

“Parish Council ~ Chairman’s December Update”

Hello everyone

December's here and by the time you read this I hope the lockdown has been eased and we can move around a little more freely again and look forward to Christmas with some optimism. We still obviously need to stay vigilant and safe during these continuing challenging times and continue to be mindful of others within the community who may be struggling or need some support.

Parish Council business continues as usual, with meetings still being held in a virtual setting the main areas of business are currently:

Benches:

The PC are looking at a project for next year for possible sites for additional seating / benches around the village and details of the proposed locations should be on the website (www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk) in the new year. If anyone in the village wishes to sponsor a seat / bench(s) please contact the clerk for further details.

Brook:

We continue to push the Environment Agency (EA) with regard them reviewing the brook to determine what action they will be taking to ensure there is a minimum risk to flooding.

The EA were scheduled to clear the brook during the second quarter of the year but this was postponed until the last quarter of 2020 due to staff issues and Covid19, we are awaiting confirmation of this happening or if further delays are expected.

Christmas:

Plans are already in place for the customary Christmas tree on the village green with the usual lights & trimmings etc. This year, to support Rearsby Church we also hope to be able to have nativity display around the tree for the community to enjoy however, there will be mini nativity in the Church porch.

I understand from Rita Meade that a notice has gone out for people to turn on their Christmas lights Friday 18th – Saturday 19th December 5 - 8 pm to light up the village.

No maps or competitions this year, just a walk around to enjoy the displays.

I understand there will also be a Christmas tree in the Church yard and people have been asked to buy a wooden bauble to personalise, decorate and add a message. Rearsby school children have been asked to bring £1 per bauble, in an envelope, to school or anyone can buy a bauble from Beardsley's with all proceeds to Rearsby Church.

Why not hang yours on the Christmas tree in the Church yard. I believe

There is also a suggestion for people to paint a stone with a Christmas scene and leave around the village for people to find.

Finally, people are being encouraged to draw or paint a Christmas scene or Nativity and put them in their window in early December so families can take an Advent walk to see as many as they can.

Church:

I would just like to say a big thank you to vicar Mary for her excellent work over the past months, especially with her zoom services on Sundays and in particular her Remembrance Day service on the 8th November. I understand there are plans for a Christmas Eve Service Candle lit communion service at 6.00pm in Rearsby Church (Covid safe; please wear a mask).

During these very unusual times we are very blessed to have such an active and thoughtful vicar within our community. Thank you, Mary, God Bless you.

Conker Field:

The tree management work project will hopefully conclude during December, the new hedge on Station road will be planted late November and plans to plant new replacement trees will be reviewed in the new year. The new entrance sign will hopefully be fitted during December and other signage as soon as possible. The new litter bins have been chased again with CBC and we hope to have some good news before the new year.

Dog Poo

Unfortunately, no real change so, again I appeal to all dog walkers to watch your dog, pick up its poo, bag it, bin it!

Please remember you can report dog fouling direct to Charnwood Borough Council online at www.charnwood.gov.uk or on 01509 634564.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

With the support of YourLocale and some significant work from nominated councillors the plan is starting to take shape and an updated version for submission to CBC is expected early 2021. More details will be displayed on the website www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk as it becomes available.

Would you like to adopt a Planter?

Residents have hopefully noticed over the years we have had planters on the grass verges as you enter the village, one at the bottom of Station Road / Wreake Drive and two at each end of Melton Road. The PC generally pay for the plants and in the past volunteers have planted and nurtured the planters during the year.

With the ongoing Covid19 restrictions as Chair I suggested we ask families in the community if they would like to adopt a planter and look after it for a year. This would include planting the planter and maintaining it, you can paint it if you wish and we will put your families name on the website as an adoptee. If you are interested in adopting a planter please contact the clerk.

Rearsby Village News website:

The website www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk you can view information about the village and Parish Council meetings.

We would like to encourage residents to visit the website and give us feedback on the content and what other information / articles you would like to see.

If you have any information you would like us to add please let us know via email councillor5.rearsbypc@btconnect.com .

Wildlife over winter:

Those of you who know me will know I have a passion for wildlife with over 30 nest/roosting boxes, multiple feeding stations and areas for hibernating animals in my garden.

Why not consider passing the lockdown hours or just spend some time in the garden and think how you can help and support the wildlife over the coming few months.

There's a lot you can do but here are just a few suggestions: provide shelter, bird boxes, hedgehog houses etc, provide food, leave out fresh water and melt a hole in frozen water / ponds.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community a pleasant and blessed Christmas from myself and the Parish Council and let us look forward to 2021 with hope and optimism.

Don't forget the next PC meeting (via ZOOM) will be held on the 3rd December 2020 and 7th January 2021 at 7.30pm for more details see www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk or the PC notice board.

Thank you & please KEEP SAFE
Martin Cooke (Parish Council Chair)