



# Fairfield Village Community Association

c/o Fairfield Village Hall, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield,  
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 9LZ

## Chair's Report – AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

Since our last AGM the Community Association has continued to support the village of Fairfield and the hamlets of Wildmoor & Stoneybridge by delivering initiatives that supports cohesion, builds local pride, improves the local environment and addresses loneliness & social isolation.

- Newsletters
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Litter Picks & Annual Spring Clean
- Lunchtime Dining Group
- Foodie Fairfield (launched in September 2022)
- Festive Fairfield
- The Wednesday Social (resumed March 2023)
- Harvest Festival (in partnership with St. Mark's)
- Remembrance Sunday (in partnership with St. Mark's)
- Pancake Race (inaugural race February 2023)
- Fairfield Flicks
- Maintaining Planters
- Rugby, Beer & Street Food (in partnership with Woodcote Brewery)
- Managing the Village Website & Social Media pages

The Association continues to deliver a quarterly newsletter to approximately 95% of dwellings in Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge, keeping residents informed, and works, where possible, with strategic stakeholders, including the Village Hall, St. Mark's Church, Parish Council and the local Safer Neighbourhood (Policing) Team.

Burglary rates in Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge are low, with two incidents during the whole of 2022, compared to an average of two incidents a month in 2017. Most thefts are opportunistic, and vigilance needs to be maintained, reporting suspicious activity to the police and Community Association.

Unfortunately, vehicle related & fly-tipping incidents continue. The Roads Policing Team continue to conduct speed checks along Stourbridge Road, there have been extra patrols of hot spot fly-tipping

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areas and, with the support of the Parish Council, a 40 mph buffer has been introduced at the northern entrance to the village. More still needs to be done, and we will continue to use the appropriate opportunities to raise with the relevant people/authorities.

After persistent lobbying of Royal Mail by the Community Association, a replacement post-box has been installed in the village. Unfortunately, in September, the village Café closed. The Shop Working Group, whose members include the Community Association, Parish Council & residents, continue to seek a financially viable solution to bring back a shop, post office & café.

With there being no shop in the village, Foodie Fairfield was launched in September 2022, a Market Hall of local food producers & retailers. This initiative is being well received by residents across our community, and is also supported by people who reside in nearby communities. It is nice to see people using the Foodie Fairfield café, for refreshments and catching up with friends & neighbours.

Each month the Dining Group enjoys a heart meal, visiting a different pub in the Bromsgrove area, and The Wednesday Social has resumed with monthly talks & activities.

7 years on, community litter picks continue, with monthly outings by a dedicated team of “wombles”, keeping our roads & open spaces clear of rubbish. Unfortunately, there are some areas that require more frequent attention, any assistance would be appreciated. Litter picking equipment can be borrowed or people can donate an hour of their time by joining in with the monthly litter pick.

The planters at the village entrances on Stourbridge Road are maintained by two volunteers, and have looked wonderful when in bloom. During periods of dry weather, please help by pouring on water when you pass by.

Fairfield Flicks has grown, and its schedule over the past year has included non-Theatrical movie screenings, live music – some top acts from the Birmingham music scene - and event cinema; the West End Musical ANYTHING GOES, ANDRE RIEU, and a live stream of BOY GEORGE AND CULTURE CLUB’s Los Angeles Concert.

A partnership with Woodcote Brewery delivers RUGBY, BEER & STREET FOOD, these events are attracting people in the community who do not usually use the village hall. The atmosphere at the events is very friendly.

In February 2023, approximately 30 people joined in with the Association’s inaugural Pancake Races and, in December 2022, as part of Festive Fairfield, many residents attended Carols Around The Christmas Tree and 24 properties filled the village Advent Calendar. Unfortunately, due to a lack of support, the New Year’s Eve party had to be cancelled.

In partnership with St. Mark’s, the Community Association helped organise the Remembrance Service, around the village war memorial, and a lively Harvest Festival, with chickens in church.

The Association supports other organisations by promoting their locally delivered activities, e.g. annual W.I. Produce Show & events at Bournheath Village Community Centre, and has supported the Woodland Trust by helping to deliver 2 x community tree planting days at land they had purchased to help double Pepper Wood. The Woodland Trust are grateful for all the support that local people have given, along with corporate partners & contractors 20,000 trees were planted during December 2022.

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Delivering initiatives is a team effort, and many thanks to all volunteers, too numerous to list, and many supporters. Without our volunteers & supporters none of our initiatives could be delivered.

Financing our operations is achieved through several revenue streams: charitable fundraising activities and grants. Our thanks to everyone who buys tickets for events that are organised, donates money, uses Easyfundraising and to grant awarding bodies. Money received is used to help benefit our community.

Looking to the future, we aim to continue delivering our many initiatives, plus resume our Fairfield Walkers sessions. We are also planning a Village Picnic on Sunday 9th July, something that last took place in 2019, before the pandemic, and we look forward to hosting events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, including screenings, an Afternoon Tea and a community project. Unfortunately, plans for a Village Fete have been put on hold, it is hoped that this will be delivered in 2024.

To take advantage of additional benefits, including gift aid and grants that we are currently excluded from, the Community Association committee is considering registering as a charity.

Residents are encouraged to support community initiatives, to sign-up to the Community e-Newsletter and to follow the Association on Facebook.

Finally, after 7 years, Robert Garvin will be standing down as Treasurer. Our grateful thanks to Robert for his dedicated service.

*C Palmer*

Conrad Palmer  
Chairman (2022-23)  
Fairfield Village Community Association

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