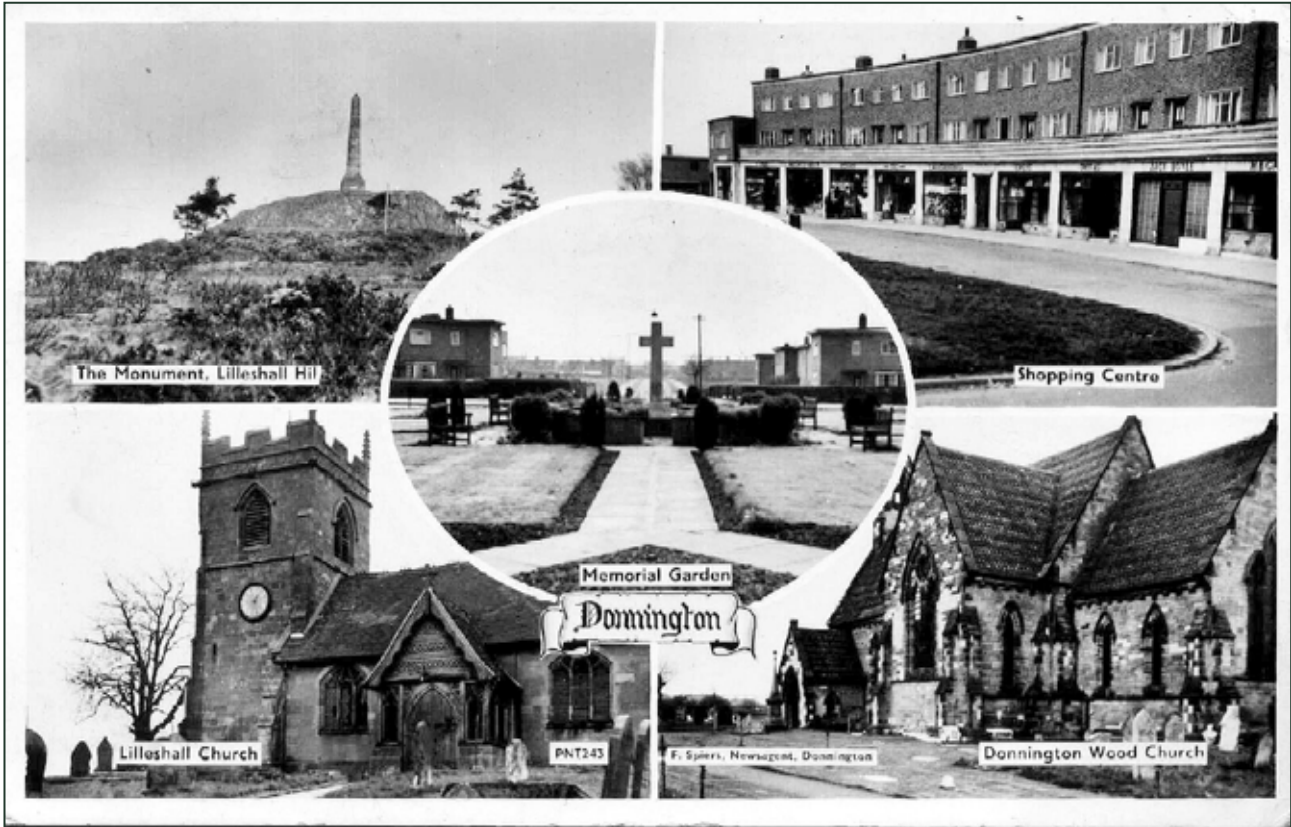


Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton Parish Council

Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford TF2 8HG
01952 608001

clerk@ldmpc.org www.ldmpc.org

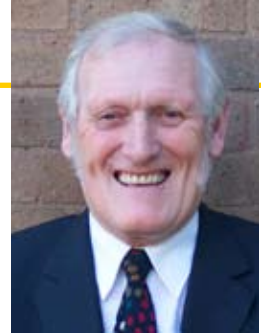


Donnington Post Card

Annual Report 2010 – 2011



Chairman's Report



The biggest change to the Parish Council this year was the recognition of Muxton in its name. As a result of the Community Governance Review and a Re-Organisation Order the Parish Council, on 1st December 2010, became Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council.

I am also delighted that, once again, this Parish Council has been awarded Quality Parish Status after satisfying the criteria set by government and the National Association of Local Councils. Well done to all concerned.

This year saw the commencement of the Sensory Garden project which I have been wanting in the Parish for some years. It has been created with the help of the Green Wood Trust and funded partially by a grant from Fair Share Trust. It is located near Barclay Gardens and when completed will provide a pleasant area where residents can sit and where school children can learn about nature. My thanks go to Matt Beech of the Green Wood Trust for all his work in achieving this ambition of mine.

