

What is a Lengthsman?

I am very happy to be engaged as the new Lengthsman for the parish of Broughton Hackett.

I am also the Lengthsman for nearby White Ladies Aston and my home parish of Birlingham.

In the past there may have been several Lengthsman in the parishes and their job was to 'walk the length of the parish' to ensure that the highways and verges of the area were kept clear and passable. As centralisation took over and the responsibility was taken over by the County the Lengthsman disappeared from the roads. However, following trials in various areas of the Country the Lengthsman scheme was re-introduced and Worcestershire County Council has been very active in supporting the scheme.

The Lengthsman is employed by the Parish Council (or Parish Meeting if there is no Parish Council) on behalf of Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways Department to patrol the roads in the parish and carry out a range of duties relating to drainage and highway issues. The Lengthsman does not generally repair potholes but reports them to WCC for attention.

In the summer the work mainly involves strimming borders and sight lines at road junctions and clearing headwalls and grips. In the autumn and winter the emphasis turns to the drainage and keeping grips and gullies clear.

You will see me walking the village so if you have a concern regarding the roads or related issues please contact me and I will do my best to help or report to the relevant department.

Carl Brassington
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