

## “Parish Council ~ Chairman’s April 2021”

Hello everyone.

Well, the clocks are springing forward and we can at last see some green shoots of normality on the horizon. April is known as the National Month of Hope and with so much to look forward to over the coming weeks & months it is an ideal time to start on the new journey back to seeing, touching and hugging loved ones, meeting friends and travelling to the places we’ve missed. ENJOY!

Parish Council business continues as usual, with meetings being held via Zoom the main areas of business are currently:

**Benches:** The new “Bench Project” launched in January is going well, with four benches already agreed and to be installed over the next few weeks (2 conker field & 2 playing field). Other suggested locations were discussed at the March PC meeting and are being reviewed as potential sites for additional benches to be installed over the next 12/24 months (subject to agreement with LCC on non-PC land).

These include 2 further benches in the conker field and 1 each on Melton road opposite the allotments, next to the Preaching Stone, Station Road next to the letterbox, Bleakmoor Close Green & the corner of Grange Ave / Melton Road.

**Church Services:** Another quick thank you to vicar Mary for her continuing zoom Church Services. Service details can be found each week on the village website.

**Conker Field:** The tree management work project should now be concluded soon but due to some old TPO’s it is taking slightly longer than first planned. The new entrance sign will be installed by the beginning of April. We have hopefully found a solution to the bin emptying saga but this will be monitored over the coming weeks. The larger dog poo bag dispensers have been ordered and will soon be installed in the field. The village Tree project including new trees on the conker field was reviewed at the March PC meeting details further on.

**Coronavirus:** Many of our residents are still waiting for their first & second jobs so please continue to follow the government guidelines to protect everyone and please be conscious that we are so close to the end but, we still need to remain cautious and vigilant over the final months. I would appeal to you again to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours within the community and if you are able to help with shopping, medication etc. please do.

**Dog Poo:** This is still a very emotive subject and one regularly raised by residents when I am walking around the village. We seem to have good weeks and better weeks but unfortunately the problem still persists with a small number of dogwalkers just not caring about what their dog does or their fellow residents.

**Please watch your dog, pick up its poo, bag it, bin it, it’s your responsibility!**

Please remember you can report dog fouling direct to Charnwood Borough Council online at [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk) or on 01509 634564.

**Litter Picking:** It’s great to see that even more villagers of all ages along with Ed, Sam & Luke have taken up the litter picking bug and are working to keep the community tidy. The PC agreed to purchase a number of pickers which will be available from the Clerk if anyone would like to use one.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP):** As reported last month the Parish Council has formally issued the Submission version of their reviewed Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to Charnwood Borough Council and we are eagerly awaiting the outcome over the coming weeks. Details can be found on the village website.

**New Residents Letter:** The Parish Council like to formerly welcome new residents to the village by way of a welcome letter but, it is difficult to keep abreast of all house sales and people moving in and out of the community. To support the PC with this I would like to ask you to let the Clerk know of any new residents who move into your area so we can continue this please. Thank you.

**Planning Applications:** It is standard practice for all planning applications to be discussed by the council to allow comment (no comment) or objection to be registered at PC meetings. Most planning applications are straight forward and actioned accordingly however, the March PC meeting raised the re-application of the Gladman development primarily within the East Gostcote area but having significant impact on our village. The Council have objected most strongly to this proposed development on several grounds which are noted in the PC minutes.

**Planters:** The “Adopt a Planter Project” has been a great success, all three village planters have now been adopted for the coming year and work has already started to brighten & tidy them up.

**Post Covid:** One of the topics discussed at the Parish Council was possible post covid community events such as a coffee mornings etc. to try and encourage residents to meet up and interact with one another after a considerable amount of time where many have had to isolate. I would welcome some feedback and comment from you on this and any ideas you may have. My initial thought was perhaps a coffee and cake morning at the end of June, possibly in the village hall. DM me [councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com](mailto:councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com)

**Rearsby Village News website:** Please take the time to look at the village website [www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk](http://www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk) and if you have any information you would like us to add please let us know via email [councillor5.rearsbypc@btconnect.com](mailto:councillor5.rearsbypc@btconnect.com) or [councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com](mailto:councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com)

**Speeding in the Village:** We are in continual discussions with the local Police about our concerns around speeding traffic through the village and they have agreed to conduct a number of random speed checks across the area. Our own speed warning signs should be up and running again soon, unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we have been unable to change certain batteries as it needs more than one person to do it.

**Tree Project:** At the March PC meeting the “Tree Project” was discussed and a number of proposed possible sites were tabled and these will be reviewed over the next two months. These include Mill Lane Brook bank (3 Willows), Conker Field (5 Horse Chestnuts), Playing Field (1 Elm plus 5 others on southern and eastern boundary), Station Road / Wreake Drive (3 trees pocket orchard), Verge on Wreake Drive (Small pocket orchard) & Gaddesby Lane hedgerow down to the bypass (Oak, Conker and Elm). If you have any further suggestions for possible new tree locations in the community or comments please contact the Clerk.

**Wardens:** We still have vacancies for a Tree Warden, Heritage Warden, Snow Warden, we also now require another Flood warden to support Paul Matts. If you are interested in learning more about one of these important roles and would like to become an active member of the community and possibly become a Village Warden please contact the Clerk.

Don't forget the next PC meetings (via ZOOM) will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm and on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the Annual PC meeting at 7.00pm followed by the normal PC meeting at 7.30pm for more details see [www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk](http://www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk) or the PC notice board next to the Packhorse bridge.

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