Another initiative that I was delighted to see occurring this year was the invitation of individual organisations to give a presentation on what they did to the Parish Council. Presentations were provided regarding the West Mercia Police, Parish Housing Needs Survey, Coaching events at The Talbot Tennis Courts, Shropshire Ambulance First Emergency Responder and the Shropshire Fire Authority.

Civic Service: On 24th October 2011 I held a Civic Service at St Matthew's Church, Donnington. The service went extremely well and I would like to thank all those that attended especially Lord Grocott, The Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, representatives from 83 St George's Squadron Air Training Corps and the Chairmen of adjoining Parish/Town Councils. I would also like to thank Reverend Paula Smith and her team of staff at the Church who helped make it a most enjoyable morning together with those that provided the refreshments after the Service at the Lifelong Learning Centre.

Community Engagement Meetings (CEM): I am delighted to see that the CEMs in Muxton are still well attended, and now include issues and concerns of the school children raised via Muxton School Council. My thanks goes to PC Duncan White and his local policing team for their work in Muxton, WPC Nikki Scott and her team for dealing with issues in Donnington and to Sgt Chris Munro and his team for his work in Lilleshall. The Parish Council has also continued to help financially support the local Donnington Beat Manager's vehicle.

This year unfortunately saw the loss of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator as, with the restructuring occurring at Telford & Wrekin Council, Fiona Moore has had to relocate back to Civic Offices in a new role as Priority Action Co-ordinator. I would like to wish Fiona the very best in her new role and thank her for all the work she has done here in Donnington.

I am delighted to say that this reporting year saw this Parish Council become the first to have solar powered bus shelters in Telford and these are located in Turreff Avenue and Furnace Lane. Also, I am delighted to announce that this Parish Council has successfully achieved its re-accreditation of Quality Parish Status.

I look forward to the Christmas Festival on Friday 18th November 2011 at Cordingley Hall to celebrate the switching on of the Parish Council Christmas lights. Previously this has taken place on The Parade, Donnington with only a handful of Councillors and a few residents. It is planned to have school choirs singing, stalls, tombola etc to make the event more entertaining.

I would also like to welcome all the new residents into the parish especially those in Lions Court, Monarch Fields and the new developments in Muxton.

My congratulations go to the Parish Clerk Ralph Morgan on passing the Certificate in Higher Education in Community Engagement and Governance through the University of Gloucestershire and thank him for his support which has been very much appreciated. Also, many thanks to all the staff, Angela (Assistant Clerk), Derek (Estate Manager) and Helen (Caretaker) for their support and hard work throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity in thanking all the Councillors for their support, hard work and contributions at the Council meetings.

Annual Report 2010 – 2011

This year saw the inclusion of Muxton in the title name of the Parish Council. As a result of the Community Governance Review and a Re-Organisation Order the Parish Council, on 1st December 2010, became Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council.

The Parish Council has successfully retained its Quality Parish Status by satisfying numerous criteria as set by the Government through the National Association of Local Councils. It is a test designed to show that the Parish Council is operating effectively and correctly in its role of first tier government.

The Council has dealt with a number of events and issues this past year a brief summary of which is as follows:

Allotments

Great steps forward have been achieved with obtaining allotments at Lilleshall and Donnington. The sale of land at Lilleshall has now been completed, a grant of £10,000 has been obtained from the National Lottery Awards for All to help toward the costs involved, the entrance and parking has been completed and the plots marked out. It is hoped that the security fencing and water installation will be completed shortly just leaving the lease agreements for each plot to be signed. In Donnington, the lease agreement for the land has been completed, a grant of £20,000 has been obtained from Fair Share Trust and the Parish Council is awaiting planning permission before the installation of the security fencing can be completed. It is hoped to have both sites up and running by September this year. It has been a long time getting to this stage but there is now light at the end of the tunnel.

Solar Powered Bus Shelters

The Parish Council has installed the first two bus shelters in Telford with solar powered lights. They are located on Turreff Avenue and Furnace Lane and are fitted with a motion sensor so that the light only illuminates if someone is in the shelter. In this innovative step to reduce carbon emission and electricity costs this Parish Council has worked in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council by cost sharing this project. The bus shelter was officially unveiled by Councillor Clive Mason, Chairman of the Parish Council and local Borough Councillor on Thursday 3rd June 2010.



Pictured are: Chairman Councillor Clive Mason, Borough Councillor Mrs E A Clare and M Withnall (Contracts Team Leader Telford & Wrekin Council).

