



Merry Christmas to everyone

Working for our future....

Because Community Matters

So what does a Parish Manager do?

My name is Cathy Tibbles and I work here in Whitwick Parish Council's Community office—so I really am privy to all that goes on in the village. For anyone who doesn't already know, the Parish Council obtained grants to convert the old public toilets into a Community Hub for Whitwick. I am employed as the 'Proper Officer' for the Council and my job role is dual purpose - Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer. This is a full-time task being responsible for managing the work, decisions and all finances of the Parish Council, along with a small team of 3 part-time staff. I started my job here in 2017 because I felt ready for a new and interesting challenge – and as Whitwick was a really

new Parish Council with growing responsibilities it certainly hasn't disappointed. One of the joys of the job here are speaking to and meeting so many people, many asking for help or information – some of these questions may not always relate to areas that the Parish Council is responsible for but my colleague Chloe and I do our best to point people in the right direction. The office does receive some odd requests and there are times of humour and sensitivity. It would not be easy to understand what my job entails without explaining what the functions are of the Parish Council are so I'll write more about that next year, when finance becomes a stronger focus for you and for your parish council.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.WHITWICKPC.ORG.UK

What do you get asked?

I truly never know what each day will hold and often when I go home it will have had some unexpected moments. Examples are:

Can I buy the Parish Council?

Can you marry me? (I'm sorry, I'm happily married already but as Clerk I do not officiate as registrar, although the request does crop up.)

Emergency calls to 999 when accidents or incidents happen right outside the door.

Do I need Planning Permission to put a shed on my garden?

Why are the Park gates closed, I left my car there and I can't get out?

Travellers have moved ponies on to land in the parish and they shouldn't be there.

Someone is chopping trees down, can you stop them straightaway?

Will you fly the flag for the Queen's birthday?

Why did the council do (or not do) something? (Sometimes it's not this council that does that but I might know who does.)

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Parish Manager: Mrs Cathy Tibbles**
- **Community Office, 3a Market Place, Whitwick, LE67 5DT (Opening hours: Weds 1.00pm to 4.00pm, Thurs / Fri 10.00am to 1.00pm)**
- **Telephone: 01530 459527**
- **Email: clerk@whitwickpc.org**
- **Whitwick Park Hall, North Street, Whitwick, LE67 5HA (available for hire)**
- **Park Hall Bookings: bookings@whitwickpc.org**

All part of the job my colleagues say that we can be: a welcome host, ambassador, media consultant, stage manager, referee, mediator, wet blanket, diplomat, cleaner, summariser, detective, legal adviser, refreshment provider, health and safety monitor, record keeper, property manager, village hall expert, project manager, insurance expert, communicator of residents/visitors views, minute taker, financial manager, environmental monitor, democracy supporter, bridge builder, chief bottle washer, letter writer, report writer, personnel manager, community development manager, recreation organiser, service manager, scrounger. I could go on (and on) but I won't.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: THURSDAYS 9 DECEMBER & 20 JANUARY AT WHITWICK PARK HALL