-social behaviour- These have included burning and cutting back of hedges which has affected local residents and in some cases wildlife habitats and the visual character of the area. We continue to monitor these activities to ensure best practice is followed.

We have unfortunately experienced graffiti in the village this year and we continue to work with residents and the local authorities to ensure prompt reporting and action, helping maintain the village’s appearance and sense of pride. We have also had a noticeable increase in the use of e-bikes. Whilst e-bikes are legal to use, modification to make them go faster is illegal and concerns have been raised about safety, noise and

the risk to pedestrians. We are engaging with local police to encourage visibility, education and appropriate enforcement where necessary.

Planning and Development – The village has seen a significant rise in planning applications this year. Many residents have expressed concern about the scale and frequency of proposed developments and the potential impact on the village, which makes our involvement in the Green Belt Alliance especially important. As part of this wider partnership we are working collectively with other parish councils to oppose inappropriate development on green belt land and to ensure that the long term protection of our surrounding countryside remains a priority. The School Lane Whatsapp group has also become an important part of village communication. Run separately to the Parish Council, the group has been active in monitoring planning applications and ensuring residents are aware of proposals in the village to help residents respond in an informed and timely manner.

The proposed Peak Cluster pipeline route passing through the village remains a major concern. The potential impact on the community is significant, both during construction and in the long term, including the threat to Hooks Wood. We are actively following developments, attending briefings and ensuring that the community's concerns are clearly represented.

Community Initiatives – We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Guilden Sutton Volunteers for their continued hard work, dedication and community spirit and whose efforts throughout the year, often behind the scenes- have played a vital role in maintaining village life. In addition, this year also saw the formation of our Highway Volunteer group. This team has taken on a range of practical jobs around the village, including clearing overgrown footpaths, cutting back hedges and completing other maintenance tasks. Their work has made a noticeable difference and is greatly appreciated.

The School Street Initiative was formed this year and is being led by the School Site Manager, whose commitment and organisation have been central in its success. The aim is to make the roads leading to the school safer for children walking into school, reduce traffic and create a calmer environment. As well as the School Site Manager, I would also like to thank the Head of the School for her support as well as residents and parents who have worked with us to make this initiative possible.

Hooks Wood and Fox Cover Wildflower Meadow remain important natural assets for the village and we are grateful to the volunteers who maintain these areas. This year we have continued to promote their protection, encourage responsible use and highlight their value for wildlife, recreation and community wellbeing.

Thank you and Acknowledgements - I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors who give their time freely and work hard to resolve issues and improve the village. We are delighted to have welcomed several new councillors this year and they are already proving a great asset to the team.

We remain committed to securing a better bus service for the village and we are working closely with our Highways Officer, to whom I extend my thanks for the time and support he continues to give us. We are also still exploring options for an improved playing field and safer passage along Station Lane.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in the Neighbourhood Plan for the hard work and dedication they continue to put into this important project.

A very special thanks goes to Rachel, one of our former clerks for all the work she did for us during her time with the council. I must also give a heartfelt and very special thank you to Mike, our clerk, who will be

leaving us shortly. His support, knowledge and advice have been invaluable and I wish him the very best for the future.

At the same time, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Emma, our new Clerk, who is already proving to be a wonderful addition to the team.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Trisha for all her help as Vice Chair and I wish her well for the year ahead. In addition, I extend a sincere thank you to all of Guilden Sutton Parish for your help, support and commitment in keeping this village a lovely place to live. **Alan Davis
May 2026.**

Parish Councillors: Chair Trisha Paterson; Vice Chair Mel Littlewood; Members: Alan Davis, Emma-Clare Hewitt, Derek Hughes, David Oxley, Sue Ringstead, Victoria Roberts.

Web: www.guildensuttonpc.co.uk

Email: clerk@guildensuttonpc.co.uk; Phone: 07733 414175 (this is not monitored 24/7 so there may be a short delay in replying to your message)

CWaC contacts: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Ward Councillors: Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker

Local Police –PCSO James Hannath can be contacted on

James.hannath@cheshire.police.uk if you need local advice. If you have information on a crime or more general issues please contact 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Future Parish Council Meetings- Wednesday 15th July and Wednesday 2nd September, 7.30pm in the Marigold room, Village Hall

Next Street Surgeries: Saturday 11th July and Saturday 29th August. 10am-10.30am outside the Post Office.