Central Hall ("The Snake"), Donnington

The Parish Council agreed to cost share with Telford & Wrekin Council to provide a better footpath/entrance by creating a stone walkway at the entrance to Central Hall, Donnington locally known as "The Snake". It agreed to contribute £1,000 to the total cost of the work required whilst Telford & Wrekin Council would pay the remaining balance of £1,332.

Parish Signposts

To help the electorate find the parish council office and library more easily the Parish Council agreed to split the cost 50/50 with Telford & Wrekin Council for the provision and erection of directional signs on Wrekin Drive and Wellington Road showing their location.

Cordingley Hall

The Parish Council decided that the roof at Cordingley Hall, Donnington was in dire need of repair due to the entire front elevation being severely weathered and aged. Fortunately, over the years the Council had been setting money aside through a Capital Fund for such an occurrence. The roof structure was re-boarded and a firestone membrane roof cover was laid.

Tree Planting with Muxton Primary School

On Friday 11th March 2011 Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council planted five fruit trees on its land opposite Muxton Primary School with the help from the head teacher, Mrs Williams, Ms Bowcutt and the Eco-warrior pupils of the school.

Funding for the trees has come from Telford & Wrekin Council's £££'s for Projects scheme. It has been the wish of the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Clive Mason, to do this for some years so when the chance came to use the funding available it was too good an opportunity to miss.

Mr Hudson, the owner of Lillyhurst Plant Centre from where the trees have been purchased, kindly offered to attend the tree planting and teach the children the correct way to plant and maintain the trees.

The five trees consist of 2 apple trees, 1 plum tree, 1 pear tree and 1 cherry tree

It is hoped that when the trees have established themselves the children can pick and eat the fruit from them. Also, with the blossom and fruit provided by the trees more wildlife will be attracted to the area and will make for a more enjoyable place where the parents can sit whilst waiting for their children to finish school at the end of the day.



Pictured (left to right) are: Mr R Hudson, Chairman Councillor C Mason, Schoolchildren from Muxton Primary School, Ms Bowcutt and the head teacher Mrs D Williams.

Conclusion of Audit

The Parish Council's Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010 has been concluded and signed off by the auditors Mazars LLP who had thanked the Council for the way in which its accounts had been presented.

Sensory Garden

Work has recently begun on the Chairman's project for a Sensory Garden to be located at Barclay Gardens, Donnington. It is planned to provide benches, raised beds, "bug hotels", plants and fruit trees from which members of the public and children will benefit. The work is being undertaken by the Greenwood

Trust and Green Gym who have helped create the Sensory Garden in Lawley. It is planned to work with the local schools in giving on site education lessons to children about various aspects of nature. The picture is of the site prior to work commencing.



Broadoaks Field

The BMX Cycle Track located behind the sea cadet's hut on Broadoaks Field adjacent to the Multi Use Games Area was officially opened on Monday 26th July 2010 by the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Council, Councillor Ian Fletcher (Pictured). It consists of "traffic" lights (like Formula 1) for racers to start together with an automatic start bar and reports to date show it is being very well used.



Small Meeting Room

With the unfortunate relocation of the Donnington Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Fiona Moore, the Parish Council has converted what once was her office into a small meeting room which is now available to hire at Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington. It can accommodate up to 12 people and a laptop computer, projector and video conferencing are available. Refreshments can be provided if required. The cost of hiring the room is £10 per hour and bookings can be made by contacting the Parish Office on 01952 608001.



Meeting Room

Garden Competition

The Parish Council garden competition held in July 2010 was won overall by Mr & Mrs Fowles of Donnington. The standard of gardens entered was extremely high and thanks go to those that participated for their work in getting their gardens to such a high level. Unfortunately, the Council has decided not to hold a garden competition in 2011 and will reconsider it again for 2012.



Pictured: Chairman Councillor C Mason presenting the trophy to Mr & Mrs Fowles.

Hanging Baskets, Flowers Wrekin Drive

After much deliberation the Council decided not to purchase hanging basket posts for erection on the Parade in Donnington. This was due to the high costs involved in purchasing and maintaining/watering the flowers and baskets. However, the Council agreed to proceed with purchasing daffodil bulbs which were planted on the verges from the junction of Winifred's Drive down to the Bank in Donnington.

Councillor Surgeries

Over the last number of years attendance at the Councillor Surgeries run by this Parish Council has

been extremely poor. This may be due to modern communication methods whereby the electorate can contact the Parish Council through email or via its web-site. As a result, this Council will no longer be holding Councillor Surgeries.

Bus Shelter, St George's Road

A new bus shelter has been installed on St George's Road, near to the "Four Ways" junction opposite the brick bus shelter. This is as a result of requests received from local residents.

Parish Housing Needs Survey

A survey asking residents for opinions on housing needs within the rural areas of this Parish Council was delivered as part of a consultation exercise being undertaken by this Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. Residents in the rural areas of Lilleshall and Muxton were asked to complete these surveys as they will ultimately affect how developments in these areas are considered in the future. As the consultation period has now ended and results are collated a report will be published shortly on its findings.

Pensioners Vouchers

Last Christmas 1,063 pensioners residing within the parish boundary collected the Christmas vouchers provided by the Parish Council.

Donnington Recreation Ground

Consultations have been ongoing between this Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council with regard to improvements to Donnington Recreation Ground. The main aim of these discussions is to implement the Management Plan for the area which was undertaken two years ago. The Plan is aimed at improving the facilities and look of the Recreation Ground with children and young people in mind.

Due to funding, new facilities have and will be introduced over the coming years commencing with an improved ball court and better/new apparatus within the children's play area. This will then be followed by a skate park.

The children's play area was delayed due to the weather but has now been completed and that too is being well used. The theme of the play area is to reflect the miners who bequeathed the land to the residents of Donnington and has seats made to look like bogie wagons with rail tracks leading as paths around the various apparatus.

A consultation with the skateboarders has already taken place and funding for the skate park has

been secured from Fair Share Trust (Via Donnington Partnership). It is hoped that this will be installed for summer 2011.

The ball court or Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) proposed for the Donnington Recreation Ground has recently been installed and is extremely well used.

Pictured by the MUGA are Chairman Councillor Clive Mason and Councillor Liz Clare.

Our thanks go to Derek Owen (T&Wr) for all his hard work organising contracts, obtaining funding and dealing with all the issues regarding the above.

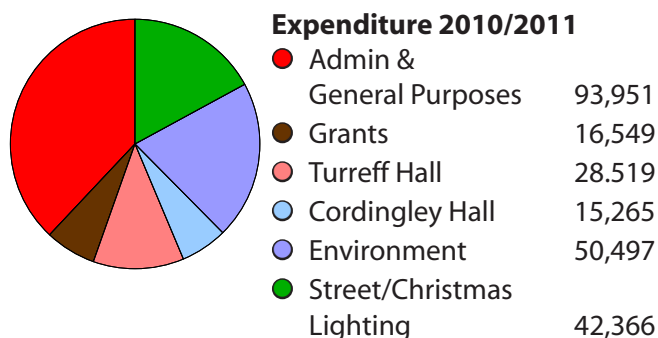
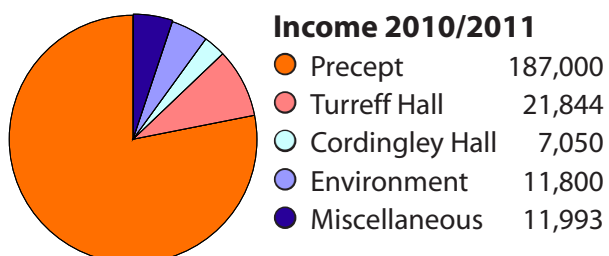


Church Wall, Lilleshall

Due to the requirement to point and make good 2 square metres of the Church wall to ensure its safety, the Parish Council employed a contractor to carry out the work necessary. Future minor repairs to the wall will continue as and when required.

Finance

The Council's precept for 2010/2011 was set at £187,000 (no increase on the previous year). This meant a cost of £42.64 a reduction of 63p to each household within the Parish as part of the Council Tax. This figure is set according to the number of Band "D" properties in the parish which is given at 4385.80.



Grants totalling £16,549 were awarded to 19 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish. Most notably the Parish Council awarded £2,500 to Lilleshall Memorial Hall towards car park improvements and this will be released when additional fundraising is close to the target figure required.

The Parish Council, working in partnership with Asda and the Wrekin Housing Trust, has again jointly sponsored the Donnington Police Beat Managers Vehicle.

The Parish Council has received its Annual Return for the year ended 2010 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off. Notices of when the accounts are available for inspection are displayed at the Parish Office and in the local press

For the eighth year running the Council has provided vouchers at Christmas for the pensioners residing in the parish which continues to increase in popularity every year. Last Christmas (2010) 1,063 pensioners claimed their vouchers.

Staff & Personnel Committee

Committee Members: Chair Mrs P A Green, Vice-Chair K Watkins, Mrs V Brown, M Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, G Mason, G Platt.

Its membership consists of no more than seven members of the Council (Vice-Chair only included). This is to ensure that any redress against this committee will be dealt with on a non bias basis headed by the Chair of the Parish Council. Members are selected at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

Staff and Personnel Committee meetings are scheduled as and when the Clerk and Chair consider necessary, lasting no longer than two hours.

The Committee's objective is to ensure that any issues relating to the staff and personnel of this Parish Council are dealt with fairly and legally. Staff salaries will be discussed as and when necessary and any recommendations will be reported to and ratified at the next available full Council meeting.

The function of the Staff and Personnel Sub-Committee is to:

- a. Review recommendations for salary increases (with the Clerk for other staff) and make recommendations to full Council.*
- b. Manage any staff complaints, disputes or grievances and report their decision to full Council.*
- c. Oversee all aspects of the employment process from the initial investigation into whether a suggested position is in fact necessary through the formulation of a person and job specification, interviews, and finally to the offer of employment to the chosen individual after ratification by full Council.*
- d. Monitor and develop members of staff and review their training needs in relation to their posts.*
- e. Ensure matters relating to health, safety and welfare are reviewed regularly and that staff working environments adhere to Health and Safety in the workplace.*
- f. Consult on general staff matters.*

Planning Committee

Committee Members: Chair Keith Watkins, Vice-Chair B Green, Andrew Baker, Mrs Veronica Brown, Martyn Edwards, Mrs Pat Green, Mrs Rose Gregory, John Hockin, Jim Lavery, Clive Mason, Graham Platt, J Thompson.



The Parish Council is a statutory consultant on planning applications. This means that it has the right and responsibility to give an opinion on all applications made to the Borough of Telford and Wrekin that occur within its parish boundaries.

Planning Committee meetings are scheduled as and when the Clerk and Chair of Planning consider necessary. It is left to their discretion whether or not to call a planning committee meeting when there are a large number of applications to consider. Otherwise the Clerk places planning applications on the agenda of the next available full Council meeting for discussion. This is to enable the Parish Council to respond within the time limit of two weeks given by the Borough Council. The Planning Committee met five times during the year 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

The Committee's objective is to make every effort to ensure that decisions on all planning matters and other matters referred to the committee balance the wishes of the applicants against the effect of the plan on other residents of the parish and the character of immediate surrounding areas whilst preserving conservation areas, Green belt and local amenities.

From April 2010 to March 2011 the Council received a total of 74 planning applications for discussion and comments, down 7 on last year. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 41 applications
(down 6 from last year)
Lilleshall 17 applications
(down 6 from last year)
Muxton 16 applications
(up 5 from last year)

The majority of applications received were for single or two storey extensions to dwellings

and for the erection of conservatories. There were no large developments discussed.

On March 24th 2010 Telford & Wrekin Council initiated its electronic planning application system whereby parish/town councils are notified by email that a planning application has been submitted that lies within the parish boundary and that it is available to view on Telford & Wrekin Council's website. To discuss these applications at Planning Committee meetings the plans are viewed via laptop computer and projected onto a wall.

The Council's decisions regarding all applications can be found on its website www.ldmpc.org or can be obtained from the Clerk at the Parish Office..

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

Fixed Assets	Estimated Value (£) as at March 2011
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Turreff Hall	409,429.04
Cordingley Hall	695,079.89
Talbot Centre	45,059.69
Street Furniture: 24 x Bus Shelters	27,067.75
Benches 653 x Street Lights	

Land

Land opposite Muxton Primary School, Marshbrook Way, Muxton

Brands Meadow Play area and woods, Muxton

Land to left of Muxton Primary School (looking at school), Marshbrook Way, Muxton

Land to rear of Saltwell's Drive through to play area next to St John's Church, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton.

Land for allotments adjacent to 78 Wellington Road, Lilleshall.

There are, however, various covenants restricting the sale of the buildings and land and values given are as per Insurance policy.

Parish Councillors

Lilleshall Ward



Andrew Baker



John Hockin



Graham Platt

Donnington Ward



Elizabeth A Clare



Brian H Green



Patricia A Green



Jim Lavery



Clive Mason



John Thompson

Muxton Ward



Veronica J Brown



Martyn Edwards



Rose Gregory



Brenda Mason



Phil Norton



Keith Watkin

Parish Personnel March 2011

Clerk: **Ralph Morgan**

Assistant Clerk: Angela Jordan

Estate Manager: Derek White

Caretaker: Helen Whitehouse

All can be contacted at the Parish House in Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington.

Telephone: 01952 608001 Email: clerk@ldmpc.org Website: www.ldmpc.org

The Parish Council website is proving to be a great success. All Agendas and Minutes of meetings are published together with a list of Councillors, activities for young and old and links into the history of Donnington, Lilleshall and Muxton.